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[H.A.S.C. No. 112–44]

TESTIMONY FROM MEMBERS ON THEIR NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

HEARING HELD
APRIL 14, 2011

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
67–393 WASHINGTON : 2011

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TESTIMONY FROM MEMBERS ON THEIR NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, Thursday, April 14, 2011.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:33 a.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, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The CHAIRMAN. Committee come to order.

Good morning. The House Armed Services Committee meets today to receive testimony from Members of Congress on their national defense priorities for the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

As we begin the process of crafting our legislation, it is essential that this committee seek input from all Members of the House to better enable us to fill Congress' Article 1, 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.

A quick note on the format for today. In consultation with the ranking member, we will depart from our regular questioning process, which means you won't each have to sit there for all of us to ask 5 minutes' worth of questions.

We will have 5 minutes total for each Member, clarifying questions if so needed. Members of the committee may seek recognition by raised hand and will be granted 2 minutes apiece, up to a 5-minute limit. This will ensure we can hear from all of our 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 our witnesses. We look forward to today's testimony and thank the participating Members for their advocacy on behalf of our troops.

Ranking Member Smith.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McKeon can be found in the Appendix on page 39.]

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

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to associate myself with your remarks. This is a committee that impacts a lot of districts throughout the country, obviously a significant budget, not just those Members who serve on the committee. And it is very important to hear from other Members who have interests that are contained within the Department of Defense bill so that we can best represent Congress and the country in the bill we ultimately put out.

And I look forward to hearing from our fellow Members today about what their interests are and working with the chairman to try to make sure that they are reflected in the bill that we pass out of this committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

We now recognize the gentleman from Texas, Randy Neugebauer, for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Thank you, Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today about my national defense priorities.

My district, Texas 19th Congressional District, is home to 5,000 military and 1,000 civilian personnel at Dyess Air Force Base, located on the outskirts of Abilene, Texas. Dyess houses, among many other missions, the 7th Bomb Wing, which is home of 36 of the 66 B–1 bombers, as well as the 317th Air Group C–130s.

As a part of the fiscal year 2012 budget, the Air Force has proposed cutting the B–1 fleet by 6 airplanes, reducing the total number of aircraft from 66 to 60. The Air Force estimates that this will save $61 million in fiscal year 2012 and $357 million over the next 5 years in the procurement and operations and maintenance accounts.

But however, of these amounts, Air Force plans to invest only $32.9 million in the B–1 fleet in fiscal year 2012 and $125.4 million over the next 5 years. I am very concerned about these proposed cuts, and let me tell you why.

From September 2001 to June 2010, which is the most recent data available, B–1s flew 72 percent of our bomber combat missions while representing only 40 percent of the fleet. Before combat in Libya just the other day, since May of 2006, the B–1s have flown all of the bombing missions. Now, let me repeat that. From May 2006 until Libya, the B–1s were the only bombers that flew missions, combat missions.

I know that this—and frankly, a refreshing climate of looking at the budget, and I think as the chairman alluded to, that we have to look through the entire budget to get our hands on these huge deficits we are running. And so I think one of the things that is extremely important is prioritization and putting our money where we are getting the most value from our assets.

It is just a few weeks ago I was in Dyess and asked a few of the airmen around there why the B–1s weren't in Libya, and they said, well, because of the number of missions that they are flying in other theaters and just didn't have one to spare that day.

So it kind of seems a little funny to me if we didn't have one to spare on that day, and now we are talking about necessarily reducing by six the number of airplanes that we have, that that might not be in our best interest.

As of June 2010, the B–1 flew more than 4,500 missions in the past 5 years. During this time, as I mentioned, 76 B–52s and 20 B–2s flew no combat missions. Additionally, the B–1 is not only a very capable airplane, and the platform has changed, but it is the least expensive bomber in the fleet.

I have an exhibit that is attached to my testimony, and it shows that it is 23 percent more expensive to fly the B–52. And it is 179 percent more costly to fly the B–2.

The B–1 is also extremely versatile. You know, when it rolled off the line in 1986, it was primarily designed to deliver nuclear capability. Since that time, its nuclear mission has been removed. And now it has a really multi-platform operational capability from carrying very small bombs to JDAMs [Joint Direct Attack Munition] to very large bombs. And in fact, now with new capability with radar and the sniper targeting pod, it is also used for intelligence and surveillance during operations.

Obviously, it is an all-weather, all-day, 24/7 aircraft capability. It goes at night, goes in weather, high altitude, low altitude, and has become an extremely effective weapon in the last few years, particularly in the fights that we have been involved in. It is able to deliver real-time information to people on the ground and then also deliver whatever kind of punch that is necessary.

Recently, there is a new modification that is going to happen for the B–1, and it is going to increase its capability on JDAM bombs, for example, from 15 to 48. So you can see that this has been an extremely effective tool for our Nation in the past.

There have been additional reductions in the number of B–1s in the fleet. And it was always in that our readiness factor will go up if we reduce the number of planes and take those parts and put them in other airplanes. Unfortunately, that always gives us a little short-term spike, Mr. Chairman. But then we get back in the same readiness factor.

And so as you are beginning to look at priorities and weapons systems and how we fight the fight going forward, just remember that, you know, we are at least 15 years, at the very minimum, from having any new platform to replace the B–1. And if the B–1 is the number one weapon of choice, according to General Petraeus—I will close, and I know I am over my time a little bit—but one of the things that Mr. Petraeus said is the B–1 is a great platform in at least two respects, maybe more.

One, it carries a heck of a lot of bombs and substantial ordnance and second, it is very good at ISR [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance] capabilities. It can loiter for a good time. And when it is not being used to drop bombs, it also is like having another unmanned aerial vehicle in terms of full motion video and so forth. So it is just not just a case of a very capable bomber, just

boring holes in the sky, waiting to open the bomb bay doors. It also is a case for a platform that is very capable, even as it is doing that flying around in circles.

So, thank you again, Chairman and Ranking Member, and I would be glad to take any questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Neugebauer can be found in the Appendix on page 40.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. You bring up some really good points. I know I am going to look at your testimony. Seems to me the B–1 has—you know, we hear a lot about B–52s and we hear about B–2s, but we never hear too much about B–1s. You have brought some very important points out.

That comes under your subcommittee, right?

Mr. BARTLETT. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. [Off mike.]

Mr. BARTLETT. No, this is——

The CHAIRMAN. Readiness?

Mr. BARTLETT. Projection forces.

The CHAIRMAN. Projection forces——

Mr. BARTLETT. Right, heavy bombers and projection forces.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay.

Anyone have any questions?

Thank you, Randy. We will look into that. You bring up some very good points.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I have some additional exhibits, and part of my testimony I would like to request to submit for the record as well.

[The information referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 45.]

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, so ordered, be included.

Thank you very much.

Now recognize the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Duncan, for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF HON. JEFF DUNCAN, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. DUNCAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for this opportunity to speak to you today about one of the priorities that this committee faces in the coming year.

The Savannah River Site and the Savannah River National Lab is a unique asset to our Nation. The national lab is critical to developing new technologies, which will lead to new ways to defend this great Nation. I was pleased recently to lead a tour of the site with my colleagues from South Carolina.

My testimony today is intended to convey that the critical work being done at the Savannah River Site is treated the same as other defense-related projects, by protecting what is vital, even while we cut non-essential spending to reduce our overall budget deficit.

Perhaps the largest national policy impact of the Savannah River Site relates to nuclear non-proliferation. The work done at Savannah River directly impacts our treaties with Russia and our ability to match the work being done to dispose of surplus weapons-grade plutonium. Disposing of excess fissile materials has been a major U.S. national security and non-proliferation objective since 1994,

endorsed by every President and Congress since that time. Under the 2000 agreement, the United States and Russia have committed to dispose 68 metric tons of surplus plutonium. These materials, if put on the open market, could wind up in the hands of our enemies, the terrorists who wish us harm. These are the materials that are being disposed of safely at Savannah River Site.

Disposing of surplus U.S. weapon-grade plutonium demonstrates that the United States is living up to its non-proliferation commitments by drawing down its nuclear arsenal in a transparent and irreversible manner.

I especially want to bring your attention to the work being done at the chemical separation facility known as H-Canyon. H-Canyon is the only facility of its kind in the United States, yet the Department of Energy has proposed putting it in a warm or standby mode. Putting H-Canyon on standby or warm mode will inevitably cause severe negative impacts and would cost taxpayers more money in the future than it would save immediately. Repowering this type of facility after it has been out of commission for any period of time would require an extended timeframe and increased amounts of funding. Furthermore, the likelihood of ever restoring H-Canyon after achieving standby mode is, at best, slim. The loss of human capital that is so crucial to the site's success would be incalculable.

The Savannah River Site is the only location in the country that has an operational, large-scale facility capable of used nuclear fuel disposition. The site's capabilities include the processing of nuclear materials, plutonium and spent rod storage, tritium production and recycling, and nuclear forensics. The FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] forensics team also uses the national laboratory at Savannah River Site for homeland security purposes.

The Savannah River National Laboratory also has significant expertise and capabilities that could be an invaluable resource in assisting situations like the current nuclear issue in Japan and other comparable nuclear or environmental challenges, both here and abroad.

One last point I would like to make: South Carolina has lived up to its commitment, and now it is time for the Federal Government to live up to theirs. Commitments were made by the Federal Government to ensure that even as SRS [Savannah River Site] takes in new materials for processing, the site cannot be the final home for these materials. The important work at Savannah River Site transforms these relics of the Cold War into something that can be peacefully used in the 21st century environment.

If H-Canyon is unable to process the aluminum-clad spent fuel currently stored or scheduled to be sent to L-Basin, there will be no disposition path within the complex. And all this material will be stranded. It would be a betrayal of the Federal Government's commitments to lower the operating capabilities of the site while leaving the radioactive materials behind. I trust that this committee will not allow that to happen.

The entire mission at the Savannah River Site is vital to our national defense, our economy and our focus on energy independence.

Congressional support for the fiscal year 2012 budget is critical to the overall success of the national security effort at SRS. I con-

tinue to urge this committee to protect the important work being done at Savannah River, and I thank you for your time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Duncan can be found in the Appendix on page 52.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. The thing that is interesting to me, as I think about the 435 districts around the country, is how much there is to learn from each Member about their districts. I have never heard of the Savannah River Site before. So I appreciate you coming and educating us about this.

Does anyone—Mr. Wilson.

Mr. WILSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, Mr. Chairman, I want to extend the invitation on behalf of Congressman Duncan and myself. We would love to have you come visit Savannah River Site.

And it is really extraordinary. It is 350 square miles where nuclear preparations have been underway. It was called the Bomb Plant, and it is an extraordinary facility. It could not be replicated anywhere east of the Mississippi. But it is in place now. And you would really—I am going to—we will be working to get you there, and including Congressman Conaway, too. He needs to come visit.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague and fellow South Carolinian, Congressman Jeff Duncan, for making the committee aware of these important issues to South Carolina and Georgia.

I agree with Congressman Duncan that the committee should be focused on strengthening our nuclear threat reductions. We remain concerned that failing to secure weapons-grade nuclear materials will increase the chance of our enemies having the ability to acquire nuclear weapons.

As Congressman Duncan promotes in his testimony, and as Secretary Gates has already stated, our Nation needs to maintain our aging nuclear infrastructure, both facilities and professional personnel. The Savannah River Site in South Carolina is a great example of the progress that can be made with proper resources.

I want to point out that South Carolina has the perfect climate, that is, meteorological and warmly pro-nuclear, pro-military citizens. Many of the people Congressman Duncan and I represent were victorious in the Cold War. When called upon, they helped defeat communism by manufacturing the ultimate deterrent for peace, nuclear weapons.

I know firsthand of their commitment, because in the 1980s I was a personnel security hearing officer at the Savannah River Site. South Carolina and Georgia remain stalwart for the national defense missions at Savannah River Site, but we are concerned that the administration is closing down the unique national asset, H-Canyon, which to replicate would be $3.5 billion. This is one of our current facilities critical to the disposition path for types of plutonium and highly enriched uranium.

In the President's fiscal budget of 2012 the Department of Energy plans to reduce the operating costs of H-Canyon from $250 million to $150 million. This would result in a permanent loss of personnel talent and expertise, an outcome leading to a loss of a national asset for our nuclear complex.

We can all look forward to working together to address the issues of nuclear proliferation, and I look forward to working with the committee and the full House on these capabilities to be maintained, especially H-Canyon.

Thank you, Congressman Duncan.

Thank you, Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Are there any further questions?

Thank you, Mr. Duncan, and we will consider your request.

We now recognize the gentleman from New Mexico, Mr. Pearce, for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF HON. STEVAN PEARCE, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW MEXICO

Mr. PEARCE. We appreciate the opportunity to address you today before you roll out this 2012 NDAA [National Defense Authorization Act].

With our Nation engaged in two wars and now extending ourselves into Libya, it is time for us to look at the readiness and the strength of our United States military. The funding mechanisms that the NDAA moves forward must build the necessary long-term planning to tailor programs and mission support, as well as weapons, technology, supply, and development, to a rapidly changing world.

Some ways that we have seen in our district the NDAA can be helpful are the things that I would like to talk about today.

Before I get started, the Second District of New Mexico is home to White Sands Missile Range. It is also home to Holloman Air Force Base. We also are the home of the Waste Oscillation Pilot Project. It is the storage facility for nuclear waste. The Rocky Flats is now completely underground in New Mexico, all of the waste associated with that site, and that is in our district.

We are also the site of the first and only decision made by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in over 30 years, the nuclear enrichment facility in Eunice, New Mexico. And it is all private funding, but it was installed there with 95 percent approval of the people in that area. So our region is friendly to the military and friendly to the task of supporting the Nation.

The first area that I would like to talk about is contracting. In White Sands, the training from Fort Bliss—and Fort Bliss has many of the ground troops—that training is 95 percent done in New Mexico in my district, and yet, when the contracting goes, there is an imaginary line that exists by SBA [Small Business Administration] standards on the state line of Texas and New Mexico.

So our residents see that our ground is taken up for training purposes, but they have very, very, little access—one contract in the last several years—because of this imaginary line that the SBA says we can't let people in New Mexico bid, because we are in Texas. So that is a constant source of friction.

Another friction is the bundling, the wrapping. New Mexico firms are never going to be able to bid on $500 million contracts, but they could easily service the contracts on local bases. What happens is many times a contractor from another state, maybe on the East

Coast, gets the contract and calls our guys to do the sub-contracting.

And what that does is take away the overhead, the profit potential, in small businesses scattered throughout New Mexico, which is contributing a lot of surface area. So if you would look at the contracting processes, that would be very critical to support small businesses in our state and in our district.

The second area that I would draw your attention to is Navy research and development. New Mexico is home to Magdalena Ridge, which in the end is the base of many types of science and investigation on different programs. They provide near-liftoff point of impact tracking of missile tests for the U.S. Army. They play a dominant role in the space situation of Atlantis for the U.S. Air Force, the Department of Defense Space Command. They provide asteroid tracking and orbital projections. They track and characterize potentially hazardous near-Earth objects, and they have done that over the last 3 years.

The next area that the 2nd District of New Mexico is highly involved in is the Air Force Research Lab, which has been given DOD [Department of Defense] lead for the development of jet fuel from alternative oil sources. Fuel from algae is one of the most promising developments that is being looked at. That is centered in the 2nd District of New Mexico. They are looking to find alternative energy for power generation and transportation, especially aviation. And they are working on the algae fuels right now.

Because petroleum is an algae derivative, the result of a drop in fuel that is the same fuel as JP–8, literally, and the things that we should concentrate on include the scale of algal mass production to billions of pounds a year, hundreds of millions of gallons of JP–8, we should be looking at how to refine the competing oil extraction technologies for low-cost production of standard commercial refinery feed stock, and then, thirdly, demonstrate the low cost modification of refineries to produce high-volume production of JP–8.

The final area that we would look at is the focus of joint national and training experiment. In our district is a small town. It was a mining town, and it has been set aside now completely for research and development. Right now there is in Afghanistan a village that is using houses that New Mexicans used to live in. I am not sure exactly what that says, but different government agencies come there. Intergovernmental agencies come to train and perform experiments that give them better access, once they get to the field.

The types of training that occur at the Playas Training Center are irregular warfare and WMD [weapons of mass destruction], new and emerging missions, emergency management, civil affairs and peacekeeping missions. So these are the four suggestions that, as I look at the jurisdiction of your committee, that it seems to be helpful for the Nation, but you don't do it does what you think of to help you, if you are able to look at these and move them forward.

And so with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pearce can be found in the Appendix on page 54.]

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Pearce, I thank you for raising this. This is actually something that has come up in my district as well at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the contracting issue you refer to. The local contractors—and this is, you know, businesses in the building trades agree on this—are being excluded from many of these contracts by the national, regional, way that the Department of Defense is doing this. They are picking some set number of pre-approved contractors that are then being moved all around the country, and really cutting off local contractors.

And obviously that is a huge problem in terms of jobs in our local communities, but it is also questionable in terms of whether or not they are going to get the best work at the best price if they simply pre-approve a very small number of contractors picked primarily, it seems to me, for their breadth, not necessarily for the quality of their work or what they do, just so they can conveniently go, "Well, we will pick this one and they can do the work in any one of 10 different states."

I think this is an enormous problem. And it is also going to create greater tension between the local community and the bases. You know, the bases are there and certainly they have very positive influences in all of our communities from an economic standpoint.

They also place stresses on the infrastructure. And if you take away the economic bonus by bringing in outside contractors, and in many cases outside workers, and not giving the economic benefit to the region, I just think this, you know, creates tension that doesn't need to be created.

Now, I don't fully understand how we can go at this, how we can change this, but I appreciate your raising the issue. It is something that I have been meaning to raise with the majority staff myself. And I would love to see if this committee can find some way to examine that contracting process so that it isn't so biased against local workers and local businesses. So I appreciate your raising this issue, and I hope we will look into it.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, if I might make a comment?

An example of that was I was talking with a guy locally that makes radios and radio antennas, and he was called about 6 years ago from the Department of Defense that said, "Could you make me an antenna that you could put in your pocket like cigarettes and it would be that size and it would have these capabilities?" And the guy was fiddling with his drawer and talking on the phone.

And so, the contracting officer said, "Can you do it?" And he said, "Yeah, I have done it right here." And he said, "Well, what the cost of it would be?" And he said, "Oh, approximately $1.50, maybe $3.00." And the guy said, "You know our lowest bid up until now?" "No." He said, "$150,000."

And so, that is what we bump into all the time. And it makes your point, but thank you for that.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Bartlett.

Mr. BARTLETT. On the Small Business Committee for a number of years now we have been addressing these problems. It started with bundling and the use of subcontractors that the prime is fa-

miliar with. We have a great deal of difficulty getting them to reach out.

We are also very much concerned about what is called "bid shopping." They will get a prime to join them in the bid, and then after they get the bid, they come back and say, "Gee, times are tough. We really have to do this for less." And they may have gotten the bid because of the quality of the subcontractor, and now they beat them down, and then they go with another subcontractor.

There are a lot of inequities and problems in this contracting. In the Small Business Committee we have been following that. Thank you for your reminding us that this is still a problem, and we will see what we can do from this perspective.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Any other questions?

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Pearce.

We now recognize the gentleman from North Carolina, Representative Shuler.

STATEMENT OF HON. HEATH SHULER, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. SHULER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on an amendment on the National Defense Authorization Act.

I come before you to speak in support of the language that may have profound effects on U.S. manufacturing, as well as the national security of our Nation. As we all know, Congress passed the Berry Amendment in order to protect the American industrial base during times of adversity and war.

This amendment generally requires Defense Department contractors to use American manufactured components and materials in their products. However, because of the language added in 2008, some exceptions to the Berry Amendment have been created, allowing American manufacturers to use non-American components.

My specific concern today is the exceptions for specialty metals that are critically being used in our national security. It is my belief that these exceptions and the outsourcing of manufacturing components, especially titanium components critical to aviation, are a hindrance to the American manufacturer and pose a very real national security threat.

I understand that these exceptions were created in the 2008 NDAA. They were honest efforts to expand trade and global capacity with our international allies. This intent led to a provision within Section 804 of the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. This amendment amended Section 2533b of Title 10 to provide new exceptions for procurement of end-items containing specialty metals from American sources.

By allowing original equipment manufacturers to procure end-items manufactured in accepted countries under agreements that allow foreign manufacturers to use any available raw materials to manufacture the end-items, it has had a hindrance on U.S. tita-

nium manufacturers in a time of market expansion and defense procurement requiring titanium end-items.

Because the foreign manufacturers are not subject to these same requirements, OEMs [original equipment manufacturers] are moving offshore suppliers and walking away from U.S. manufactured industrial base. The changes in Section 2533b are giving foreign competitors a 30 percent advantage on raw material prices. This reduces costs, has resulted in U.S. military engine fans and compressor blades being forged and machined overseas using Russian titanium.

It is unconceivable to me that some of the most essential components of our Nation's military aircraft are being made in foreign countries with Russian materials. American companies are being forced out of the military manufacturing base because of offshore raw materials being used by competitors.

With titanium demand on the rise, domestically owned and operated businesses capable of manufacturing medium and large fan blades will either go out of business or move offshore. Assessing the U.S. market will allow for a better picture to show that Section 804 affected the domestic titanium market.

The House inserted a provision in their report accompanying their version of fiscal year 2011 of the National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 5136, that required the Department to assess the U.S. titanium manufactured industrial base and report to the congressional defense committees. Even though the House provision was not included in the final bill, I urge you to follow your colleagues in previous Congresses to include this language.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Shuler can be found in the Appendix on page 56.]

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Bartlett.

Mr. BARTLETT. Thank you. You mentioned titanium. Russia, of course, produces about half the titanium in all the world. There is a new process called the Armstrong process, which I have been following for a number of years. It could produce, on a continuous basis, titanium at much lower costs than we are getting it from the Russians.

And we have had trouble getting the attention of our military and our industrial base here to pursue this process. The problem that you present us with is a growing problem—that is, our industrial base is so diminished in this country that frequently now we have to go offshore for our materials.

This isn't just a threat to our national security—rather to our military—it is a threat to our national security, because we now have a trade deficit of about $1 billion every 12 hours. And this is just another indication of that, and hopefully, the military can kind of lead the way to bring some of this industry back to our shores.

And I hope that your concern about this today will help us to move forward more quickly on the Armstrong process, which produces titanium at a continuous process, much lower costs than the Russians. Now they have a near monopoly on this around the world, which is what you are pointing out for us.

Thank you very much for your testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

Mr. Shuler, in the language that we put in our bill last year, we did not include the language you are talking about, because then we would have to negotiate it with the Senate. Instead, we put it in our report, which means then they will have to comply. So we will follow up and see what is happening on that report from the Department of Defense, and we will follow through on this.

Mr. SHULER. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I appreciate your bringing this point up. Thank you very much.

I will recognize the gentleman from North Dakota for 5 minutes, Representative Berg.

STATEMENT OF HON. RICK BERG, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. BERG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will figure out the equipment first here. I want to thank you for the invitation to testify before the House Armed Services Committee regarding your national defense priorities. I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity.

I would also like very much to thank all the men and women of the Armed Forces for their service to our country. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the often unsung heroes and heroines—the spouses, the families, the children of military personnel that stay behind in North Dakota when their spouses are deployed.

In many ways it is harder for the families that are back home, really worrying about the unknown. They all have my profound respect and admiration for all they do for our country.

I am prepared to offer a few proposals for your committee to consider as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2012. My brief testimony today is intended to provide the committee members with the opportunity to assess the congressional priorities in the conduct of U.S. defense policy that are not earmarked pursuant to House rule.

Having two Air Force bases in my district, I have had the opportunity to interact with many airmen and women. And I understand the importance of providing a good quality life for our service men and women. I would first urge you to consider the quality of life issues.

It is critical that the best interest of our married Air Force personnel are considered as part of the continued monitoring of and the proper implementation of the soon to be Air Force-wide policy of privatization for military family housing, which would affect many Air Force bases, including Minot and Grand Forks.

Minot will turn over 1,700 military family homes and Grand Forks will turn over 800 homes to the privatization program. This proposal will provide both bases with a community center, clubhouse, indoor playground and storage facilities. In addition, some undesirable properties will be demolished.

Furthermore, the President submitted a fiscal year 2012 budget for the Minot Air Force Base that provides for construction of a new, 168-room, single occupancy, dormitory for young Air Force personnel that is up to Air Force-wide standards. It is important that we not only support our Air Force personnel, but their families

as well. I fully support providing our military service men and women with the best quality of life possible.

I would also like to discuss the technological advancements the Air Force is undertaking. As the Air Force moves to the 21st Century, the implementation of new technologies and aircraft, such as the Raptor and Global Hawk, are key to the growing mission of the American Air Force.

I have spoken with senior leadership at Grand Forks Air Force Base, and they have expressed support for three Global Hawks at the Grand Forks Air Force Base that are slated to receive it later this year. As bases like Grand Forks continue to expand their development and training for unmanned aircraft, access to these aircraft will be essential.

Grand Forks will also benefit from the Battlefield Airborne Communications Node Mission, which they are set to develop this year. This beacon mission would entail the flying Global Hawks, which are forward deployed to military missions in regions such as Afghanistan. This aircraft would serve as an antennae, so a group of soldiers on one side of a mountain could communicate with another group on the other side of the mountain.

This is accomplished by using the plane as a relay above the battlefield, where both groups emit a signal through the plane. The Grand Forks Air Force Base is quickly becoming an international leader in unmanned aviation. This is technology that holds enormous potential, not only for our Nation's future military, but also for agriculture and border security.

Lastly, just this week I had the opportunity to work with North Dakota Air National Guard with regards to the flooding currently taking place in North Dakota. The North Dakota Guard and guardsmen across the country play a pivotal role in our military success, and it is important that we maintain their ability to answer the call of duty.

I was happy to hear that four C–27J Spartan aircraft are scheduled to be delivered to the North Dakota Air Guard this year. Those plans will not only strengthen our security. It will also help play a crucial role when the Guard is called up to work on such operations as the current flood fight.

As you consider the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, I would strongly urge you to support the Air Force continued development of these projects. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Are there any questions?

[The prepared statement of Mr. Berg can be found in the Appendix on page 58.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Anyone have any questions?

Mr. BERG. That is okay.

The CHAIRMAN. I have a comment.

If you are not a member already of our unmanned—we used to call it unmanned vehicle caucus, it is now unmanned system caucus because it includes air, land and underwater—we would love to have you as a member of that caucus to share your expertise with us in these areas and also be available for other learning opportunities there, too.

I have a nephew that flies unmanned vehicles, and he was one of the first group that were taken out of pilot training to put into training for unmanned vehicles. And they promised at the time that they would put him back in a cockpit, and he is enjoying it so much he is now training other pilots.

We are now training more pilots for unmanned vehicles than for cockpit flying in the Air Force. So it is really, really the future.

Appreciate you bringing your comments to us. We will be sure to look into all of these as we work forward on the bill. And thank you very much for your being here today.

Mr. BERG. Thank you for your work, and I will be a part of the caucus.

The CHAIRMAN. Great. Thank you.

We now recognize the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Carson, for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF HON. ANDRÉ CARSON, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM INDIANA

Mr. CARSON. Thank you, Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and thank you all for this opportunity to testify today.

As you may know, my Indianapolis congressional district is home to the largest Rolls-Royce plant outside of the United Kingdom and is headquarters for the Defense North America operation. Our engine plant employs over 4,000 people on a range of programs, including the F–136 alternative engine, the vertical lift fan for the F–35 and engines for the V–22 Osprey and C–130.

This plant, Mr. Chairman, employs highly skilled workers, including hundreds of engineers and scientists, the types of stable, well-paying jobs that support the central Indiana economy. On behalf of my constituents, I want to begin by thanking you, Chairman and Ranking Member Smith and many members of this committee, for their continual support of the F–136.

The alternative engine program has taken a major blow in the 112th Congress. However, as we begin the fiscal year 2012 authorization and appropriations process, I ask the committee to reauthorize the F–136 and allow this discussion to continue until both the House and the Senate can definitively continue or cancel the program.

In this debate, many of us have parochial interests in this program. I don't want to downplay how important the continuation of the alternative engine is to my constituents. It is critical.

But over the next several months, all of us, whether we have a plant in our district or not, are going to be asked to vote on defense authorization and appropriations bills that will significantly impact our national defense and national debt.

Members of this committee know all about the lack of a true engine competition and the risks of building a single engine. I just want to focus on a few aspects of the F–136 that I believe have been overshadowed by the intense rhetoric surrounding the program.

This is not just a debate about two engines or the relative cost of funding one program versus two. This is a debate about a fighter jet that is going to replace over 90 percent of our fighter force. The debate centers on how our decisions surrounding the transition will

dictate the future of our defense industry and defense spending over the next several decades.

Opponents frequently point to the fact that many of our fighter aircraft operate on only one engine. They also point to the current market share of GE [General Electric] versus Pratt & Whitney. These would be excellent points, if we were not talking about 90 percent of our fighter force.

As this committee is well aware, many of our fighter platforms will be phased out over the next several years. Fewer platforms will operate on a sole-source engine and fewer will operate on GE engines. With this changing dynamic, it is unreasonable to determine the future of the F–136 by focusing on a structure that will soon or no longer exist.

The facts are simple. The F–35 will make up over 90 percent of our fighter force. And without the F–136, Pratt & Whitney, the producers of a single engine will be responsible for 90 percent of fighter engine production.

GE and Rolls-Royce both have excellent records of quality and performance on military aviation. Yet, if they are not allowed to compete for future F–35 engine contracts, the GE and Rolls-Royce market shares will diminish, and their current expertise in fighter engine development will disappear.

We often look at military programs strictly in terms of the dollars and cents expended each year. But we cannot forget that, over the last several decades, billions of dollars have gone to GE and Rolls-Royce for research and development. Canceling this program and cutting these companies out of future fighter engine production would be like throwing away these taxpayer dollars.

Simply put, we would lose that expertise and may not get it back without billions in additional investments. It is true that small savings would be seen if we canceled the F–136 today. But the American taxpayers have already invested over $3 billion in this program, over 75 percent of what is needed for the engine to enter full competitive production.

With just a small investment, we can bring competition to this $100 billion engine program. According to a Government Accountability Office historical analysis, the competition spurred by this relatively small investment could save up to 20 percent over the next few decades. Savings like that are especially likely, given the fixed-price contract offered by GE and Rolls-Royce.

While many of my colleagues were elected on a promise to reduce the deficit, we all need to remember that our debt problems will not be short-lived. It has taken decades to build this debt, and it may take many more years to eliminate it. We clearly need to do everything possible now to address our debt, but we cannot overlook billions in savings just to achieve small symbolic cuts today.

Killing the alternative engine, eliminating thousands of jobs, adding to the unemployment rolls and foregoing significant future savings just does not make sense to the American taxpayers.

Thank you, Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith for the opportunity to speak, and I encourage all of you to reauthorize the F–136 alternative engine.

Thank you, sir.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Do we have any questions?

I don't think we will enter into a debate right now on the second engine. It is something that we have debated in the past and I am sure we will debate in the future. But I really appreciate your bringing these points up at this time, and it is obviously something we will be looking at very closely.

Mr. CARSON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. CARSON. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. We now recognize the gentleman from Georgia for 5 minutes, Representative Kingston.

Is your mic on?

STATEMENT OF HON. JACK KINGSTON, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM GEORGIA

Mr. KINGSTON. It is great to be with you guys. I will skip what I just said. Three things that I want to testify on, basic ask for new missions for Fort Stewart, Georgia, Moody Air Force Base, and Kings Bay Naval Base.

I have the opportunity of representing perhaps the largest military district in the country. I have four major installations. I have Townsend Bombing Range, 165th Guard Unit, the 117th and the 224th and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

I have 80,000 active duty soldiers, about 200,000 of its family. And that is probably about a third of my constituency, which is military or military related. I am proud to represent the 3rd Infantry Division, which, I believe, Colonel Gibson has some intimate knowledge of. I am not exactly sure about Colonel West, but I know that Mr. Gibson actually knew of him through some soldier friends back home.

So we have the 75th Ranger Regiment there, Special Operations, the Air Squadron, the Night Stalkers, which, you know, are the Chinook units operating all over Afghanistan. We have Coast Guard. We have two Coast Guard cutters, 12 other boats. We have the MNST and Marine Reserves at Fort Stewart-Hunter and at Kings Bay. So we have got military everywhere.

The 3rd Infantry actually has won 4 out of the last 6 years the Army Community of Excellence, and the only reason why they did not win it the other 2 years is they weren't eligible to compete. We have an extremely pro-military constituency.

Now, back in BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure], the days of BRAC, a recommendation was made to move a new combat battalion there. And that was later canceled, even though the city made about $74 million in infrastructure changes in preparation for a new battalion. But that did not happen.

And the committee on which I serve, HAC–D [House Appropriations Committee—Subcommittee on Defense], actually put money in the Office of Economic Adjustment to help the town offset some of its losses because by the military, by Congress, by the Pentagon, we were told, "Gear up, because a new brigade is coming." It did not happen.

Now the President has determined to withdraw a heavy brigade combat team from Europe in 2015, and I would solicit your support on considering Fort Stewart as the new home for them. Fort Stewart has 280,000 acres. It is the largest post east of the Mississippi. And its impact area can accept live fire, including the multi-launch rocket system.

It is close to the Port of Savannah and has one of the longest runways in the world. It is ready for business, because BRAC already has done the environmental impact studies. There is no land acquisition that is necessary. All that is already done. So if you put the new brigade there, it would be an easy fit at no additional cost.

Moving on to the Air Force, Moody Air Force Base is in the thick of the worldwide fighting. They have been in Afghanistan, really, since almost 9/11; they went there in October.

At Moody, we have combat search and rescue elements. We have security forces for base and A–10 squadrons, which are in Afghanistan. We have the C–130s and the HH–60s. These elements have deployed many times over and over again to Iraq and Afghanistan and complement each other.

Their proximity to Fort Stewart and Hunter gives opportunities, which they are already capitalizing on, for some joint basing. I know that the Air Force is looking to procure the light attack arm reconnaissance aircraft or LAAR in fiscal year 2012, and we believe that Moody Air Force Base would be a good fit for that, and we would like your support in taking a good look at that.

Also, moving on to Kings Bay Naval Base, as you know, there are two nuclear submarine bases in the country. One of them is in Camden County, Georgia, which I represent. Again, during BRAC there was a proposal, actually a BRAC recommendation, to move the submarines from Groton down to St. Mary's at Kings Bay, and unfortunately moving submarines out of Groton would be like moving football out of Green Bay.

In the final analysis, Submarine Nation just would not stand it, but at the same time we have room, because there are 18 berths out there, and we can move submarines down there. And just like Fort Stewart, they are ready for business. So we are hoping that we can get some more missions for Kings Bay.

We have six of the SSBNs down there already, two of the SSGNs, and as well as a refit facility and Marines and Coast Guard standing by. So, we wanted to make a recommendation on that.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will—I mean, excuse me—Mr. Chairman, I want to make one final plug—last week a bill, which I believe many of you have co-sponsored, Congressman Gomer and I introduced to say that in the event of a government shutdown, that the troops would still continue to be paid.

We may have a government shutdown again. It may be in October, and it may be over the issue of appropriation bills. I think this legislation actually should be considered. It is still live. It is out there in the Senate. They have 70 co-sponsors in the House. We have about 150 co-sponsors. I think it would actually sail through the House, if we could move it. And I certainly would like us to move it before the Senate does.

So with that, I yield back. I will submit the rest of my testimony for the record, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be with you guys.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kingston can be found in the Appendix on page 62.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. And put me on that bill if I am not already on it, would you?

Are there any questions of Mr. Kingston?

Thank you very much.

We will now recognize the gentleman from Virginia, my congressman when I am in town, Mr. Moran, for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES P. MORAN, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM VIRGINIA

Mr. MORAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Smith and members of the committee. I have a larger statement for the record, but I know we want to facilitate this, so I am just going to talk about my highest priority.

The CHAIRMAN. Your full statement will be included in the record without objection.

Mr. MORAN. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. My highest priority is also a very urgent one. There is a Department of Defense building that has been constructed at the intersection of 395 and Seminary Road inside the Beltway. If you drive within the Beltway on 395, you can't miss it. It is an enormous building.

And consistent with BRAC, within a few months 6,400 people are to move into that building. There will be at least 3,800 additional vehicles, but there have been no traffic mitigation measures put into place. Finally, just yesterday, the Defense Department notified Congress that it will reprogram $20 million for some short- and mid-term transportation improvements.

And in the justification, they said, and I will quote: "The existing roadway capacities around the Mark Center development will be insufficient to accommodate the influx of new traffic in connection with the BRAC recommendation."

Well, finally, Mr. Chairman, there have been five studies that have shown that we are about to have chaos occur on 395. Now, this has consequence, not just to the military, but particularly to the 200,000 commuters that travel north in the morning to get into Capitol Hill, to get into the Federal office buildings, to go to work.

There are thousands of staff, dozens of Members who live south of the Beltway. Mr. Wittman has probably tens of thousands of constituents traveling north every morning. I estimate that they will be subjected to a 1 to 2 hour delay every morning as a result of this new Department of Defense construction.

The Army says that they think that if they take all their measures and everything works perfectly, it is only going to be an additional 20 minutes that this move will cause. Now, some people think an extra 20 minutes in what is already what seems like an interminable commute is a long time.

I am confident they are wrong, that we are talking about 1 to 2 hours. That is why this is an urgent top priority. Your committee has put in now for the last 2 years a cap on parking until the miti-

gation measures are in place. Now, in addition, the Army has said that with 2,200 people they will have met their BRAC requirement.

We had a cap of 1,000 parking spaces. In other words, they can fill the building, they just can't take more than 1,000 vehicles there, because 1,000 vehicles, if you spread over 3 hours, 300 an hour, it could possibly accommodate that with only a, you know 10- to 15-minute delay for everyone else, even if it had to be a cap of the 2,200 that meets their mission.

But 3,800 is going to create a situation where everyone commuting every day for decades to come, is going to wonder who let this happen and why? Now, once we get the transportation measures in place, we can lift the cap. It will be a delay for everyone, but at least it won't be this kind of extraordinary delay that will adversely affect everyone.

So, what I am asking is for the committee to put the cap in the authorization that we have had in the prior authorization bills. And then we lift it as soon as the military and the city and the state have agreed to do an $80 million ramp from hot lanes that will go into the building. And when that is done, then we lift the cap, and we deal with the ramifications.

But until these measures are in place, I think we owe it to those 200,000 commuters to give them some relief, because in fact when the construction takes place, it is even going to exacerbate the traffic problem. So that is my request. I know it is a local issue, but when it affects as many as 200,000 people, I think it has some consequence for a lot of people.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Moran can be found in the Appendix on page 66.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Are there any questions?

Ranking Member Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, just so I understand, I know there have been some studies on this. The IG [Inspector General] has looked at it. The Transportation Research Board has looked at it. What were their conclusions about what it would cost in terms of the transportation mitigations and how long it would take to get them in place so that this could even have a chance at working?

Mr. MORAN. It is a very good question. The immediate improvements, which would be to widen the exit ramp, that would be taken care of with the $20 million reprogramming that they have asked for. But it is still going to take 1 to 2 years to get that in place.

The $80 million ramp that the state will pay for itself will take 2 to 3 years at the very least. Then there is another, probably $100 million or so, depending upon how much we can get from the state. I am not optimistic about that, but the Defense Department, I think if we had some leverage, would work with us and get the most reasonable number possible.

You mentioned the Inspector General's report. They are looking into how this was allowed to happen in the first place, because the state has determined that there were a number of deliberately false assumptions that were put into their report. They assumed only 75 percent of the employees will go to work on any one day, even though the Army assumes over 90 percent will be at work any day.

They sped up the traffic light timing so that they could show more cars coming through, and then they had three left-hand turning lanes turning against a solid green light, which, as you know, can't happen. So a number of false assumptions were built into their report, and that is what the Inspector General is looking at.

In the meantime, we have just got to figure out a way to delay the complete move until we can mitigate.

Mr. SMITH. So, you feel if you keep it to 1,000 cars and the people that would accommodate——

Mr. MORAN. Yes.

Mr. SMITH [continuing]. You know, you can mitigate going forward. Have you gotten a response from DOD yet about the impact of, I mean, limiting it to that and how it would impact the transfer?

Mr. MORAN. No. I don't. I just have the request that we got yesterday, and I think that will be approved. And so if we could even delay it for the 18 months until that $20 million of improvements are in place, that would help a lot.

Mr. SMITH. And I should point out, this is something that was in the House bill——

Mr. MORAN. Yes.

Mr. SMITH [continuing]. Last year when we got it out. During the madness of trying to get it in NDAA at the end of last year, it came out. But it is something this committee has supported before and the House has supported before, so.

Mr. MORAN. That is correct. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Wittman.

Mr. WITTMAN. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Moran, thank you so much. I couldn't agree with you more. This is going to be a significant issue, much more significant than I think anybody dreams of in what will happen in that corridor. And it is a tough enough commute coming up that corridor now.

I want to go back. In last year's NDAA the 1,000 parking space cap was there. And were there provisions in there to say that that cap would be in place until such time as the $20 million in mitigating other traffic accommodations would be put in place? I am assuming that that is in there, but what also about this should we consider with the $80 million project that Virginia is putting in place?

It seems like to me we need to have a sequential, thoughtful way to make sure we transition if we are going to go from 1,000 spaces to the $20 million improvement, make sure we don't get out in front of the $80 million improvement so we have a long-term vision about how this is going to transition with minimal impact on the traffic in that area.

I may want you to comment on that a little bit.

Mr. MORAN. It is a very good point, Mr. Wittman, because I do think that while the construction is going on for the $80 million project, that is going to cause further delay, exacerbate the situation. So it seems to me the best thing to do might be to have the Pentagon analyze the difficulty of a delay for other commuters and just exercise their judgment when we can lift the cap.

We will know how bad the delay is as soon as they start moving. And then, perhaps, we could lift it in, you know, sequence. For example, once the $20 million is in, maybe 2,000 vehicles. Once the $80 million ramp is in, then completely lift it. I think that would probably be the most rational way to deal with it.

Mr. WITTMAN. Okay. Very good.

And in the language, and you will have to refresh my memory, the language from last year, were there conditions in there to allow some mitigation in case the 1,000 space limitation still creates problems? In other words, I want to make sure there is flexibility there where if the 1,000 creates a problem that they are forced to be able to take up that issue, so it doesn't get kicked down the road?

Mr. MORAN. Yes, there wasn't, Mr. Wittman. You know, I think we are going to have to accommodate at least 1,000 people using that building. We can't leave it completely empty.

Mr. WITTMAN. Sure.

Mr. MORAN. And no matter how effectively they might figure out a way to get people to drive, for example, to the Pentagon, take buses back and so on, we are still going to have at least another 1,000 vehicles coming into that one site.

Mr. WITTMAN. Okay. Very good.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Mr. MORAN. Thank you, Mr. Wittman.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

Well, thank you again——

Mr. MORAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN [continuing]. For bringing this to our attention. And we will continue to look at it as we go through the writing of the bill.

Mr. MORAN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

We now recognize the gentleman from Vermont, Mr. Welch, for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF HON. PETER WELCH, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM VERMONT

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. And members of the committee, thank you.

I am here to talk about something to provide for the well-being and welfare of returning troops. And I do that with great humility, because there are no Members of Congress more than the members of this committee who are acutely sensitive to the needs of our men and women in uniform.

What I am here to talk about is something that is based on Vermont experience. And I have worked closely with our adjutant general with the Vermont National Guard, so I feel I have some qualifications, even though I don't have your long history, Mr. Chairman, and the intimate involvement that the members of your committee have.

We have 1,500 Guard members just back from Afghanistan, and, as you know, they face very significant challenges. And one of the things that our adjutant general, I think, acutely appreciated was that those soldiers who are in the battlespace have unit cohesion.

They have each other to rely on. And it just binds them together, and they get through whatever adversity it is that they face.

And what he has found is that in many cases it is tougher for them when they come back home than it was than when they were there, because suddenly they are isolated. And of course, Vermont is a very rural state.

Mr. Gibson, you know, we share a border.

But those soldiers get home and instead of having that unit cohesion and that clarity of mission and that real sense of purpose, things that motivated them to go into the service in the first place, they are really on their own.

And they come back to a changed situation. Their family situation may have changed a bit. The family has had to make adjustments to be alone without the breadwinner. And it has led to real difficulty—mental health issues, PTSD [post traumatic stress disorder], physical health issues.

And what our adjutant general has found is that many of our soldiers—all of our soldiers, really—they are very proud people. So admitting you have, say, a mental health problem, taking that step to get help to act on it, that is really hard for them to do. And it is not like they are with their buddies anymore where they can talk about it and say, "Hey, Peter or Jim, you know, let us walk down and get a little help here."

So the program that has been incredibly helpful is this outreach program, where oftentimes veterans, folks who have credibility, go to the home of the soldier and check in and make it easy for them. We have got cases where it has resulted in a person who is suicidal getting help he needed and getting into long-term therapy.

It helped somebody who was not dealing with their financial situation avoid an eviction, because they sat down and got the help that they needed. It obviously has helped in many cases just dealing with the stress in the marriage.

So it is a modest amount of money, considering everything that is involved. But the help that is offered is at that point when they really need it and when they are really on their own. And it tends to be offered by another veteran, who has that credibility to speak to a proud soldier back from the battlespace, to help them make a good decision.

And this program has helped hundreds of Vermonters. And again, I say this because I have talked with some of the folks who are doing the casework. You know, I have talked to our adjutant general, Michael Dubie. And he is just so strongly supportive and committed to this program as something that is helping our folks make that readjustment back home that is in many cases—I don't know if this sounds odd; I don't think it is does—harder for our soldiers to deal with on a personal level than dealing with the stress of being in the battlespace.

Now, we have got a lot of help on this. We have been circulating a letter. Some of the committee members here have signed it. But essentially what we are looking to do is get funding for this program that is working in Vermont and some other states. Several other states have done this. And some of the Members here who have joined me in this effort are Frank LoBiondo, John Runyan, who was just here, Mike McIntyre, Larry Kissell.

The National Guard Bureau tells us the cost of expanding the outreach program around the country in 54 states and territories would be about $72 million. So the question—I mean, tough budget times, you all are dealing with that, I know—but I can just say as the Congressman from Vermont, where we have bipartisan support for our men and women in uniform, the unanimous verdict, based on our experience with this program, is that it is really, really making a difference for our men and women coming back from the battlespace.

So it is easy for me to sit here and ask you to do something. I suspect this is something that if there was any way budget-wise you could get from here to there you would want to do, because it is totally bipartisan. But it has made a difference in Vermont in saving lives, in the mental health. And it is practical and on the ground and driven by our veterans.

So I really appreciate you allowing me to come here and make this case on behalf of this outreach program. And anything you can do, I think the Nation would be grateful.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Welch can be found in the Appendix on page 69.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I appreciate you bringing that up. And the comment about doing it in a bipartisan nature, that is a very strong culture in our committee.

Mr. WELCH. I know that.

The CHAIRMAN. We think about the troops, not so much about Republican and Democrat.

Mr. WELCH. You know, we need more of that in this Congress, Mr. Chairman. You may have to lead the way.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mrs. Davis.

Mrs. DAVIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And Mr. Welch, I agree with you. I think it is very important and I have heard many, many stories out of California and other places of how that particular—in many cases it is a veteran mentor, really, that steps in to be a guide. A lot of it has to do with preparing someone for either the job they had before, which has changed and they have changed, so that there is——

Mr. WELCH. Right.

Mrs. DAVIS [continuing]. Some difficulty there, but also, for the opportunities that may be out there that, you know, are a little difficult I think to see when you come back from a battlespace.

My question is really about the role of the state and whether Vermont participates in that—the National Guard, so of course there is an interest there—and whether or not, as we look at this funding, there should a state match? Or how realistic that is in Vermont? And where do you think that offer is?

Mr. WELCH. Well, you know, I think that is pretty reasonable. And I suspect, you know, Vermont has a tough budget situation, but I know from experience the state has stepped up and provided assistance, emergency funding that is available to the adjutant general to deal with some of the emergencies like fuel assistance. You know, families are left behind, the husband or the wife is

away. They have got one breadwinner instead of—well, it is tougher financially. They are just juggling a lot.

And the Vermont legislature has actually appropriated funds that were made available for the discretionary use by the adjutant general to help in emergencies. So I think there would be some support. I think it is a reasonable request. You know, this is the Guard. There is some significant state commitment. We are limited, but I would accept as reasonable your suggestion.

Mrs. DAVIS. Looking at some kind of a match perhaps?

Mr. WELCH. Yes.

Mrs. DAVIS. Okay.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gibson.

Mr. GIBSON. Thank, Mr. Chairman.

I want to associate myself with the remarks from my colleague right now.

Mr. WELCH. Well, you know more than I do about this.

Mr. GIBSON. Well, I just want to say that your approach is spot on, based on my experience, that, you know, really it is without each other there is a sense of isolation——

Mr. WELCH. Yes.

Mr. GIBSON [continuing]. That really overwhelms an individual, who is trying to come to terms with, in some cases, unspeakable acts that have occurred in theatre. And so, you know, right now in our district we have vets helping vets in a volunteer way. But I am very interested in seeing perhaps what more could be done by pulling across the state and Federal effort.

Maybe as you point out, I don't think it would need to be a lot of money, but maybe an administrator to help with this in terms of logging in phone calls and making sure no one falls through the cracks. So I would like to be on this effort——

Mr. WELCH. Oh, great.

Mr. GIBSON [continuing]. And just ask that we can have our staffs coordinate.

But I just want to say that the approach of a community, the community of those who served, those who are interested in helping those who have served, really, there is no way to quantify that. And it helps get through the very toughest of times and build a foundation of emotional support that then can propel one for full reintegration. So thank you very much.

Mr. WELCH. Thank you, Mr. Gibson. And I look forward to working with you very much.

Mr. GIBSON. God bless you. Thanks.

And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Bartlett.

Mr. BARTLETT. We are already noticing disturbing trends among our returning warfighters. Suicides are up. Homelessness is up. Thank you very much for reminding us that we need to have renewed attention to this. We owe an awful lot to them. We need to make sure they aren't falling through the cracks. Thank you.

Mr. WELCH. Thank you, Mr. Bartlett.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Davis.

Mrs. DAVIS. Mr. Chairman, if I may, just very briefly, because I think that the First Lady and Dr. Biden have undertaken an extraordinary effort to reach out to communities in addition to interagency cooperation, if you will, to say something very special, I think, to our military families, that they are valued and that they are not going to be forgotten and in fact there is going to be a large effort to respond to them as well.

And so I just wanted to mention that, because I think we are going to see some differences in terms of the way communities are going to be responding. And I think Vermont would certainly benefit from that, but it is also very important for all of us to in our own way, I think, as Members of Congress, to seek out on our Web sites—there will be newer Web sites coming up—that we can all make certain that our constituents are very aware of those activities. So that would fit into your concerns as well.

Thank you.

Mr. WELCH. Right. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Also, I had a meeting, last week I believe it was, with Mrs. Petraeus. And she has taken on an assignment, a new organization that she will be working outreach to help military families, military personnel. She might be another one that you might talk to.

There are lots of people that really want to——

Mr. WELCH. Right.

The CHAIRMAN [continuing]. To help—so much different than during the Vietnam war time. It is amazing how well, whether people support the war effort or not——

Mr. WELCH. Right.

The CHAIRMAN [continuing]. How well they have supported the troops.

Mr. WELCH. Yes, and actually, I think your committee with its bipartisan approach on that, Mr. Chairman, is making a big contribution. And we really do, obviously, need to sustain that. And if your example could spread throughout Congress, I think we would be the better off for it.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

We will now recognize the gentleman from Kansas, Mr. Pompeo, for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE POMPEO, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM KANSAS

Mr. POMPEO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the opportunity to testify here this morning. My request is a bit different, but nonetheless, I think, very important.

Father Emil Kapaun from Wichita, Kansas, was a brave and honorable soldier, a cavalryman like me, and I ask that into H.R. 437 there be language inserted to permit a waiver of the time limit for the granting to Father Emil Kapaun of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 1940 Father Kapaun was ordained in Wichita, Kansas. He served in World War II and then was discharged. And in September of 1948, he decided he wanted to go back and serve again, and he served amazingly during the Korean war.

Shortly after the invasion in 1950, he entered the cavalry and followed his regiment into battle at the Battle of Unsan on November 1st and 2nd. And according to the report, as the day wore on it became apparent that the battalion's position was hopeless. Though the able-bodied men were ordered to escape, Chaplain Kapaun elected to stay behind with the wounded in the finest tradition of military leadership.

As he cared for his men, he noticed a wounded Chinese among the group. And as the Chinese infantry approached the American position, Chaplain Kapaun convinced the officer to negotiate a safe surrender for American forces. Many Americans were taken prisoner that day, and the prisoners, all of them American, were weak from extreme exertion and malnutrition.

They were forced to march from camp to camp. Nonetheless, Chaplain Kapaun continued to lead by example, constantly encouraging his men and refusing to take a break from carrying stretchers for the wounded. He risked his life by sneaking out after dark in order to forage for food and rations for his men. He was recaptured each time.

As winter set in, it got worse. Father Kapaun ultimately was transferred to a filthy, unheated hospital, where he died alone. He repeatedly risked his own life to save what were hundreds of Americans. His extraordinary courage and leadership inspired thousands and continues to do so in south central Kansas and across America today.

As a result of his efforts, he was awarded posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross on August 18, 1951; and in 1993 he was named a "Servant of God" by the Catholic Church, which is the first step towards Father Kapaun's canonization. We in Kansas admire Father Kapaun a great deal. I think America ought to honor him, too.

As the committee knows, the Medal of Honor recommendation must be submitted within 2 years. We are after that timeline. That is the reason for my request that we insert language into the NDAA which would permit a waiver. I would ask that there would be entered into the record a letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Mr. Stanley, who has agreed that this would be appropriate.

[The information referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 73.]

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. POMPEO. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. That would be with your testimony.

Mr. POMPEO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

This would be a great outcome for America, for Father Kapaun, for the United States Army to honor Father Kapaun in this way. And I would ask for your support to have this language inserted, as it has been previously, in the NDAA. Thank you very much for your time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pompeo can be found in the Appendix on page 71.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Thank you for bringing that to our attention. And we will continue to look at that as we move forward on the bill.

Mr. POMPEO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

And now we will recognize the gentleman from Illinois for 5 minutes, Mr. Kinzinger.

STATEMENT OF HON. ADAM KINZINGER, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS

Mr. KINZINGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to come out and express our concerns or thoughts on various aspects.

I have just a couple of quick issues I want to bring to the committee's attention. I am an Air Force pilot. I do it currently as a reservist in the Air National Guard. I fly the RC–26. That is something I am going to talk about in a second.

But one of the things I have noticed is, I guess, something that has been great for a number of years is the Air Force flight suit and the functionality of it. I heard recently, actually in November of 2010, that the Air Force issued a contract for $100 million for the flight suit redesign.

I know it was asked not that long ago of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force if that was still at play. The Chief of Staff stated that in fact the Air Force is not going to be in the business of redesigning the flight suit. Indications we have gotten, however, is that that is continuing on path, so that is something I want to bring to the attention.

I think it is important to know that this is not a flight suit specifically for the new F–35 in the requirements, but instead it really seeks to integrate various aspects of what is already functional—flight suit, the anti-G suit, which is already good for up to over nine Gs for a pilot in that environment.

And while the goal of increased comfort and integrated protection for the pilot is laudable, I don't believe that this is urgently needed by the Air Force, particularly in this current budget environment.

Two improvements over the current system mentioned—the anti-improvement—or the increase in the G-suit capabilities, and they also say, a long-term cost savings in the integrated model. I believe that if there is an increased need, a new G-suit in and of itself may be something worthy of this committee to look at for redesign.

But I always find it kind of hard to buy into the argument that a redesign of a $100 million of a flight suit worn by a few 10,000 people or so is actually a cost savings measure in the long run. So that is something I wanted to bring to the attention of the committee.

The other thing I want to talk about is the aircraft I fly. It is the RC–26. The RC–26 is a relatively inexpensive piece of equipment for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. The inexpensive nature of it is a great thing for our country. It is a bad thing for the RC–26 in that it stays very, very low on people's radar. It is inexpensive.

It originally started out as a counter-drug mission, and that is what it was solely used for. But within the last few years, it has been plucked from that mission and integrated into our operations in Southwest Asia, to great avail. It has actually been very successful. The customers of this aircraft say nothing but very great things about it.

In the process of that and it becoming useful, one of the bad parts of that is one of the most deployed assets currently in the United States Air Force and in the Air National Guard with pilots and equipment being deployed at a record and rapid pace.

And we are also sitting right now on potentially another deployment to another part of the world, which I can't necessarily elaborate on here, but it would add even more stress. And the folks of the RC–26 are very happy to do it.

One of the concerns, however, is since it is low on the totem pole as far as funding goes—as far as being on the radar, I guess, is a better way to put it—you have people not only being outstretched, there is no real steady stream of funding for the RC–26.

It was originally part of counter-drug, so that counter-drug funding is an issue as we go forward. And then as it is chopped over to missions in Southwest Asia, it is kind of a piecemeal together string of funding. As a result we have seen a lot of people every day, in essence, being threatened of having their long-term orders taken away. There has been a threat of the funding stream.

And I think this is a very important mission not just for what we are doing in Southwest Asia, but stateside it provides a continued counter-drug force, which I think is important. But most importantly, this is important for its ability at homeland defense, the intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance side of this in homeland defense, responding to whether it is a terrorist incident.

In my unit nearby is Milwaukee and Chicago, also St. Louis. So it can be overhead with real-time surveillance at a terrorist incident. It also provided very strong surveillance and reconnaissance for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ike. I was personally involved in a mission when Hurricane Ike hit Louisiana and hit the coast, providing real-time battle damage assessment and search and rescue operations.

So I think this is a very good program for our country. I would just ask the committee to look at solidifying the stream of funding, solidifying where it gets its money from so that we are not constantly in kind of a swap back and forth. And again, the fact that it is so inexpensive is kind of its big enemy, because it stays low on the radar. So I would just ask of the committee to continue to look into that.

And finally, just quickly, I would ask the committee to continue to look at the Air Force's plan for rolling out the F–35, which I am very supportive of the aircraft and the mission it will provide. We have seen recently in some of the rollout plans, I think, the Air National Guard being kind of not utilized to the extent it should be in the rollout of the F–35 mission.

So I won't elaborate too much into that, except to say that is something that I would ask also to stay on your radar.

So with that I will see if you have any questions or yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kinzinger can be found in the Appendix on page 74.]

The CHAIRMAN. Questions? Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

Mr. KINZINGER. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. We have taken notes and we will look into that as we move forward. Thank you very much.

We now recognize the gentleman from Texas for 5 minutes, Representative Carter.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN CARTER, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS

Mr. CARTER. Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I appreciate you allowing me to testify here today. I am before you today to respectfully request that the House Armed Services Committee again consider incorporating the Fort Hood Victims and Families Benefit Protection Act into this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

That presently references H.R. 625. This was in the last version of the NDAA, but unfortunately the language was removed, along with some other very worthy language, in a last-ditch effort to get it passed. I will remind you of something I am sure you already know, that Fort Hood has deployed more troops into the overseas theater of combat since 9/11 than any other U.S. military installation.

They have also suffered the most combat casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The terrorist attack that rocked Fort Hood on November 5, 2009, resulted in the deaths of 13 service members and one DOD civilian employee, as well as 32 wounded.

Recently the incident was correctly labeled the deadliest terrorist attack within the United States since September 11, 2001, by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The language of the Fort Hood Victims and Families Benefit Protection Act would deem the Fort Hood attack for the purposes of all applicable laws, regulations and policies to have occurred in a combat zone during a contingency operation and at the hands of a terrorist or enemy of the United States.

In so doing, this legislation would afford the victims of the Fort Hood attack, which include both troops and civilians, the very same benefits as service members wounded or killed in combat zones, or as applicable DOD civilians wounded or killed in contingency operations or terrorist attacks.

One impact of these provisions does not require, but makes eligible—and I want to emphasize does not require but makes eligible—for the Purple Heart and comparable civilian awards those service members and DOD civilians wounded or killed in the Fort Hood attack, to be awarded at the discretion of the Secretary in accordance with the Executive orders.

This doesn't change the existing Purple Heart in any way. As it stands, those killed or wounded in the Fort Hood attack by a homegrown, Islamic extremist will not necessarily receive the same benefits as their deployed counterparts who are wounded or killed merely because this attack took place on United States soil rather than in a declared combat zone such as Iraq or Afghanistan.

And let me tell you that in talking with people who were in the room, and I have talked to numerous people who were in the room, the perpetrator in this instance sought out green suits. He sought out soldiers to shoot. Almost everyone acknowledges that with the possible exception of the man who was killed, which he may have

had some alternative reason for shooting that person, but other than that, he was seeking out soldiers to kill in this situation at Fort Hood.

So I would argue that he viewed this as a combat mission on his behalf to attack those who were unarmed, but in uniform and then were being processed onto one of the theaters that we are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. So I think there is a solid argument to be made that the intent of the perpetrator was to be involved in killing soldiers on behalf of the effort of those we are in combat with in the combat zones.

And therefore, I think it would be appropriate, especially in light of the fact that we provided these benefits to the victims of the 9/11 attack at the Pentagon, that a precedent is set there for instances like this.

And quite honestly for one individual, he did some pretty major damage to not only the lives and the bodies of individual soldiers, but he also did major damage to the morale of the United States Army, because I can tell you of an instance at the hospital when I was there, where one of the nurses took me aside and said she had trained with Australian nurses who she was working with in Iraq, and they had called her and said it was having an effect on Australian troops that someone could be killed in a place where they are supposed to be safe as part of an attack from the people they are fighting.

So, I would hope that you would consider to place this in the NDAA this year so that we can get these benefits for these soldiers and these civilians, which I think clearly was injury or death in what I would argue is an extension of the combat zones.

And I yield.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Carter can be found in the Appendix on page 76.]

Mr. BARTLETT. Some will argue this would set a precedent. I think that would be a very appropriate precedent to set, thank you.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Mr. Bartlett.

The CHAIRMAN. It sounds like the precedent is already set. Thank you very much, Judge. We will look at that as we move forward on writing the bill.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

We now recognize the gentleman from Arkansas for 5 minutes, Mr. Crawford.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning and thank you, Members. I appreciate the honor of addressing you this morning.

And I thank you for all that you do to preserve the security of our great Nation and for allowing me the opportunity to testify regarding recommended explosive ordnance disposal [EOD] priorities for fiscal year 2012, National Defense Authorization Act.

As none of the services have a three-star EOD flag officer with the legislative affairs staff, it is my honor to represent the interests of this critical component of our fighting force in their stead. I my-

self served in the Army as an EOD tech, and so it is a great honor for me to represent these individuals.

Explosive ordnance disposal or EOD soldiers are the military's preeminent team of explosives experts, warriors who are properly trained, equipped and integrated to attack and defeat explosive and associated insurgent networks across all operational environments.

The military's EOD mission is to defeat global improvised explosive device, or IED, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear, CBRN, and high-yield explosives and WMD, weapons of mass destruction, threats.

The EOD warrior protects our military and innocent civilians from explosive threats and supports maneuver forces by providing relevant and ready explosive experts in full-spectrum military operations, joint and interagency operations, and supports civil authorities in support of national security objectives.

These EOD technicians do this task at great personal peril. Quoting from Army regulations, "There are no safe procedures for rendering safe and disposing of unexploded ordnance, IEDs, devices or other explosives—merely a procedure that is considered the least dangerous." That comes from Army regulation 7515 policy for explosive ordnance disposal.

EOD forces have proven to be game changers in attacking and dismantling terrorist cells and associated networks. EOD forces will continue to be indispensable key enablers of our combatant commanders for the foreseeable future to include during overseas contingency operations, counter-insurgency, stability and counter-terrorism operations, building the capacity of partner nations and routinely conducting homeland defense EOD missions in support of civil authorities.

The EOD warrior is the culmination of the best tactical and technical training in the Army and civilian academia can provide. He and, yes, she, are trained from the first day to manage risk in all operations.

The EOD professional performs the duties of locating, positively identifying, rendering safe, exploiting together technical intelligence from first seen ordnance and IEDs, and disposing of both foreign and domestic conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear ordnance commonly referred to as weapons of mass destruction, or WMD.

This includes IEDs, whether detonated by a victim, initiated by an insurgent remotely, transported by large vehicles, or worn by a homicide bomber.

They routinely work in the shadows during very important personal protection support activity missions in support of the Department of Homeland Security's Secret Service and Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, and without fanfare render support to the Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

It is vital that we continue to preserve the rebalanced EOD force structure and maintain our EOD technical chain of command and control structure and full-spectrum capabilities to ensure success in a wide range of contingencies as directed by the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review and specifically emphasized in Homeland Security

Presidential Directive 19 entitled, "Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States and Its Implementation Plan."

EOD mission competencies and capacities led by EOD qualified commanders at the group and battalion levels of command will be essential for defeating these enduring explosive ordnance and other asymmetric threats and future irregular warfare challenges.

I can't help but wonder how many of the 4,662 killed in action and over 42,000 wounded in action military personnel from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom could have been prevented, had we pushed to revitalize Army EOD force capabilities and capacities earlier to counter the enemy's use of IED weapon systems.

Today I am proud to wear the distinctive unit insignias of the Army's 52nd, 71st and 111th Ordnance Groups EOD in recognition of their extraordinary service and contribution for preserving the security of our great Nation.

Colonel Thomas Langowski's 52nd EOD Group home stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is currently deployed in Afghanistan as the counter-IED Coalition Joint Task Force–Paladin. Colonel Jose Atencio's 111th EOD Group recently returned home to Opelika, Alabama, from duty as the counter-IED Coalition Joint Task Force–Troy in Iraq. And Colonel Leo Bradley's 71st EOD Group is resetting at Fort Carson, Colorado, from a recent duty as CJTF–Troy and is training his soldiers for redeployment to Afghanistan for duty as CJTF–Paladin.

My concern is how the Army's EOD force accomplishes its deployment demand—seven EOD groups' worth of workload through train, deploy and reset for Afghanistan, three groups train, deploy, and reset for Iraq, and other contingencies' three groups and provide command control of enduring EOD support to civil authorities and mobilization for deployment 2 years out of 5-year cycles for the National Guard EOD group, and accomplishing all the tasks with only three Army groups available in the force structure.

I believe the answer is by professionally teaming the three Army EOD groups with the Navy's premier maritime and underwater explosive experts under the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command led by Rear Admiral Michael Tillotson. His forces augment these land-based counter-IED taskings.

Specifically, EOD Group 1, led by Commodore Ed Eidson, based in Coronado, California, is currently conducting operations as CJTF–Troy in Iraq and EOD Group 2, led by Commodore Dale Fleck, stationed at Little Creek Amphibious Base, Virginia, is preparing for deployment.

With the Marines and Air Force EOD companies and flights supporting the Army company level, the Joint Service EOD Force has answered the Nation's call for defeating IEDs and associated insurgent networks, all while combining forces to conduct joint interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational operations.

I highly recommend attending the global EOD conference and exhibition on the 3rd through 5th of May this year in Representative Jeff Miller's district in Florida to learn more about how EOD forces achieve success during these complex operations. And I have enclosed industries' proposed strategy map on EOD priorities, as it is quite illuminating.

And, finally, we must continue to support these tremendous EOD warfighters in all services, but with particular emphasis on the Army as they primarily align to support sustained, land-based operations by shifting their funding of overseas contingency operations supplementals back into each of the services' respective baseline budgets on EOD program elements for research, development, tests and evaluation, operations and maintenance, and procurement.

This funding amount totaled roughly just over $403 million in fiscal year 2010. However, this total does not reflect additional funding provided by the Joint IED Defeat Organization for specific in-theater EOD equipment, funding for training EOD forces, nor funding for transition and transfer from Joint IED Defeat Organization to the services of this EOD equipment and training.

Additionally, the funding for Navy single-service management of common type EOD training and technology and the Office of Secretary of Defense's EOD/Low-Intensity Conflict program have remained virtually flatlined for over 10 years, despite the increase of emerging threats, for which the EOD community is uniquely and singularly qualified to confront.

We must collectively do more to ensure adequate funding of these critical EOD program elements now and make investments in EOD force structure readiness for securing the future.

I respectfully request inclusion of the enclosed proposed legislative language, an item of special interest for the fiscal year 2012 NDAA, a report on budget justification, display of key enabler explosive ordnance disposal force structure and budget requirements.

I remain available to the committee for further assistance on EOD matters. And I thank you for your consideration and for your service to the Nation.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Crawford can be found in the Appendix on page 79.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I appreciate your efforts on this. This is one of the big concerns that I have with IEDs and what a tremendous impact they have had on us in both Iraq and Afghanistan. So this is something we will look at as we move forward on the bill and appreciate you working with us on this.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Yes, sir. Glad to be of help.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

That concludes our witnesses that have signed up to participate today, so this hearing will be adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:15 a.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

April 14, 2011

PREPARED STATEMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

April 14, 2011

Opening Statement of Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services

Hearing on Testimony from Members on Their National Defense Priorities for the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Bill

April 14, 2011

Good morning. The House Armed Services Committee meets today to receive testimony from Members of Congress on their national defense priorities for the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

As we begin the process of crafting our legislation, it is essential that this Committee seek input from all Members of the House to better enable us to fulfill Congress' Article 1 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.

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 our 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 our witnesses.

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

Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee "Testimony from Members on their National Defense Priorities for the NDAA"

Rep. Randy Neugebauer

April 14, 2011

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today on my national defense priorities. My district, Texas's 19th Congressional District, is home to the 5,000 military and 1,000 civilian personnel stationed at Dyess Air Force Base. Located on the outskirts of the City of Abilene, Dyess houses, among other missions, the 7th Bomb Wing, representing 36 of the 66 remaining B-1 Lancer strategic bombers.

As a part of its FY 2012 budget, the Air Force has proposed cutting the B-1 fleet by six, reducing the total number of aircraft down to only 60. The Air Force estimates that this cut will save $61.1 million in FY 2012, and $357 million over five years, in the procurement and operations & maintenance accounts. However, of these amounts the Air Force plans to invest only $32.9 million in the B-1 fleet in FY 2012, and only $125.4 million over the next five years.

Mr. Chairman, I know that in this new, refreshing climate of tightening our belts around here, no program is off limits. There are no sacred cows, and programs and projects across the budget are having to justify their funding levels, and in some cases their very existence. However, when it comes to the Air Force's proposal,

the argument against the idea of reducing our B-1 fleet seems so strong, I am almost surprised that it even needs to be made.

From September 2001 through June 2010 (the most recent data available), the B-1 has flown 72 percent of bomber combat missions, while representing only 40 percent of the bomber fleet. Before recent military action in Libya, the B-1 was the only bomber to have been used in combat since May 2006 – and used heavily at that. In fact, there has been a B-1 in the air supporting our troops deployed in the Middle East almost constantly for the past several years.

I am sure that many of you are aware that when Operation Odyssey Dawn began on March 19, the Air Force used two B-2s and a handful of F-15s and F-16s to carry out the initial strikes. Knowing the capability of the B-1, frankly I was a little surprised that it was not included in the operation. A few days later I was in Abilene visiting the men and women at Dyess and asked some of the airmen there why the B-1 was not included in Odyssey Dawn. It turns out the answer was that the B-1 is playing such an integral role in Afghanistan that the leadership there simply did not have a plane to spare. It seems to me that when an aircraft is so valuable that not even one can be spared, we should not be looking to cut six. I should also point out that two B-1s eventually did fly missions over Libya – making a round trip flight across the Atlantic Ocean from Ellsworth AFB, where the 28th Bomb Wing is stationed.

I would like to come back to the fact that, before last month, the B-1 is the only bomber to have flown combat missions in almost five years, flying well over

4,500 missions (as of June 2010). The 76 B-52s and 20 B-2s also in the bomber fleet sat on the bench. Again, I find it hard to understand why we are even considering a proposal to make cuts to this fleet.

The B-1 is the least expensive bomber in the fleet. As you can see in the attached exhibit to my testimony, the B-52 comes close while being only 23-percent more expensive to fly per Cost Per Flying Hour (CPFH). The B-2 is 179-percent more expensive. The attached exhibit also documents the astounding cost differentials when it comes to the cost of Period Depot Maintenance (PDM).

The B-1 enjoys a significant advantage in its deployability. Despite originally being envisioned as a long-range, nuclear capable bomber, the B-1 has lost its nuclear capabilities as a result of past arms treaties. However, several countries do not allow us to station our nuclear capable aircraft on their soil. Recently, the B-52 has deployed only to England and Diego Garcia, while the B-1 has been stationed much closer to the Area of Responsibility (AOR), eliminating its travel time to the AOR, and any need for fuel tanker support needed to get it there. Furthermore, the B-2 requires expensive, special climate-controlled hangars when not in use in order to help maintain its stealth characteristics. Only three bases in the world have the necessary hangars for the B-2, all of them significantly outside of the AOR.

I could go on, but, lastly, I would like to point out the B-1's versatility. When the B-1 first rolled off the line in 1986, no one ever envisioned it as being able to provide close air support for troops on the ground, or loitering over a battle field providing Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. But

here we are today while the B-1 continues to do just that, and continues to provide this support to our troops in almost all weather, day or night, high altitude or low altitude, using either its APG-164 radar or Sniper targeting pod. In addition, just last month the Air Force began testing a new weapons delivery system that will increase the number of 500-pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions and Laser Guided (JDAM) bombs carried by the B-1 from 15 to 48 - representing a 320 percent increase in capability.

I understand that the Air Force is planning to develop a new Long Range Strike Aircraft. However, the Air Force has said that this new aircraft will not be available until the mid-2020s. If we are fifteen years away from having a new bomber, then it is even more critical that the Air Force keep and maintain the limited number of B-1s that we currently have.

If you remain unconvinced of the value of maintain our B-1 fleet at its current levels, I will close with this quote from General Petraeus, made during his nomination hearing last June:

"[The B-1] is a great platform in at least two respects, maybe more. One, it carries a heck of a lot of bombs, substantial ordnance. And, second, it has very good ISR capabilities... [I]t can loiter for a good time, when it's not being used to drop bombs... [I]t is almost like having another unmanned aerial vehicle in terms of full motion video and so forth... **So, it's not just a case of a very, very capable bomber just boring holes in the sky, waiting to open the bomb-bay doors.**

It is also a case of a platform that's very capable, even as it is just doing that, flying around in circles."

Thank you again Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member for the opportunity to address you in the forum, and I look forward to your questions.

The B-1 Bomber
A Critical Asset of the Long Range Strike (LRS) Mission

In this era of severe budget pressure, it is important to consider capabilities, costs and flexibility when determining the proper allocation of scarce DoD resources. This White Paper presents these facts concerning the B-1's critical role in Long Range Strike (LRS), and shows why the B-1 is the Air Force's "Most Valuable Player".

In order to continue as a critical asset, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the United States Air Force (USAF) should:

- Keep all 66 B-1s in the inventory;
- Fully fund sustainment and upgrade requests;
- Fill all B-1 authorized skilled manpower positions.

The B-1 has been used much more than the other bombers.

Since 9/11, the B-1 has flown 72% of bomber combat missions.

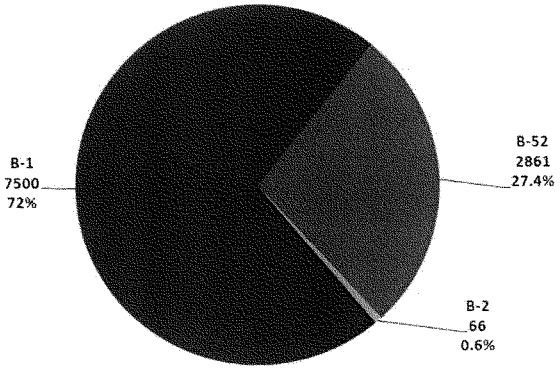

Figure 1 - Bomber Combat Missions, Sept 2001 to June 2010

The B-1 is the only bomber that has been used in combat during the last four years (since May 2006), accumulating over 4500 missions through June 2010. The B-1 is flying combat missions almost every day and is operating over Iraq or Afghanistan in support of our troops on the ground.

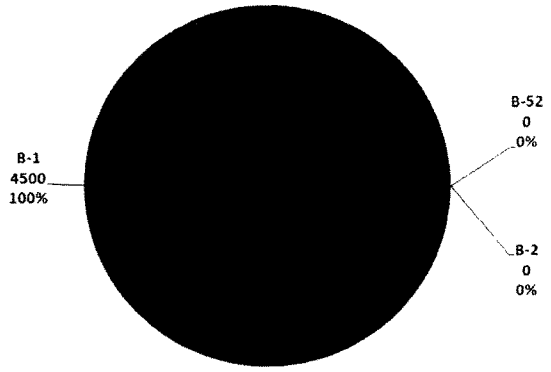

Figure 2 - Bomber Combat Missions, May 2006 to June 2010

Why is the B-1 the Bomber of Choice?

All bombers share the ability to fly long distances, the ability to persist over the battlefield for long periods, and large payloads. Despite these shared characteristics, the B-1 is flying in combat daily, while the other bombers sit on the bench. Why is this?

Cost

The B-1 is the least expensive bomber [1] (see Figure 3). The B-52 comes close, being only 23% more expensive to fly than the B-1. The B-2 is 179% more expensive. The Air Force, and the nation, could not afford to use the B-2 in the types of conflict being fought today.

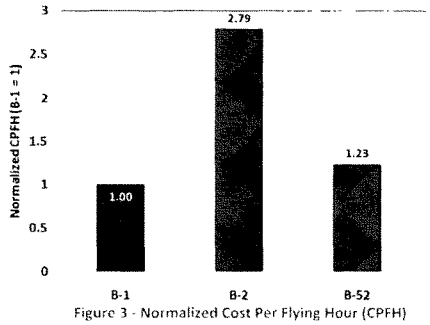

Figure 3 - Normalized Cost Per Flying Hour (CPFH)

[1] There are multiple sources for Cost Per Flying Hour (CPFH). Most do not account for all of the costs required to maintain a fleet of aircraft. The Air Force has a tool, the Air Force Total Ownership Cost (AFTOC) Management Information System, which tracks all costs related to a weapon system.

Most of the detailed cost data supporting Figure 3 is not available for public release. However, the cost of performing Periodic Depot Maintenance (PDM) was published in the 2011 President's Budget. The data, shown in Figure 4, supports the contention that the B-1 is the least expensive bomber, especially when compared to the B-2. For example, in 2010 a B-2 PDM costs over 7.6 times the cost of a B-1 PDM.

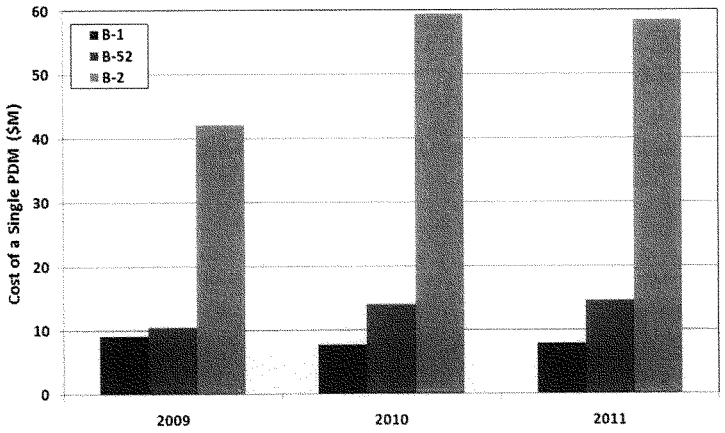

Figure 4 - Cost of a Single PDM

Cost Effectiveness / Efficiency

Since the B-1 carries a bigger weapons payload than any other aircraft, its advantage in Cost Per Flying Hour (CPFH) is increased when assessing cost effectiveness and efficiency in performing the primary function of a strike aircraft, destroying targets. Figure 5 shows relative efficiency in terms of the number of targets engaged per dollar. The B-1 is almost two and a half times more efficient than the B-52 and over four times more efficient than the B-2.

Note that the B-2, despite its relatively low efficiency and low signature, comes at a high cost, a cost which explains why it is a benchwarmer in today's wars.

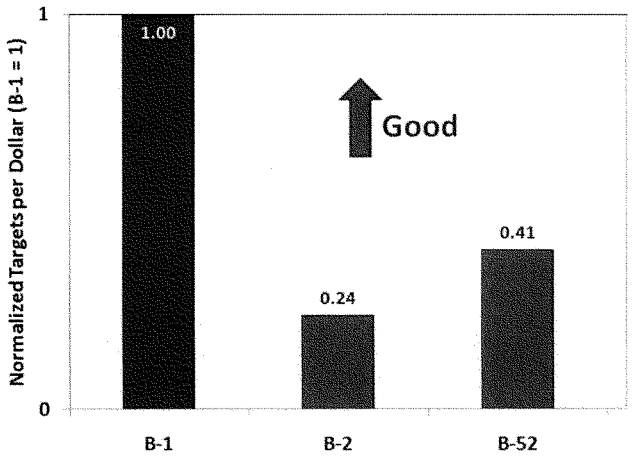

Figure 5 - Normalized Targets Engaged per Dollar

Fleet Size

With 66 aircraft, the B-1 fleet has been able to provide constant support in the current conflicts and meet the demands of a high ops tempo. At 76 aircraft, the B-52 fleet may be large enough to support the same level of activity, but the B-52 is not being used for this purpose. The B-2 fleet of 20 aircraft could not generate the required number of sorties for more than a couple of days and is clearly not capable of doing what the B-1 fleet does.

Deployability

For the reasons below, the B-1 is much easier to deploy to forward bases than either the B-2 or B-52. The B-1 can, therefore, be based much closer to target areas, further increasing its effectiveness and efficiency, particularly compared to other bombers.

Special Needs

The B-2 must be stored in special climate-controlled hangars when not in use to maintain its stealth characteristics. These hangars are expensive, and exist only at Whiteman AFB in Missouri, Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, and Andersen AFB on Guam. Consequently, the B-2 has rarely deployed. Most B-2 combat missions have originated at Whiteman, with durations often exceeding 40 hours. This severely limits the number of sorties that can be generated by the B-2 and is extremely expensive.

Nuclear Sensitivities

The B-2 and B-52 are nuclear capable bombers. Many countries are unwilling to have these aircraft based in their countries. In recent conflicts, the B-1 has been deployed to two bases in the Area of Responsibility (AOR). The B-52 has deployed only to England and the British possession of Diego Garcia, both thousands of miles from the AOR. Use of the B-1 is therefore much more efficient, both in terms of the hours required to reach the AOR and the tanker support required to do so.

Airfield Requirements

The B-1 can operate from bases with smaller runways than the B-52.

Versatility

Speed

The B-1 is much faster than the B-52 and the B-2. This makes it much easier for the B-1 to operate in force packages, as it can keep up with fighters in most situations. The B-1's speed also decreases the time required to respond to time-sensitive support needs. In addition, due to its combination of high fuel load and speed, the B-1 has a greater capability to escape enemy fighters before they can close to engagement range.

Mixed loads

Unlike the other bombers, the B-1 can mix any combination of bombs among each of its three weapon bays and also within each bay. This flexibility makes the B-1 extremely useful in dynamic situations where missions change in flight, as is usually the case in today's conflicts, and the types of bombs needed can vary.

Day or night, all weather

The B-1 can operate in all weather, day or night, high or low altitude. Due to its capable APG-164 radar, it can see, track, and engage stationary and moving targets in all conditions. The B-52's radar lacks this capability. The B-1's Sniper targeting pod, while not capable of operating in severe weather, allows Positive Identification (PID) day or night. These factors combine to give the B-1 exceptional versatility. The B-2 does not have a targeting pod. In addition, the B-2 is not usually employed during the day or in bad weather.

Air Force acknowledgements of the B-1s much-used capabilities and critical importance

Current Perceptions

In 2001, the United States went to war, and the Air Force came to depend on the B-1 as the bomber that could meet the daily needs of our troops on the ground. Comments by senior Air

Force officials confirm the outstanding job that the B-1 is doing and the need to maintain the B-1 fleet.

> "The B-1 is my roving linebacker capable of being anywhere, anytime, with precision." Brigadier General Darnell, CAOC Director for OIF.

> "If you offered the B-1 with JDAMs in direct support of ground forces as a solution 10 years ago, I would have laughed heartily because it's not what we envisioned. However, faced with a shift in paradigms and a shift in what we have to do, we adjusted and used the airplane in an extraordinarily flexible manner over Afghanistan. It's part of the intellectual shift that's occurring in the Air Force." Major General Leaf, AF/XOR, Mar 02.

> "It is entirely appropriate for us to suggest that the B-1, as we employ it today, is transformational . . . Because we are using it in ways never conceived of previously and gauging our success in terms of battlefield capability." Mr. James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, Dec 03.

> "The B-1 . . . gives us flexibility on the battlefield that no other airplane would with respect to time sensitive targeting." General Hornburg, Feb 04.

> "If you were able to see some of the work the B-1 did in time-critical targeting during the Iraqi conflict . . . it's got a big future." General Jumper, Mar 04.

> "The B-1 is a key and integral part of the CFACC's (Combined Forces Air Component Commander's) 'tool kit' in our war on terror in the AOR (Area of Responsibility). The incredible capability of the aircraft and the professionalism of the crews...from the maintainers, AMMO, weapons load crews, ops and intel integration to the flight crews...the combined team behind our AOR employment makes it all happen, from close air support to Coalition forces through the full spectrum of combat operations." Lieutenant General Gary North, Commander, USCENTAF, July 2006.

> "The B-1 is a fabulous CAS platform." Lieutenant General Gary North, Commander, USCENTAF, July 2009.

> "The future for the BONE is very bright." Lieutenant General Glen Spears, Commander, 12th Air Force, Spring 2010.

> "Battle tested and battle proven, the B-1 has shown itself to be one of the most versatile platforms, not only in delivering exceptional firepower, but critical surveillance data as well." General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Spring 2010.

General David Petraeus, Commander, CENTCOM, during hearing to consider his nomination to be Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, June 2010.

> "Now the B-1 does play a very big role in that regard. It is a great platform in at least two respects, maybe more. One, it carries a heck of a lot of bombs, substantial ordnance, and second it has very good ISR capabilities, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities. And it can loiter for a good time when it's not being asked to drop bombs, which is frankly what it does most of the time because we're not dropping bombs constantly. It is up there waiting, in a CAP."
>
> "Then what we do is we use the -- whatever optics that particular bomber has on it, the sniper pod or what have you, and it is almost like having another unmanned aerial vehicle in terms of full motion video and so forth. Not quite the same resolution, some differences in the capabilities, but it is very helpful in that regard as well."
>
> "So it's not just a case of a very, very capable bomber just boring holes in the sky, waiting to open the bomb bay doors, it is also a case of a platform that's very capable even as it is just doing that flying around in circles."

Future Operations

Until we cease hostilities around the globe, it is imperative that Theater Commanders have the continued support provided by the most versatile bomber platform in the Air Force inventory, the B-1. Funding should be increased for spares, maintenance, and upgrades to ensure this capability is not degraded by the continued heavy reliance on this weapon system to achieve our National Objectives.

Summary

- Keep all 66 B-1s in the inventory in order to have sufficient assets to meet current and future needs.
- Fund B-1 sustainment and upgrades at the requested levels.
- Fund and fill all authorized, skilled manpower positions for the B-1.

Congressman Jeff Duncan's (SC-03) Statement for the Record

House Armed Services Committee Hearing on April 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about one of the priorities that this Committee faces in the coming year.

The Savannah River Site and National Lab is a unique asset to our nation. The National Lab is critical to developing new technologies which will lead to new ways to defend our nation. I was pleased recently to lead a tour of the site with my South Carolina colleagues.

My testimony today is intended to convey that the critical work being done at the Savannah River Site is treated the same as other defense related projects – by protecting what is vital even while we cut non-essential spending to reduce our overall budget deficit.

Perhaps the largest national policy impact of the Savannah River Site relates to nuclear non-proliferation. The work done at SRS directly impacts our treaties with Russia and our ability to match the work being done to dispose of surplus weapons grade plutonium. Disposing of excess fissile materials has been a major U.S. National security and nonproliferation objective since 1994, endorsed by every President and Congress since that time. Under the 2000 agreement, the United States and Russia have committed to dispose of 68 metric tons of surplus plutonium. These materials, if put on the open market, could wind up in the hands of our enemies, the terrorists who wish us harm. These are the materials that are being disposed of safely at Savannah River.

Disposing of surplus U.S. weapon-grade plutonium demonstrates that the United States is living up to its nonproliferation commitments by drawing down its nuclear arsenal in a transparent and irreversible manner.

I especially want to bring your attention to the work being done at H-Canyon. H-Canyon is the only facility of its kind in the United States, yet the Energy Department has proposed putting it in a "warm" or "standby" mode. Putting H-Canyon on standby or warm mode will inevitably cause severe negative impacts and would cost taxpayers more money in the future than it would save immediately. Repowering this type of facility after it has been out of commission for any period of time would require extended time frame and increased amounts of funding. Furthermore, the likelihood of ever restoring H-Canyon after achieving standby mode is, at best, slim. The loss of the human capital that is so crucial to the sites success would be incalculable.

The Savannah River Site is the only location in the country that has an operational large-scale facility capable of used nuclear fuel disposition. The site's capabilities include the processing of nuclear materials, plutonium and spent rod storage, tritium production and recycling, and nuclear forensics. The FBI forensics team also uses the national laboratory for homeland security purposes.

One last point I'd like to make: South Carolina has lived up to its commitment, and now it is time for the federal government to live up to theirs. Commitments were made by the federal government to ensure that even as SRS takes in new materials for processing, the site cannot be the final home of these materials. The important work at SRS transforms these relics of the Cold War into something that can be peacefully used in a 21st Century environment.

If H-Canyon is unable to process the aluminum clad spent fuel currently stored or scheduled to be sent to L-basin, there will be no disposition path within the complex, and all of this material would be stranded. It would be a betrayal of the federal government's commitments to lower the operating capabilities of the site while leaving the radioactive materials behind. I trust that this Committee will not allow that to happen.

The entire mission at the Savannah River Site is vital to our national defense, our economy, and our focus on energy independence.

Congressional support for the FY 12 Budget is critical to the overall success of the National Security Effort at SRS. The funding level currently provides the minimum resources needed to ensure the continued support of the nuclear stockpile by the site's Tritium Facility. Equally important, it also ensures the continuity of skills and knowledge necessary to maintain the United States' nuclear industrial capability.

I urge this Committee to protect the important work being done at Savannah River, and I thank you for your time.

Rep. Steve Pearce NM-02
Statement before the House Armed Services Committee for the Hearing Titled: "Member's Day"
2118 Rayburn House Office Building
Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing prior to the release of the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). With our nation engaged in two wars and a new campaign in Libya, now is the time to zero in on those Department of Defense (DOD) priorities which ensure the readiness and strength of United States Military. The funding mechanism the FY2012 NDAA moves forward must build out the necessary long-term planning to tailor program and mission support as well as weapons, technology, and supply development to a rapidly changing world. Areas where the FY2012 NDAA can be helpful to advance the DOD's readiness and strength include:

#1 Small Business Contracting with DOD
DOD needs a better, more local, contracting system which supports small business. In certain regions of the nation, contracts must be awarded locally, based on individual projects. The current system that promotes wrapping projects and contracts around large regions or city-sectors, then sub-contracting to the local small businesses unfairly distributes DOD resources and often allows outside entities to procure a contract on bases where local businesses have better regional and technical knowledge to perform the service. That local company loses out on significant revenue and job opportunities. Further, when outside companies obtain the contract, the state housing the base unfairly loses out on a significant tax opportunity to collect gross receipts taxes from the local company.

#2 Navy R&D
Support key Department of Defense and federal agencies through the development and support of advanced instrumentation and telescopes for use in astronomical missions. Examples of initiatives where these monies can be helpful to DOD include:

- Provide near lift-off to point of impact tracking of missile test for the US Army
- Play a dominate role in space situational awareness for the US Air Force and the Department of Defense Space Command
- Asteroid tracking and orbit projections
- Track and characterize potentially hazardous Near-Earth Objects over a 3-year period

Increase the Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation by $20 million.

#3 Air Force R&D
Jet fuel from algae is an alternative source of fuel for aviation. The need to find an alternative energy for power generation and transportation, especially for aviation, highlights the importance of developing biofuels from algal biomass. Because petroleum is an algae derivative the result is a "drop in" fuel that the same as JP-8. Examples of initiatives where FY2012 NDAA should concentrate include:

- Scale algal mass production to billions of pounds a year (hundreds of millions of gallons JP-8)
- Refine competing oil extraction technologies for low cost production of standard commercial refinery feedstock.
- Demonstrate low cost modification of refineries to produce high volume production of JP-8.

Increase the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation by $30 million.

#4 Training and Experimentation

The focus of the joint national training experiment is to develop facilities, establish training venues, and perform training experiments that will facilitate joint operations between Services and inter-governmental agencies – to include state and local governments – during times of emergency. These emergencies can be the result of natural or human created disasters from either accidental or hostile occurring events. Examples of active development initiatives of this program are:

- Irregular warfare and WMD
- New and emerging missions
- Emergency management
- Civil affairs and peacekeeping missions

Increase the Department of Defense FY12 Budget for RDT&E Management Support Budget by $10 million.

I look forward to receiving the committee's FY2012 NDAA. It is my hope that the FY2012 NDAA will reflect the smart funding levels that puts our soldiers in a position today to support the critical missions at home which maintain America's security position without sacrificing the future planning for America's next generation fighters and weapons.

The Honorable Heath Shuler
Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee
14 April 2011

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, distinguished members of the committee — thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act.

I come before you to speak in support of language that may have profound effects on US manufacturing, as well as, the national security of our nation.

As we all know, Congress passed the "Berry" Amendment in order to protect the American industrial base during times of adversity and war. This amendment generally requires Defense Department contractors to use American manufactured components and materials in their products.

However, because of language added in 2008, some exceptions to the Berry Amendment have been created allowing American manufactures to use non-American components. My specific concern today is the exception for specialty metals that are critical to our national security.

It is my belief that these exceptions and the outsourcing of manufacturing components, especially titanium components critical to aviation, are a hindrance to American manufacturing and pose a very real national security threat.

I understand that when these exceptions were created in the 2008 NDAA there was an honest effort to expand trade and global capacity with our international allies. This intention led to a provision within section 804 of the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that amended section 2533b of title 10 to provide new exceptions for procurement of end items containing specialty metals from American sources.

By allowing original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to procure end items manufactured in "excepted countries" under agreements that allow foreign manufacturers to use any available raw material to manufacture the end items, we have hindered U.S. titanium manufacturing in a time of market expansion in defense procurement requiring titanium end items. This hindrance is caused by the requirement that U.S. manufacturers source all raw materials in the U.S. industrial base.

Because foreign manufacturers are not subject to this requirement, OEMs are moving to offshore suppliers and walking away from the U.S. manufacturing industrial base. The changes to Section 2533b are giving foreign competitors a 30% advantage on raw material prices. This reduced cost has resulted in U.S. military engine fan and compressor blades being forged and machined overseas using Russian titanium.

It is unconscionable to me that some of the most essential components to our nation's military aircraft are being made in foreign countries with Russian materials.

American companies are being forced out of the military manufacturing base because of off-shore raw material use by competitors. With titanium demand on the rise at an estimated 14% rise per year over the next 5 years, domestically owned and operated businesses capable of manufacturing medium and large fan blades will either go out of business or move off-shore.

Assessing the US market will allow for a better picture of how Section 804 affected the domestic titanium market.

The House of Representatives inserted a provision in their report accompanying their version of the FY2011 NDAA (H.R. 5136) that required the Department to assess the U.S. titanium manufacturing industrial base and report to the congressional defense committees. Even though the House provision was not included in the final bill, I urge you to follow your colleagues in previous Congresses and include this language.

Representative Rick Berg
State of North Dakota
April 14, 2011

Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee

Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the kind invitation to testify before the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) regarding your national defense priorities.

I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity.

I would also very much like to thank all of the men and women of the Armed Forces for their service to our county. I would be remiss if I did not mention the often unsung heroes and heroines —the spouses, families and children of military personnel that stay behind in North Dakota as service members deploy overseas and into harm's way—in many ways it is harder for the families back in North Dakota worrying about the unknown . They all have my profound respect and admiration for all they do for our county.

I am prepared to offer a few proposals as your Committee to consider as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012.

My brief testimony today is intended to provide the Committee members with the opportunity to assert congressional priorities in the conduct of U.S. defense policy that are not earmarks pursuant to House rule XXI.

Having two Air Force bases in my district, I have had the opportunity to interact with many Airmen and women, and I understand the importance of providing a good quality of life for our service men and women. I would first urge you to consider these quality of life issues.

For the married Air Force personnel, the continued support for the soon to be Air Force wide policy of the Privatization of Military Family House, which would affect many Air Force bases including Minot and Grand Forks is critical. Minot will turn over 1,700 Military Family Homes and Grand Forks would turn over 800 homes to the Privatization Program. This proposal will provide both bases with a community center/club house with an indoor playground and storage facilities. In addition, some undesirable properties will be demolished.

Furthermore, the president's submitted FY12 budget for Minot Air Force Base provides for the construction of a new 168 room, single occupancy, dormitory for young Air Force personnel that is up to Air Force wide standards.

It is important that we not only support our Air Force personnel, but their families as well. I fully support these important quality of life issues, and I truly hope that the Chairman agrees with me.

I would also like to discuss technological advancements the Air Force is undertaking. As the Air Force moves into the 21st century, the implementation of new technologies and aircraft such as the Raptor and Global Hawk are key to the growing mission of America's Air Force.

I've spoken with senior leadership at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, and they have expressed support for the three Global Hawk Block 40's the Grand Forks Air Force Base is slated to receive this year. As bases like Grand Forks continue to expand their development and training for unmanned aircraft, access to these aircraft will be essential.

Grand Forks will also benefit from a Battlefield Airborne Communications Node mission, which they are set to develop this year. This mission would entail flying Global Hawks – the block 20's - which are forward deployed to military missions in regions such as Afghanistan. This aircraft would serve as an antenna so that a group of soldiers on one side of a mountain range could communicate with another group on the other side of the mountain. This is accomplished by using the plane as a relay above the battlefield where both groups submit a signal through the plane.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base is quickly becoming an international leader in unmanned aviation—technology that holds enormous potential for not only our Nation's future military, but also for agriculture and border security.

Lastly, just this week I had the opportunity to work with North Dakota Air National Guard with regard to the flooding currently taking place in North Dakota. The North Dakota Guard, and Guardsmen across this country, play a pivotal role in our military success and it is important that we maintain their ability to answer the call of duty. I was happy to hear that four C-27 J Spartan aircraft are scheduled to be delivered to the North Dakota Air Guard this year. Those planes will not only strengthen our security, but will also help play a crucial role when the Guard is called up to work on such operations as the current flood fight.

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, I would strongly urge you to support the Air Force's continuing development of these projects. I want to thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

Congressman André Carson
House Committee on Armed Services Testimony
Thursday, April 14, 2011

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, thank you for this opportunity to testify today on the upcoming FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

As you may know, my Indianapolis congressional district is home to the largest Rolls Royce plant outside of the United Kingdom and is the headquarters for their Defense North America operation. Our engine plant employs over 4,000 people on a range of programs including the F136 alternate engine, the vertical lift fan for the F-35, and engines for the V-22 Osprey and C-130. This plant employs highly skilled workers, including hundreds of engineers and scientists—the types of stable, well-paying jobs that support the Central Indiana economy.

On behalf of my constituents I want to begin by thanking the Chairman, the Ranking Member and many of members of this committee for their continual support for the F136.

The alternate engine program has taken a major blow in the 112th Congress. The House voted to defund the program in H.R. 1 and no funding is included in the CR we will vote on today. However, as we begin the authorization and appropriations process with just six months left in this fiscal year, this debate is not over. I ask the committee to authorize the F136 and at least allow this discussion to continue until both the House and Senate can definitively continue or cancel the program.

In this debate, many of us have taken into account our parochial interest in the program. I do not want to downplay at all how important the continuation of the alternate engine is to my constituents—it's critical. But over the next several months all of us, whether we have a plant in our district or not, are going to be asked to vote on defense authorization and appropriations bills that will significantly impact our national defense and national debt.

The discussion about whether or not to kill the alternate engine emerged after nearly a decade of staunch bipartisan support in Congress and the White House. Since then, we have all heard about how the Pratt and Whitney engine was only chosen upon the selection of the Lockheed Martin version of the Joint Strike Fighter. We all know that no real competition ever took place. And we have all heard about the risk to our national security that arises from settling on a single engine model. Over 90% of our fighter fleet could be grounded from just a small engine malfunction. Every member of this committee is familiar with these arguments.

I just want to focus on a few aspects of the F136 that I believe have been overshadowed by the intense rhetoric surrounding the program.

This is not just a debate about two engines or the relative cost of funding one program versus two. This is a debate about a fighter jet that is going to replace over 90% of our fighter force. The debate centers on how our decisions surrounding the transition will dictate the future of our defense industry and defense spending over the next several decades.

Opponents frequently point to the fact that many of our fighter aircraft operate on only one engine. They also point to the current market share of GE versus Pratt and Whitney. These would be excellent points—if we were not talking about **90% of our fighter force**.

As this committee is well aware, many of our fighter platforms will be phased out over the next several years. We are going to see fewer platforms that operate on a sole-source engine and fewer that operate on GE engines. The dynamic of military is changing and during this transition it is unreasonable to determine the future of the F136 by focusing on a force structure that will soon no longer exist. The facts are simple—the F-35 will make up over 90% of our fighter force and without the F136, Pratt and Whitney will be responsible for 90% of fighter engine production.

GE and Rolls Royce have both developed excellent records of quality and performance in military aviation. Yet, if they are not allowed to compete for future F-35 engine contracts, the GE and Rolls Royce market shares will diminish and their current expertise in fighter engine development will disappear. We often look at military programs strictly in terms of the dollars and cents expended each year. But we cannot forget that over the last several decades, billions of dollars have gone to GE and Rolls Royce for research and development. Cancelling this program and cutting these companies out of future fighter engine production would be like throwing away these taxpayer dollars. Simply put, we would lose that expertise and may not get it back without billions in additional investment.

It is true that small savings would be seen if we cancel the F136 today. But the American taxpayers have already invested over $3 billion in this program—over 75% of what is needed for the engine to enter full competitive production. With just a small investment, we can bring competition to this $100 billion engine program. According to historical analyses conducted by GAO, the completion spurred by this relatively small investment could save up to 20% over the next few decades. These savings are especially likely given the fixed price contract offered to the DOD by GE and Rolls Royce—we will not see price increases but we will likely see decreases because of competition.

I understand that many of my colleagues were elected to Congress last year on the promise to cut spending. But we all need to remember that our debt problems will not be short lived. It has taken decades to build this debt and it may take many more years to eliminate it. We clearly need to do everything possible NOW to address our debt. But we cannot overlook billions in savings just to achieve small, symbolic cuts today. Killing the alternate engine, eliminating thousands of jobs, adding to the unemployment rolls and foregoing significant future savings just does not make sense to the American taxpayers.

The alternate engine for the F-35 is not only critical for jobs and economic development in my district but also for the strength of our defense industrial base and the reduction of our national debt. So whether or not this program directly impacts your districts, I hope that you will all keep in mind the long-term impact as you begin consideration of the next defense authorization act.

Thank you Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of this important program.

TESTIMONY

House Armed Service Committee

9:50 14 April 2011

Representative Jack Kingston, GA-1

Chairman McKeon, Representative Smith, distinguished members of the Committee; I thank you for the opportunity come before you to discuss the military situation in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I have the pleasure to serve a unique district where all aspects of the armed services are present. I currently represent over 80,000 active duty, and it is estimated that over a third of my constituency is military or veteran related.

One location I am most proud of is represented by the Army. The 3rd Infantry Division headquarters, three of its maneuver brigades, support elements, aviation brigade, along with a battalion from the Ranger Regiment, a Special Operations Air Squadron, and other varied assets to include Coast Guard and Marine Reserve are located at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. This base cluster is the largest employer in the State of Georgia. This installation has won many of the best installation awards over the last decade and I am extremely proud of the 3rd Infantry's continued overseas deployments, most notably in the 2003 invasion, and finally in recent transition or draw down out of Iraq.

In a recent decision, post 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, the President has determined to withdrawal one HBCT from Europe with implementation in 2015. I continue to bring this matter to your attention and hope that this committee and the Department of the Army will keep Fort Stewart in mind and I solicit your support for moving a Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) from Germany to Fort Stewart in 2015.

In 2009, the communities around Fort Stewart were told to prepare for the addition of a 5th brigade combat team. They did so at great personal cost to the community. When the Army cancelled the 5th Brigade, the community fell on hard times, coincidently in the middle of the national housing crisis.

Today, Fort Stewart and its 280,000 acres, the largest east of the Mississippi, and its impact area, that can accept live fire training to include MLRS, is within easy access to the Port of Savannah, and one of the longest runways in the world at Hunter Army Airfield. Fort Stewart stands ready for any future mission, be it a drawdown in Europe, the move of another maneuver brigade, or the creation of a fires brigade. While other military installations look at spending hundreds of millions for land acquisition and environmental impacts (which are costly and wasteful), Fort Stewart is ready today to accept new units today.

Another military installation in the district, Moody Air Force Base, is in the thick of the joint fight worldwide. Moody provides the headquarters for the Joint Tactical Air Controllers, has Combat Search and Rescue elements, security forces for base defense, and of course A-10 squadrons which are in Afghanistan as we speak.

These elements have deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan and complement each other very well in their ability to overlap their training missions, not to mention training with elements from Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, as well as nearby Special Forces elements in close air attack and other associated roles.

I know that the Air Force is looking at procuring Light Attack and Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft (LAAR) in FY12, which will further enable the Air Force to conduct reconnaissance and direct fires in support of ground troops.

Since Moody Air Force Base has these elements, the Close Air Support expertise, the JTACs, and the rescue forces, I highly suggest that the Air force considered LAAR being added to this location to further build on these training opportunities.

I am also please to represent a unique naval installation. There are only two nuclear missile submarine bases in the United States; one of which is in my District. I am honored to serve a wonderful contingent and constituent group of Navy and Marine interests at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. The facilities at that location are top notch.

Currently at this location at Kings Bay houses six of the SSBN Boomer type submarines, two of the SSGN converted submarines, world classes dry-dock and repair facility, as well as other associated Trident nuclear missile assembly facilities, and Marine controlled secure areas that support the SSBNs uniquely.

In years passed, there was a lot of discussion about moving submarines from other naval facilities to Kings Bay, and I believe this was after an efficiency study in 2005. Currently, Kings Bay was built for ten Submarines though there is much more capacity. A fast attack squadron, which the heavy Boomers must coordinate with anyways in day to day operations, would complement the submarine force at this location and synchronize submarine strategic efforts on a global scale.

Also, with the unique missions of the SSGNs, coupled with the fantastic Cumberland Sound, this area may be prime long term training opportunity for Special Forces and other associated elements. In 2009 I believe, Kings Bay was on the short list for receiving a possible Riverine force due to the unique geography of the location. This unfortunately never materialized.

In addition to these major installations, I also am proud to represent Townsend Bombing Range which is a Marine Active Duty and Georgia Air Guard installation. Subsequently, I represent multiple National Guard Armories, and my constituents serve the 164th Airlift Wing air guard lift assets and 117th Air Control Squadron. The Savannah Airport also is home to the Air Combat Training Center, which is a top notch, National Guard Training Facility used by many different States.

There are also multiple Coast guard interests along the Coast of Georgia and associated with Kings Bay.

I would like to thank the members of this committee for this chance to brief you on the multiple locations and in depth military situation in my District. The people of Georgia's First Congressional District are very proud of our military and know the sacrifices that our military make on a daily basis. That is why two weeks ago, Representative Gohmert and I introduced H.R. 1297 to ensure our military men and women did not have to suffer one bit in the event of a government shutdown. Again, thank you for your time.

Testimony of Congressman James P. Moran before the House Armed Services Committee
April 14, 2011

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for providing this opportunity to testify regarding my defense priorities for the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) serves a vitally important role in shaping our national defense policy, and I am humbled to testify today. I know that our time is short, and that the committee may have some questions regarding my priorities, so I will keep my remarks brief.

First, I am deeply concerned that the implementation of the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendations, by September 15, 2011, will cause a substantial worsening of Northern Virginia's already desperate traffic congestion. At Fort Belvoir proper, the garrison will see an increase of nearly 20,000 new uniformed, civilian and contractor personnel.

Specifically, at the Engineering Proving Grounds, 8,400 more Department of Defense (DoD) employees will work at the new National Geospatial Intelligence Agency's headquarters. While at Fort Belvoir's Main Post, BRAC will relocate a number of defense components, the largest of which will be the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The new hospital is something the Army and northern Virginia should be very proud of, however, I fear the civilian transportation capacity surrounding the Fort will not be capable of absorbing the base's growth. That is why I have strongly pushed for a one-time infusion of federal dollars to enhance off-base transportation, including, principally, the widening of U.S. Route 1.

The largest and most significant BRAC impact upon northern Virginia and the National Capital Region will be the relocation of approximately 6,400 DOD personnel to the Mark Center, in Alexandria, Virginia, under BRAC recommendation #133. According to five different traffic reports produced by the City of Alexandria, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Army Corps of Engineers, the full implementation of BRAC #133 will cause failing levels of service at the intersections and roadways immediately surrounding the Mark Center, including I-395. In fact, according to VDOT's most recent analysis, of the 7 intersections surrounding the site, 6 will experience the most severe level of congestion, including 3 on- and off-ramps of I-395. Nearly 200,000 commuters use I-395 daily, and I fear the vast majority of them will be significantly inconvenienced by BRAC #133.

I believe the Mark Center should have never been selected for this relocation. Of the 3 sites reviewed, only the Mark Center did not have immediate access to Metrorail. In fact, in last year's NDAA, this committee supported bill language requiring the DOD Inspector General to complete an expedited review of the decision-making process that led to the Mark Center's selection. That review, though delayed, will be made publicly available this month. It is my expectation that the DOD IG's report will confirm what many of us have argued from the very beginning: the Army Corps of Engineers 2008 Environmental Assessment was categorically wrong in its finding that BRAC #133 will have no significant impacts from a transportation perspective.

Last year, this Committee also sought concrete steps to prevent the traffic disaster I believe will occur should BRAC #133 be fully implemented. The House-passed version of the NDAA, HR 5136, included a limit to 1,000 on the number of parking spaces the DOD would be permitted to use at the Mark Center. That limit would be waived once there is sufficient transportation infrastructure to support the relocation without causing failing levels of service. Today, short-, medium- and long-term transportation fixes are set to be implemented. Unfortunately, they will not be in place until well after the BRAC deadline of September of this year. In fact, just this week we received news that the long-term solution, an HOV ramp from I-395 to Seminary Road, will be delayed by 18 months, pushing its completion date well to 2016, at the soonest.

Because the short-, medium- and long-term transportation infrastructure solutions will not be in place until at least two years after the BRAC deadline, I request that this committee once again include in its bill concrete measures needed to avoid severe traffic congestion on I-395. They include:

1) A parking cap of 1,000 at the Mark Center; or
2) Phased implementation of BRAC #133 to coincide with the completion of short-, medium- and long-term transportation enhancements; or
3) Language permitting the DOD to waive the BRAC deadline should the Department determine a recommendation's full implementation by September 15, 2011 will place mission success at risk.

I know this committee is well aware of the unique challenges BRAC poses for northern Virginia, and I look forward to working with you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith, on solutions that will ensure BRAC's success.

In addition to my grave concern with BRAC #133, I would like to request that this committee examine two other topics. First, I would like the committee to address the manner in which any future BRAC Commission develops its recommendations. Specifically, Congressman Connolly, Congressman Wittman and I have submitted language that would require a future BRAC Commission to consider the capacity of local transportation infrastructure at receiving installations.

As I've stated, the 2005 BRAC Commission's recommendations to relocate nearly 20,000 additional personnel was a mistake given the limited transportation infrastructure surrounding the installation. Unfortunately, it was not until the Army Corps of Engineers completed a full Environmental Impact Statement in 2007 did anyone come to terms with the implications of the BRAC Commission's recommendations upon the region's traffic.

A February 2011 report by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academy of Sciences confirmed my belief. The TRB stated:

> "The difficulty of meeting transportation demand on routes serving Fort Belvoir and Joint Base Lewis-McCord, for example, suggests that the [BRAC] Commission either lacked good information or, if it was aware of limited and

> constrained transportation capacity, was unaware of how difficult and expensive it would be to expand the capacity to avoid creating gridlock conditions."

Simply put, the 2005 BRAC Commission did not sufficiently consider the transportation capacity surrounding local growth installations, leaving, in large part, civilian localities the responsibility of funding infrastructure improvements needed to support a federal action. That cannot be allowed to happen again and I hope this committee will work with my staff to identify bill language that will correct the BRAC process.

Finally, I have been approached by small, medium, and large defense contracting companies with a presence in my Congressional district that have all voiced strong concern with the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA). Across the board, these contracting firms have expressed grave concern with DCAA's decision to move to a policy of "pass/fail" audits, which fails to distinguish between minor and major violations.

Most frustratingly, DCAA auditors, after having declared a company's billing system inadequate, take months and even years to revalidate a contractor's accounting system even if the discrepancy was resolved in short order. In the meantime, because the government contracting community views DCAA audits as indicators of approved systems, qualified contractors are being denied payment or bid opportunities until DCAA's concerns are satisfied. Finally, constituent companies have reported that the quality and quantity of DCAA entry and exit conferences have diminished.

It is my hope that this Committee will encourage DCAA to distinguish between minor and major violations, to resolve outstanding discrepancies in a timely manner and to incorporate contractor feedback and time for corrective action prior to any inadequacy determination. Like every government entity, DCAA has limited resources and they should concentrate their efforts in the most efficient manner possible.

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for this opportunity to testify and now I look forward to hearing your questions and concerns.

Testimony of Congressman Peter Welch
House Armed Services Committee
2012 Legislative Priorities

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

My request is simple. I am asking the Armed Services Committee to take a successful Vermont program and implement it a nationwide. The Vermont National Guard Outreach Program was started in 2007 through congressionally directed spending and continued through 2010. The program funds the training of veterans to serve as outreach specialists to provide assistance to Vermont National Guard members and their families.

These outreach specialists travel door-to-door to provide information on services to Guard members and their families pre, during and post deployment. These services include general health problems; mental health, marriage and financial counseling; services for children; and substance abuse awareness and treatment programs. These issues are critical to readjustment and reintegration. The program works in close consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Vermont, the Vermont National Guard's Family Readiness Program and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program to leverage funding and expertise.

From all accounts, this program has been remarkably successful. One reason for the program's success is that Guard members and families do not have to seek out help – help is offered to them. This help is also offered by trained veterans, individuals who can relate to the lives of our Green Mountain Boys and know their struggles. The work of these Outreach Specialists has helped many Vermont families.

While I am most intimately familiar with my state's programs, Vermont is not alone in this work. Similar Outreach programs have also been funded in seven other states: New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Colorado, Washington and Minnesota. All of these programs are set to expire this summer. Vermont has been the first to experience the expiration of these funds and has already felt the effects.

While the National Guard Bureau has found limited stop-gap funding for Vermont, they have had to drastically reduce the number of Outreach Specialists from 19 to six. This could not come at a worse time for Vermont as the largest deployment in our state's history has recently returned. While the Vermont Outreach Specialists currently have over 500 active cases, nearly 1000 Guard members' households are yet to be served.

The National Guard Bureau has expressed support of this program and has acknowledged the importance to Vermont and other states with similar programs. To that end, earlier this spring I led a Dear Colleague letter which was signed by 42 other bipartisan members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Guard Bureau urging them to fund this program through the end of the current fiscal year and to develop a proposal to continue this program in FY2012 and expand it to all 54 states and territories. According to the National Guard Bureau, the cost of expanding this program to all 54 states and territories is estimated at $72.4 million.

I believe the experience in Vermont can be a lesson for the rest of the country and that many other National Guard families can benefit from these support services. I therefore ask you to review Vermont's program along with the seven other states' programs to create a national outreach program for Guard members and their families. I plan to introduce legislation to make this program national and ask you to include this language in the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

Thank you.

Testimony of Congressman Mike Pompeo (KS-04)
Time Waiver for Medal of Honor award to Father Emil Kapaun
House Armed Services Committee
April 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Father Emil Kapaun, a decorated Army Chaplain and a future candidate for Sainthood by the Catholic Church, is an inspiration to many around the world and a true example of heroism. I respectfully request the Committee to include the text of H.R. 437, which waives the time limitation for the issuance of the Medal of Honor to Father Kapaun, in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Born in Pilsen, Kansas, Father Kapaun graduated from Pilsen High School, and then attended both the Conception Abbey Seminary and Kenrick Theological Seminary in Missouri. In 1940, Kapaun became an ordained priest in Wichita, Kansas. Originally an auxiliary chaplain at Herington Army Airfield at the beginning of World War II, Father Kapaun began serving full-time in the military chaplaincy in 1944, and was stationed in India until the close of the war. After returning to the United States, he was discharged and returned to his religious studies.

In September 1948, Father Kapaun re-enlisted in the Army. Shortly after the 1950 invasion by North Korea into South Korea, Father Kapaun entered the Korean battlefield with his unit, the 3d Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Following the Regiment's withdrawal at the Battle of Unsan on November 1-2, 1950, the Chinese Army encircled the battalion.

According to the official report, the Americans "successfully repelled the enemy assault, but found themselves defending a small perimeter, entirely surrounded by enemy troops. Despite continuing enemy fire, Chaplain Kapaun spent the day rescuing friendly wounded from the no-man's land outside the battalion perimeter.

"As the day wore on, it became apparent that the battalion's position was hopeless. Though the able-bodied men were ordered to escape, Chaplain Kapaun elected to stay behind with the wounded. As he cared for his men, he noticed a wounded Chinese officer among the group. As Chinese infantry approached the American position, Chaplain Kapaun convinced the officer to negotiate the safe surrender of the American forces.

"After being captured, Chaplain Kapaun continued to stoically encourage and support his men. As they marched to a prison camp, he noticed a Chinese officer preparing to execute a wounded American Staff Sergeant. Chaplain Kapaun bravely pushed the Chinese soldier aside and hoisted the American to his feet, assisting him for the next several days as the prisoners marched North to Pyoktong.

"The prisoners were severely weak from extreme exertion and malnutrition. They were forced to march from camp to camp. Many suffered from dysentery due to dirty, brackish water. Nonetheless, Chaplain Kapaun continued to lead by example, constantly encouraging his men and refusing to take a break from carrying stretchers for the wounded. He further risked his life by sneaking out after dark in order to forage for food and steal rations from guards, which he distributed evenly among the prisoners.

"As time wore on and winter set in, the weak, malnourished prisoners began to die by the hundreds. Chaplain Kapaun nonetheless retained hope and continued to care for his men and sneak out at night in order to gather any supplies he could to alleviate his men's plight. On at least one occasion, he was caught on one of his excursions and forced to sit outside in subzero weather with no outer garments.

"Eventually, captivity began to take its toll on Chaplain Kapaun. A large blood clot formed on his leg. The Chinese, wary of Chaplain Kapaun's influence over the other prisoners, refused to provide medical aid. Though Chaplain Kapaun recovered from the blood clot, he caught pneumonia shortly thereafter. Over the protests of his fellow captives, the Chinese transferred Chaplain Kapaun to their filthy, unheated hospital, where he died alone.

"Chaplain Kapaun repeatedly risked his own life to save hundreds of fellow Americans. His extraordinary courage and leadership inspired thousands of prisoners to survive hellish conditions and resist Chinese indoctrination. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the United States Army."

Due to Father Kapaun's extraordinary efforts, the Army posthumously awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross on August 18th, 1951. In 1993, Kapaun was named Servant of God by the Catholic Church, which is the first step toward canonization.

For decades, Kapaun admirers have advocated awarding him the Medal of Honor. In 2009, in a letter to then-Congressman Todd Tiahrt, the Secretary of the Army agreed with this proposal and formally recommended that Chaplain Father Emil Kapaun be awarded the Medal of Honor.

As the Committee knows, a Medal of Honor recommendation must to be submitted within two years of the action. Therefore, in order for Father Kapaun to receive the Medal of Honor, Congress must waive the time limitation. I have introduced H.R. 437 to do just that. In a letter from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of Defense officially supports this effort. I ask unanimous consent for this letter from OSD to be included in the record.

I appreciate the committee's time and attention to the matter. I stand ready to help move this matter forward.

For the Record
Pompeo

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pompeo:

Thank you for your letter dated February 2, 2011, to the Secretary of Defense concerning the Medal of Honor nomination for Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun. This matter falls under the purview of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and I have been asked to respond.

Then-Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Pete Geren, notified the Senate and House Armed Services Committees of his determination that the actions of Chaplain (Captain) Kapaun warranted award of the Medal of Honor in accordance with title 10, United States Code, Section 1130. Then-Secretary of the Army Geren's notification letter identified the need for time waiver legislation to title 10, United States Code, Section 3744, providing the President with the authority to award the Medal of Honor, should he choose to do so. Initial versions of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 included such time waiver legislation, but it was not enacted. Similar legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate, H.R. 437 and S. 213 respectively, which the Department supports.

While the Department supports the enactment of time waiver legislation, that endorsement of the legislation should not be seen as an endorsement of the award itself, which is a matter for the President to determine. The Medal of Honor nomination for Chaplain (Captain) Kapaun is being considered in the same manner that all other Medal of Honor nominations are considered.

We trust that this information is helpful, and deeply appreciate your continued support to those who serve our great Nation.

Sincerely,

Clifford L. Stanley

Clifford L. Stanley

Testimony of
Representative Adam Kinzinger
11th District, Illinois

Testimony from Members on their National Defense Priorities for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (NDAA)

Before the
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives

April 14, 2011

Good morning Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Committee on Armed Services. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to outline a couple issues that I believe need greater scrutiny during the negotiation of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2012.

As some of you may know, before I was elected to Congress I served as a pilot in the Air National Guard, Air Force Special Ops, Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command. This experience has given me a unique bottom-up perspective on the needs and desires of every day airmen in the Air National Guard and Air Force. I am a strong supporter of the military and ensuring that our military is the best equipped in the world; however, we must make tough decisions with regard to military needs and military wants. Given the difficult budget environment we are in, we must make difficult decisions on how to best prioritize spending the taxpayer's money.

Air Force development of new flight suit. One program which I believe is not currently needed by the Air Force is the development of a new flight suit for aircrew. On November 26th, 2010, the Air Force Times noted that the Air Force was spending nearly $100 million over seven years to "research, develop and manufacture" a new flight suit.[1]

This project has been dubbed the "Integrated Aircrew Ensemble," and seeks to address flying ensembles which have developed over time based on pilot needs to fly fighter jets, bombers, helicopters and transport planes. It is important to note that this new flight suit is not being developed in response to specific needs of the F-35, rather it is designed integrate the already existing protections which currently exist the today's flight suit in a more integrated system. While the goal of increased comfort and integrated protection for the pilot is laudable, I don't believe that this is this is urgently needed by the Air Force, particularly in this budget environment.

[1] See http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/11/air-force-new-flight-suit-112610w/

Two improvements over that current system which are mentioned in support of the new flight suit include: (i) an improved anti-G suit and (ii) long-term cost savings in a new integrated model. Both claims should be examined closely by Members of this Committee. I personally know that the current anti-G suit provides protection for pilots up to 9 and half Gs. If a new anti-G suit is needed, we should look into addressing that problem individually. Moreover, I'm skeptical regarding claims that spending money to develop a new flight suit to replace a working flight suit will save money in the long term for the American taxpayer.

RC26: Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. A cost-effective asset which addresses our homeland security and ISR capabilities is contained in the RC26 aircraft. During my career as a pilot, I have had the opportunity to fly the RC26, both domestically and internationally, on various missions.

The RC26 is based on the Fairchild C-26 Metroliner and is located at 11 Air Guard units. Originally conceived to be solely a platform for counterdrug operations, its unique capabilities have made it an asset in South America and southwest Asia. Unfortunately, due to its unique capabilities, the aircraft has become over-deployed and operates on patchwork funding and under constant threat of elimination due to base consolidations. Such a consolidation and resulting impact on the RC26 would be a significant loss for our homeland security and defense capabilities.

Domestically, missions are unique to each local Air National Guard unit. For example, I have personally flown many missions responsible for taking large amounts of drugs off our streets. In addition, my unit, located in Madison, WI, has the capability to setup overhead homeland security support by providing real time imagery throughout the Midwest. These types of domestic missions have a real impact for our homeland defense or counter drug intelligence.

Rumors now abound that the RC26 will be deployed to yet another theater, which I can't elaborate about in this setting. The men and women of this platform are happy to do it and proud to serve their country, but have constantly lived under threat of loss of funding, consolidation, or orders being taken away. It is high time that the RC26 get the proper credit due from Congress, the Air Force, and the Air National Guard and have a committed source of funding for its operations. The RC26 needs to be recognized for the benefits it provides to our local communities and should take a preeminent role in the defense of our nation.

Lockheed Martin F-35 rollout plan. I am concerned with the rollout plan the Air Force has developed for the F35. I believe the Air Force needs to reassess the level of experience the Air National Guard brings to the fighter community, and consider an increased role by the Air National Guard in carrying out its mission of symmetric warfare.

Representative John Carter
Statement before the House Armed Services Committee
April 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I respectfully request that the House Armed Services Committee again consider incorporating the Fort Hood Victims and Families Benefits Protection Act into this year's Nation Defense Authorization Act. As you may recall, this Committee determined the well-being of the Fort Hood victims to be of sufficient concern that similar language - Section 619 – was included in last year's House-passed version of the NDAA. Unfortunately, the language was later removed, along with many other worthy provisions, in a last-ditch effort to get the NDAA passed.

As many of you know, Fort Hood has deployed more troops into overseas theaters of combat since September 11, 2001, than any other U.S. military installation. They have also suffered the most combat casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The terrorist attack that rocked Fort Hood on November 5, 2009, resulted in the deaths of 13 service members and one DoD civilian employee, as well as 32 wounded. Recently, the incident was correctly labeled the "deadliest terrorist attack within the United States since September 11, 2001," by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs report.

The language of the Fort Hood Victims and Families Benefits Protection Act would deem the Fort Hood attack, for the purposes of all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, to have occurred in a combat zone during a contingency operation, and at the hands of a terrorist and an enemy of the United States. In so doing, this legislation would afford the victims of the Fort Hood attack, which include both troops and civilians, the very same benefits as Service Members wounded or killed in combat zones or, as applicable, DoD civilians wounded or killed in "contingency operations" or terrorist attacks. One impact of these provisions - **does not require** - but makes eligible for the Purple Heart and comparable civilian award those Service Members and DoD civilians wounded or killed in the Fort Hood attack, to be awarded at the discretion of the

Secretary in accordance with Executive Orders 11016 and 12464. This does not change the existing Purple Heart criteria in any way.

As it stands, those killed and wounded in the Fort Hood attack by a homegrown Islamic extremist will not necessarily receive the same benefits as their deployed counterparts who are wounded or killed, merely because this attack took place on U.S. soil, rather than in a declared combat zone such as Afghanistan or Iraq. This addition to the National Defense Authorization Act would correct this inequity and provide the same treatment, benefits, and honors to the Fort Hood victims as to those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone. Furthermore, the Federal Government set a historic precedent when it provided the same benefits and awards to the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and that important precedent should be followed for the Fort Hood victims.

Under this legislation, victims and families of victims of the Fort Hood attack could be made eligible for enhanced benefits including:

- Combat-related special compensation upon retirement
- Expenses incident to the death of a DoD civiliam serving a in a contingency operation
- Provisions relating to unearned portions of bonuses
- Special pay for subjection to hostile fire or imminent danger
- Combat-related injury rehabilitation pay
- Continuation of special pay during hospitalization/rehabilitation
- Payment for meals at military treatment facilities
- Provisions relating to deductions for pay
- Provisions relating to tax treatment of combat zone compensation
- Provisions relating to tax treatment of State payments
- Provisions relating to incomes tax of members who die in combat zone/attacks
- Provisions relating to selection of rate schedule to estate of members who die in combat zone or terrorist attack
- Postponement of time for action under internal revenue law

I am requesting this inclusion because those injured or killed in terrorist acts, whether in combat zones or on U.S. soil, have sacrificed their lives or health for this country and the very least we can do for their eternal sacrifice is ensure that they or their family will be taken care of and protected. Thank you for your consideration of this language to ensure all the Fort Hood victims and their families are appropriately compensated for their sacrifice.

Congressman Rick Crawford

Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee

EOD Priorities for FY2012 NDAA

Good morning Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the Committee. I thank you for all that you do to preserve the security of our great nation and for allowing me the opportunity to testify to the full committee regarding recommended Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) priorities for the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. As none of the Services have a three star EOD flag officer with a legislative affairs staff, it is my honor to represent the interests of this critical component of our fighting force in their stead. I, myself, served in the Army as an EOD tech.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Soldiers are the military's preeminent team of explosives expert – warriors who are properly trained, equipped and integrated to attack and defeat explosive and associated insurgent networks across all operational environments. The military's EOD mission is to defeat the global Improvised Explosive Device (IED); Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) and high-yield Explosives; and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) threats. The EOD warrior protects our

military and innocent civilians from explosive threats and supports maneuver forces by providing relevant and ready explosive experts in full-spectrum military operations, joint and interagency operations, and supports civil authorities in support of national security objectives.

These EOD technicians do this task at great personal peril. Quoting from Army Regulations:

"There are no "safe" procedures for rendering safe and disposing of UXOs [unexploded ordnance], IEDs [improvised explosive devices], devices or other explosives, merely a procedure that is considered the least dangerous." Army Regulation 75-15, Policy for Explosive Ordnance Disposal

EOD forces have proven to be "game changers" in attacking and dismantling terrorist cells and associated networks. EOD forces will continue to be indispensable "key enablers" of our combatant commanders, for the foreseeable future, to include - during overseas contingency operations; counterinsurgency, stability and counter terrorism operations; building the capacity of partner nations; and routinely conducting homeland defense EOD missions in support of civil authorities.

The EOD Warrior is the culmination of the best tactical and technical training the Army and civilian academia can provide. He (and yes, she) are

trained from the first day to manage risk in all operations. The EOD professional performs the duties of locating, positively identifying, rendering safe, exploiting to gather technical intelligence from first seen ordnance and IEDs, and disposing of both foreign and domestic conventional, chemical, biological, and nuclear ordnance, commonly referred to as weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This includes improvised explosive devices (IEDs) whether detonated by a victim, initiated by an insurgent remotely, transported by large vehicles or worn by a homicide bomber. They routinely work in the shadows during Very Important Person Protection Support Activity missions in support of the Department of Homeland Security's Secret Service and Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security; and without fanfare, render support to the Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

It is vital that we continue to preserve the rebalanced EOD force structure and maintain our EOD technical chain of command and control structure and full-spectrum capabilities to ensure success in a wide range of contingencies as directed by the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review and specifically emphasized in Homeland Security Presidential Directive – 19, entitled - "Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States" and its Implementation Plan.

EOD mission competencies and capacities, led by EOD qualified commanders at the group and battalion levels of command, will be essential for defeating these enduring explosive ordnance and other asymmetric threats in future irregular warfare challenges.

I cannot help but wonder how many of the 4,662 killed in action and 42,799 wounded in action military personnel from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom could have been prevented had we pushed to revitalize Army EOD force capabilities and capacities earlier to counter the enemy's use of IED weapon systems. [Source: DoD Personnel & Procurement Statistics, Military Casualty Information as of 28 March 2011, at http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm].

Today I wear the distinctive unit insignia of the Army's 52d, 71st and 111th Ordnance Groups (EOD) in recognition of their extraordinary service and contribution for preserving the security of our great nation. Colonel Thomas Langowski's 52d EOD Group, home stationed at Fort Campbell Kentucky, is currently deployed in Afghanistan as the counter-IED Coalition Joint Task Force – Paladin; Colonel Jose "Ray" Atencio's 111th EOD Group, recently returned home to Opelika Alabama from duty as the counter-IED Coalition Joint Task Force – Troy in Iraq; and Colonel Leo Bradley's 71st EOD Group is resetting at Fort Carson Colorado from recent duty as CJTF- Troy;

and is training his Soldiers for re-deployment to Afghanistan for duty as CJTF-Paladin.

My concern is how the Army's EOD force accomplishes this deployment demand; seven (7) EOD groups worth of workload through "train-deploy-reset" for Afghanistan (3 groups), "train-deploy-reset" for Iraq and other contingencies (3 groups), and provide command and control of enduring EOD support to civil authorities and mobilization for deployment 2 years out of 5 year cycles for the National Guard EOD Group (1.5 groups) – and accomplishing all the tasks with only three Army Groups' available in the force structure. I believe the answer is by professionally teaming the three Army EOD Groups with the Navy's premier maritime and underwater explosives experts under the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command led by Rear Admiral Michael Tillotson. His forces augment these land-based counter-IED taskings. Specifically, - EOD Group One led by Commodore Ed Eidson based in Coronado California, is currently conducting operations as CJTF-Troy (Iraq); and EOD Group Two led by Commodore Dale Fleck stationed at Little Creek Amphibious Base Virginia, is preparing for deployment. With the Marines and Air Force EOD companies and flights supporting at the Army company level, the joint service EOD force has answered the nation's call for defeating the IEDs and associated insurgent

network; all while combining forces to conduct joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational (JIIM) operations. I highly recommend attending the Global EOD Conference & Exhibition, 3-5 May, in Representative Jeff Miller's District in Florida to learn more about how EOD forces achieve success during these complex operations; and I've enclosed industry's proposed strategy map on EOD priorities as it is quite illuminating.

We must continue to support these tremendous EOD warfighters in all services, but with particular emphasis on the Army as they primarily align to supporting sustained land-based operations, by shifting their funding via Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) supplementals back into each of the Services respective baseline budgets on EOD program elements for research, development, test and evaluation; operations and maintenance; and procurement. This funding amount totaled $403,326,000.00 ($403.3M) in Fiscal Year 2010; however, this total does not reflect additional funding provided by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization for specific in-theatre EOD equipment; funding for training EOD forces; nor funding for transition and transfer from JIEDDO to the Services of this EOD equipment and training. Additionally, the funding for Navy Single Service Management of common-type EOD training and technology, and the Office of Secretary of Defense's EOD/Low Intensity Conflict Program have remained

virtually "flat-lined" for over ten (10) years despite the increase of emerging threats for which the EOD community is uniquely and singularly qualified to confront. We must collectively do more to ensure adequate funding of these critical EOD program elements now and make investments in EOD force structure readiness for securing the future.

I respectfully request inclusion of the enclosed proposed legislative language, an Item of Special Interest for the FY2012 NDAA, a "Report on and budget justification display of key enabler Explosive Ordnance Disposal force structure and budget requirements".

I remain available to the committee for further assistance on EOD matters, and I thank you for your consideration and service to the nation.

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

April 14, 2011

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
1ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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April 14, 2011

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" 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,

I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for an increase in the authorization for Aircraft Facility Maintenance to be included in the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

There is a clear and urgent need for improvements to facilities at air bases across the country, including Francis S. Gabreski Air Base in Westhampton, New York, in my district. Gabreski, which houses the 106th Rescue Wing, a flying wing within the Air National Guard, requires a significant upgrade to its hangar facilities to support increased personnel, equipment and mission requirements.

Once again, I urge increase of at least $10,000,000 in the authorization for Aircraft Facility Maintenance in the 2012 NDAA. These needed funds will help military units across the country better fulfill their vital missions.

Sincerely,

Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

TB/ol

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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April 14, 2011

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon,

Please accept this letter as official testimony and requests from me to support certain programs within the President's Budget for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2012. I list several programs, including military construction projects, which I feel are important to the readiness and support of our military and should be funded at least at the President's Budget levels in the Chairman's Mark for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. Thanks for your attention to and consideration of my requests.

Office of Economic Adjustment – Defense-wide O&M (President's Budget - $81.8M)

The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) assists communities impacted by Department of Defense (DoD) program changes. Founded in 1961, OEA has helped communities in all 50 states and the U.S. territories develop comprehensive strategies to adjust to defense industry cutbacks, base closures, force structure realignments, base expansion, and incompatibilities between military operations and local development. The President's Budget is sufficient to fund these requirements over the course of the fiscal year 2012. This funding and technical assistance of local communities is vitally important to ensuring successful implementation of these DoD basing initiatives. The FY12 budget proposal also includes $33 million for infrastructure needs on Guam. This funding is necessary to assist the local community prepare for impacts to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam.

National Guard Youth Challenge – Defense-wide O&M (President's Budget - $120M)

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth to produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. The vision of the program is to provide at-risk students life skills to be successful in the community, while working towards a high school diploma. Nationwide, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is a community-based program that leads, trains and mentors at-risk youth so that they may become productive citizens America's future. This program is, in part, a critical recruiting tool for the National Guard. Nearly 12.3% of Youth

ChalleNGe participants join a military service after successfully graduating from the program. Furthermore, over 70% of the participants receive a high school diploma or GED. Funding for this new program would fulfill the National Guard's statutory authority obligations under Section 509 of Title 32.

NextGen Bomber - AF RDT&E (President's Budget - $197M)

Fielding the Next Generation Bomber is a strategic imperative for the nation. Bombers are inherently flexible and adaptable—serving as a strategic deterrent, regional shaping tool, and as a platform that can span the globe and strike dozens of targets on a single mission. These assets do not require regional bases, which are increasingly difficult to access due to political variables and are vulnerable to anti-access weapons. The current bomber fleet is rapidly aging, with 47% of the long range strike fleet produced before the Cuban Missile Crisis and 87% of the inventory predating stealth technology. This aging aircraft issue is further exacerbated by high op-tempo requirements in Afghanistan, where assets like the B-1 are being flown at a rate higher than previously programmed. The Air Force NextGen Bomber program will design the next era bombers capable of long range strike and strategic initiatives. This platform will build on existing technologies and enhance capabilities which have proven to be technically successful. The platform will be a medium to long range asset with limited flexibility in mission orientation. It will be able to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance inside enemy air defenses. It will be a nuclear-capable, long-range aircraft that is part of a "family of systems" and will conduct ground surveillance and electronic attack.

Joint Cargo Aircraft – AF Procurement (President's Budget - $571.6M)

The request supports full funding of 9 C-27J aircraft for the Air Force under the Procurement line. This request is in support of the President's Budget for the C-27J program and is not to be interpreted as requesting an authorization of appropriations above the amount in the President's Budget. The C-27J program was established to correct operational shortfalls to cargo mission requirements, provide commonality with other aviation platforms, and replace multiple retiring aircraft systems. This aircraft addresses these shortfalls, and replaces retiring C-23s, and selected C-12s. A cargo aircraft is ideally suited to move time-sensitive, mission-critical supply parts, equipment and personnel over extended distances. This requires a payload capability of at least 6,000 pounds (lbs) of cargo allowing trans-loading to a CH-47F and fully supporting the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) missions. The C-27J, with its extended range and speed, will meet time sensitive mission critical needs of the Future Force. The C-27J will easily cover these distances and free the rotary-wing fleet for their primary tactical missions. The C-27J will provide a multi-mission, multi-functional platform for the commander's use in accomplishing the mission. The

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
April 14, 2011
Page Three of Three

C-27J program is critical to ensuring that our warfighters in theaters of operation have access to immediate airlift capability.

Military Construction

Further, below is a list of military construction projects on Guam contained in the President's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2012. The request contained in the budget submission continues to support the key tenets of the Defense Posture Review Initiative (DPRI) as well as the Guam International Agreement. Support for this funding is important to continue moving the military build-up on Guam forward as well as supporting the Guam Strike Air Force program. A long range strike rotational presence on Guam is an important deterrent capability for our overall military force posture in the Pacific.

SERVICE	PROJECT #	PROJECT TITLE	PB FUNDING LEVEL ($Ms)
Navy/USMC	P2048	North Ramp Utilities (AAFB)	$77.26 M
Navy/USMC	P100A	Finegayan Water Utilities	$78.654 M
AF	AJJY983202	Air Freight Terminal Complex	$35M
AF	AJJY123009	Guam Strike – Clear Water Rinse Facility	$7.5 M
AF	AJJY123011	Guam Strike – Conventional Munitions Maintenance Facility	$11.7 M
AF	AJJY123010	Guam Strike – Fuel Systems Maintenance Hangar	$128 M
AF	SAWKW101001	PRTC-Combat Communication Combat Support Facility	$9.8 M
AF	SAKW059101	PRTC-RED HORSE Cantonment Ops Facility	$14 M
AF	SAKW091002	PRTC Combat Comms Transmission System	$5.6 M

Thank you for your consideration of Guam's defense needs and your leadership in addressing the nation's defense priorities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information in support of these requests.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee

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Statement of Congressman Steve Cohen's NDAA priorities
April 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to provide input for the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

I have two priorities I would like to bring to the Committee's attention. The first is to include the language of HR1046, the Honor the Written Intent of our Servicemember Heroes (Honor the WISH) Act in the bill. The other is to increase funding for the Army's Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) account because that funds development of technologies to create jobs through innovation.

First, I request the Committee address the restrictions that are placed on our military personnel when it comes to the decisions of our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen regarding who they want to oversee the disposition of their remains. 10 USC Sec. 1482c, requires that our military designate a spouse, blood relative, adoptive parents, or person standing in loco parentis to oversee disposition of remains. Each service member must complete Form DD93 to fulfill this very personal requirement but is restricted regarding who may be designated.

To address this problem, I filed the Honor the WISH Act to remove the current limitations regarding the disposition of remains of the men and women who sacrifice their lives to protect our country.

Private First Class Christopher Fox died in Iraq in 2008 after being wounded by a small-arms attack in Baghdad. On his DD93 form, he had designated his mother figure, Amy, to dispose of his remains. Unfortunately, the military did not allow Amy to oversee the burial arrangements because she was not a spouse, blood relative, or person standing in loco parentis. Christopher's step-brother ended up making the funeral arrangements. Due to the distance between Amy's home in Knoxville, Tennessee and the funeral site in Arkansas, Amy—the person who Christopher wanted most to play a role in his remembrance ceremony—was not even able to attend the funeral.

In the Department of Defense's report to Congress required by the 2009 NDAA, an argument was raised against this legislation because the current policy "works because it

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is limited to family members" and prevents "an aggrieved family member" from resorting to the courts to address this issue. However, in that same report, the DOD cites five examples of blood relatives who debated the authority of other blood relatives to the disposition arrangements. With the inclusion of the Honor the WISH Act in the NDAA, the decision of deceased will be more evident to surviving loved ones because it will have been made without restriction.

I would also like to express my support for increasing the Army's Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) account. With investments made through this account, the Army has been able to develop important technologies that have assisted them greatly in their missions. Recently, the Army has used funds from this account to work on intelligent sensors which, when fully developed, would provide a network of sensors for critical infrastructure assets and be able to detect and identify objects of interest, including improvised explosive devices. This research not only provides the Army with tools to help them succeed, but also stimulates innovation and creates jobs.

Thank you for your consideration of including the Honor the WISH Act and an increase in the Army's RDT&E in this year's NDAA.

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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April 13, 2011

The Honorable Howard P. "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,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. There are several provisions which I respectfully request you consider when drafting the NDAA for FY12.

I have been actively working with members of the House Armed Services Committee and your staff to gather support for a bill which passed as an amendment to the FY11 NDAA. The bill, H.R. 237, would give the Secretary of Defense flexibility in administering a program that provides financial assistance to members of the Armed Services affected by the housing bubble.

As you know, the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) provides financial assistance to members of the Armed Forces permanently reassigned during the mortgage crisis. Due to the nature of military orders, servicemembers and their families do not have the ability to "wait out" the market—a problem which HAP addresses by providing financial assistance to qualifying families who go through the application process. However, in order to qualify for the program which assists servicemembers who receive a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) order, servicemembers must have purchased their home before July 1, 2006. But many military families who were negatively affected by the housing bubble and must relocate due to military orders do not fall within this narrow date range. This means these families are essentially being unfairly excluded from HAP.

Based on applications received, extending the July 1, 2006, date through fiscal year 2007 (i.e., September 30, 2007), DoD anticipates that approximately 2,000 additional Servicemembers would be eligible for the program at a cost of $300M.

According to figures provided by the US Army, out of $855 million in total HAP funds, DoD has paid 4,825 claims (52.3%) at a cost of $725.5M (as of February 2011); another 4,580 claims are being

evaluated (96% of claims are from Servicemembers with PCS orders). Some of this money will flow back into HAP when the houses purchased by the government are resold to third party buyers.

H.R. 237 has 13 bipartisan cosponsors, five of whom are members of the House Armed Services Committee. Along with my remarks, I am attaching testimony from one of my many constituents who look forward to seeing this bill passed. I look forward to working with you and your staff to pass this bill and identify funding to ensure that the military families who require assistance through this program receive it.

I have been working with Mr. Wittman, Mr. Moran, and your staff to improve transportation planning and infrastructure construction associated with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) relocations. The proposals would:

- Reform Defense Access Road criteria to eliminate the doubling of traffic threshold that must be met to use DAR funds to expand existing roads
- Provide greater flexibility for using DAR funds for off-base transportation improvements related to base access
- Clarify that eligible DAR projects include road, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, or other modal improvements
- Ensure Congress is aware of unmet DAR transportation needs
- Strengthen the transportation planning process during BRAC planning by improving consultation with local stakeholders and transportation planners and by requiring the BRAC planning process to include an assessment of the sufficiency of the transportation infrastructure surrounding defense installations, and include input from local stakeholders.

I appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with you on these important reforms, and hope we can finalize language for inclusion in the NDAA.

Last year, we worked together to include language from the Chief Technology Officer Act and the Federal Internship Improvement Act in the NDAA. Since this language was lost in conference along with other worthy provisions, I would appreciate the opportunity to work with you on including it in NDAA again. I have reintroduced legislation (Federal Internship Improvement Act, H.R. 914; Chief Technology Officer Act, H.R. 1261) as passed in the House NDAA last year, and hope that we may work together to include it in this year's authorization.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

Enclosure: Constituent Testimony

Constituent Testimony provided by Rep. Connolly for the record

Mrs. Christine Adams:

Unfortunately, the lives of military families go on no matter what is happening where, and usually because of what is happening where. And for my family, the worst case scenario has occurred. Aaron has received orders back to North Carolina this summer, and my ten year old daughter and I are forced to stay behind here in Northern VA. We are unable to rent our house for anything even close to our mortgage, which incidentally just went up two hundred dollars per month. Even though the value on our house went down for the second year in a row putting us even further underwater, shockingly, our property taxes went up, actually almost doubling! To top it off, my husband's pay will be reduced by 1/3rd due to the housing allowance decrease for eastern NC.

Because our mortgage is underwater, we cannot refinance to bring the monthly payment down. Because we are military, we cannot just "ride it out" like most civilians can choose to do. Because we are military officers, we cannot strategically default by walking away, foreclosure or short-sale without putting my husband's career and our near-perfect credit score in grave jeopardy. Even if we could simply walk away, we would lose a lifetime of responsible saving - our 20% cash down payment - and that is unacceptable to us. In addition, my husband and I have agreed to avoid putting ourselves at further high risk by avoiding a long-distance, involuntary tenant-landlord relationship. Our decreased North Carolina salary would then become responsible for the shortfall on our current mortgage, upkeep and maintenance of both homes, and ultimately in a worst case scenario, the full payment of TWO homes. Whether they are good or bad, none of the options available to civilians are available to us. The most fiscally responsible option for our family is to geographically separate for an undetermined length of time.

We are a strong Marine family having done 3 years of back-to-back 9 month deployments overseas prior to moving to Virginia 4 years ago. There was pride and purpose to those separations and we all took them in stride. This separation is caused by the greed of banks and mortgage companies and there is no valor in that. It is heartbreaking that in a country like ours, military families are being torn apart and forced into bankruptcy over date changes and dollars when they give all serving voluntarily and selflessly. We are not asking for anything unusual in return. Private corporations fund employee transfers every day in the regular course of business. It is a regular operating expense that is budgeted in accordance with current market conditions. The Department of Defense needs to recognize that the cost of moving their military just got more expensive, accept the fact, and fund it accordingly. The housing crisis has weakened this country enough, please don't let it weaken our military too. It shouldn't require debate, it's a regular cost of doing business. Like they say in the military: fix it and move on.

TESTIMONY OF

CONGRESSWOMAN DONNA F. EDWARDS

MARYLAND 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2012 NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT PRORITIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011
9:30 AM
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Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you allowing me to testify here today. Your leadership on national security and commitment to providing our servicemen and women with the tools they need to succeed in their missions and return home safe is appreciated and applauded. My testimony today will touch on two key issues: funding transportation needs around military installations affected by BRAC and contracting practices.

I represent the 4th Congressional District of Maryland; home to Joint Base Andrews. Andrews is home to Air Force One, the 11th Wing, and the 113th Wing that supports air sovereignty over the mid-Atlantic region.

Currently, 15,000 personnel work at Joint Base Andrews, including 7,000 active duty soldiers. Andrews has 887 residential

homes, 702 acres dedicated to outdoor recreation and an economic impact projected at $1 billion per year. Like many military installations across the nation, Joint Base Andrews is an integral part of our community and economy.

When the 2005 BRAC process is complete, an additional 3,000 personnel will work at Joint Base Andrews. Unfortunately, when considering shifting resources, the Commission did not account for changes that would be required to deliver increased personnel to the installation and resources need to be shifted. In previous years, I have requested funds for improvements to roads around the base. While some improvements have been completed, many more are needed to address the influx of personnel.

I would encourage the Committee to look at BRAC affected installations around this country. Many improvements at these military installations, including Andrews, need to happen outside of the gate in order to effectively achieve the missions of the

military installations. Transportation funding outside the gate can dramatically impact the efficiency and ability to complete missions inside the facility and around the world.

By way of example, Joint Base Andrews has made significant gains in ensuring that contracts go to small and minority firms. Last September, Joint Base Andrews announced an increase in its small business contracting goal from 43 to 50 percent of Andrews' contracts. Joint Base Andrews should be applauded for this effort. This initiative will inject approximately $10 million dollars more into small businesses, with approximately $4 million going to small businesses in the State of Maryland, proving definitively the benefits that come from cooperation between installations and their surrounding communities.

This increase in contracting goal will create good local jobs. By raising the goal to 50 percent, Joint Base Andrews is demonstrating a clear commitment to form lasting partnerships in

the local communities and playing an active role in the economic development of the region. The Committee could do right by local communities by requiring DoD to reach out to business in the vicinity of military installations. An amendment I secured in the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition Act of 2010 directed the DoD to engage in outreach to businesses in the vicinity of DOD installations, businesses and increased opportunities to obtain contracts and subcontracts to perform work at such installations.

There are a host of contractors across this nation that would benefit from changes in the way installations conducting contracting and Request for Proposals from the DoD. Consideration should be given to unbundling large contracts and to educating contracting officers on the importance of using subcontractors. It is certainly easy to hand out contracts to a large firm that has an existing relationship with a contractor officer. Developing relationships

requires some work, but these new relationships could be fruitful and create quality local jobs.

Many smaller firms have demonstrated they are capable of partnering with larger firms at the subcontractor level. Yet, it appears some larger firms are reluctant to allow smaller firms to grow. The partnerships should be encouraged and we should help the smaller firms to develop skills and capabilities.

Military installations are an integral part of our local communities and can serve as anchors for improving entire regions. Improving transportation around our DoD installations is critical to well-functioning armed forces' facilities. The dollars spent by DoD can be leveraged to better the communities that support, house and partner with these installations.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to testify before your committee.

Rep. Richard Hanna (NY-24) Statement for the Record

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. RANKING MEMBER:

I appreciate this opportunity to address the Committee on three issues of importance to my district, Central New York, and to the security of our nation.

Computer network security is an acknowledged national research priority, affecting a wide range of critical infrastructure components in modern society, including critical infrastructure, public safety and national security, as well as the private sector. Evolving threats from hostile governments, and non-government sources, require an agile and forward-leaning workforce in the federal government.

The Air Force Research Lab – Rome (AFRL-Rome) is the Air Force's leading cyber-security center of intellectual and production development excellence. AFRL-Rome must possess and sustain a leading-edge workforce to develop technologies for fielding in response to, and in advance of cyber threats in order to maintain its technical edge against hostile threats.

This capability is, however, significantly impacted by the ability to attract top quality personnel to both AFRL-Rome and to the academic and IT infrastructure communities in the region. The Air Force has expressed its concern over the intellectual capital availability to AFRL-Rome, and continues to highlight the need for a greater cyber curriculum in the area and for academic support to sustain a workforce at Rome capable of meeting the constantly evolving cyber threat. While I am familiar with the situation at AFRL-Rome, this human capital challenge exists throughout the Department of Defense, given the competition from the private sector which can offer higher salaries and benefits for those uniquely qualified to develop those protective measures we need in the face of a dynamic cyber threat from individual hackers to non-governmental organizations and hostile governments.

I request, therefore, that the Committee's provide $5.5 million in additional funding to the Air Force's Research & Development budget. This funding will provide the training, curriculum and research needed to assure that the intellectual capital required by the Air Force to meet current and future threats.

Through its approval of a programmatic funding increase for "cyber workforce development & sustainment," the Committee will address the research requirements of the US Air Force and expand the intellectual capital available to meet the dynamic challenges in information assurance basic research, address the technical needs of the national networking security area, as well as advancing research, economic development, and education in this area.

Through the development of the required, focused, curriculum, this initiative will ensure a sustainable, qualified cyber operations workforce for the Air Force Research Lab.

The outcome of the program will be:

- Solutions to cyber-security threats.
- Development of an educational infrastructure commensurate with surrounding high technology corridor.
- The creation / sustainment of a qualified, high-tech workforce for the Lab and its surrounding community.

The need to ensure a robust and agile workforce at the Air Force Research Lab – Rome and other USAF cyber research sites to provide and protect closed information and communication systems and the airborne transmission of critical data is a very real one, one with both great implications for national security and the local economy.

I would note that the capabilities to promptly utilize this funding to meet the Lab's needs are readily available. For example, in our community, SUNY Institute of Technology (SUNYIT) and Assured Information Security (AIS), Inc. in Rome propose a joint research and education collaborative effort combining industry and academia in a potent partnership to help solve this national problem and to robust the intellectual capital at AFRL-Rome (as well as in the contractor community supporting the Lab).

SUNYIT has an existing expertise in cyber-security education and training. Assured Information Security (AIS), Inc. is on the leading edge of network security, working with multiple government agencies, including AFRL, and is well-versed in a broad range of cyber-security research and offers skilled trainers, R&D expertise and the availability of multiple Secure Compartments (SCIFs) required for the research & training required.

Undoubtedly comparable capabilities exist in other communities as well.

For the reasons noted above, the authorization and appropriation of an additional $5.5 million to the President's Budget for Development and Demonstration of Battlespace Knowledge Technologies (Program Element 63788F) is critically important.

The resulting "USAF Cyber Research & Development Human Capital Development & Workforce Sustainment" program will provide the expanded cyber curriculum and academic support to sustain a workforce at AFRL, and throughout the Air Force, capable of meeting the Air Force's needs as the Lab addresses the constantly evolving cyber threat.

The second issue I wish to note is regarding Remington Arms and FY2011 program funds and proposed FY 2012-16 funding for upgrading the M-24 sniper rifle to the XM2010. The XM2010 extends the range of the sniper to 1200 meters as well increasing lethality by using a .300 Winchester magnum round vice the current (7.62)mm. These upgrades were specifically designed to meet the urgent operational needs of units in Afghanistan to engage point targets with a precision capability at ranges greater than the M110 or M-24 (7.62) sniper rifles provide. Both have a maximum effective range of 800 meters.

Remington was awarded the XM2010 contract on 30 September 2010 after a full and open competition. The Army awarded the firm a fixed-price, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract for the upgrade of up to 3,600 M-24 systems. Congressionally-added M-24 upgrade funding of $6.4M from FY 2009/10 was used to fund the first 250 XM2010 sniper rifles ($1.93M) and 250 clip on night vision devices ($2.3M). The total Army XM2010 requirement to provide each Brigade Combat Team and Infantry Battalion with its appropriate authorization is approximately 800 XM2010 sniper rifles. The Army currently plans to place and retain XM2010's in theater and rotate them between departing and incoming units which is not desirable, but must be done until more are available.

Currently, funding is insufficient to meet the fielding requirements necessary to equip deploying combat units. For this reason, I request that the Committee increase FY 2012 funding for Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles by $4.5 million. This will allow for procurement of additional XM2010 sniper rifles (whose cost per unit with all accessories is $7,713) to meet OEF deploying unit requirements, enough to source the active force and guard units scheduled to deploy. This will allow units to train with their weapons prior to deployment and ensure the proper maintenance and round count of these precision weapons.

The final issue I wish to bring to your attention involves a provision that was inserted into the FY 2008 NDAA providing an exception to the Berry Amendment and agreements with foreign governments. As you may know, this provision was in response to a growing demand for titanium components by the industrial base and a shortfall in manufacturing to meet this demand.

The FY 2008 NDAA attempted to address this matter in section 804 by amending section 2533b of title 10 allowing for some new exceptions for procurement of end items containing specialty metals from American sources. One of these sections allows agreements with foreign governments for the use of offsetting sales made by the U.S. government. This provision allows original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to use any available raw material to manufacture the end items. This provision provided an adjustment relevant to titanium manufacturing that is helpful to addressing the global manufacturing shortfall.

Since this provision only tethers the U.S manufacturers to the requirement to source all raw materials in the U.S. industrial base, OEMs are free to seek offshore suppliers from foreign manufactures. These foreign manufacturers, under section 804, source their titanium anywhere and manufacture parts to provide to DOD programs using the foreign sourced raw material, such as Russian titanium, which cost of 40% below U.S. sourced titanium since they do not have the same regulations. As you can imagine, OEMs are now doing more business with foreign manufactures and created an unintended consequence of the Berry Exception in that foreign titanium is supplanting domestic titanium instead of supplementing it. This policy is hurting American companies that provide turbine blades for U.S. fighter air craft, by making them unable to compete with the cheaper foreign sourced materials, and therefore, more fan blades

will be foreign made. One company in New York has lost hundreds of jobs since the implementation of this policy.

This is the antithesis of the intention of section 804 and it has effectively turned U.S. manufacturers into second source providers instead of the primary source providers. To correct section 804, the House inserted a provision in their report for FY 2011 NDAA that required the DOD to assess the U.S. titanium manufacturing industrial base and report to the congressional defense committees, but this provision was not incorporated into the final bill. My colleague, Mr. Hunter from California, has reinserted this provision in the FY 2012 NDAA. I urge the Armed Services Committee to pick up where the House of Representatives left off and for FY 2012, obtain a true picture of the flaws in section 804 and repair them before all American DOD titanium manufacturing moves offshore.

The Committee's support toward these issues is very important, not only to Upstate New York, but for the security of our nation, to our troops who must have the latest weapons to fight abroad, and to defense manufacturing that is relying too much on foreign materials for production. I thank the committee for its consideration in these matters.

Thank you.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Testimony on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012
House Committee on Armed Services

Thank you, Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, for allowing me the opportunity to offer this testimony on the FY12 Defense Authorization bill.

As Congress remains in the throes of debate regarding FY 2012 budget priorities, I would like to begin by offering my steadfast assistance to work with the committee to not only follow through on Congress's and President Obama's commitment to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, but also to take meaningful steps to eliminate outdated, cold-war era weapons systems, update our defense force structure and policies to reflect modern national security threats, and address the disproportionate amount of federal discretionary expenditures now dedicated to the base defense budget.

Potential spending cuts at the Pentagon are not theoretical- they have been studied by experts across the political spectrum. I strongly urge the committee in crafting the Defense Authorization Bill for FY 2012, to consult the bipartisan Sustainable Defense Task Force report released last year, entitled "*Debt, Deficits, and Defense*" which identified $1 Trillion in defense cuts over the next ten years without sacrificing our strategic capabilities. The fact is, we cannot even begin to talk about reducing the deficit without taking a hard look at current and anticipated levels of defense spending that are not fiscally sustainable or warranted based on current national security threats.

I am sure many of the members of the committee also share my frustration that by the Pentagon's own admission it is all but inauditable. Earlier this year, I offered an amendment to a FY 2011 Continuing Resolution bill that sought to freeze Defense Department funding without validation that its financial statements comply with generally accepted accounting principles, applicable laws and regulations, and reflect reliable internal controls. This requirement is essential to finally compel the Department of Defense to act in addressing the egregious deficiencies in their accounting practices, as well as for us to answer the basic question on the minds of our constituents- Where are our defense dollars going?

The need to improve accountability and reign in spending at the Pentagon, which has nearly doubled since 2001, is particularly relevant today as our country remains embroiled in two wars, and a third major military engagement in Libya. We have already spent more that $1.2 trillion on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the same time we are fighting here in Congress to protect investments in education, healthcare, public health and safety, the war in Afghanistan will cost more than $100 billion in 2011 alone. We simply cannot deny the enormous costs of these wars and their constraining affect on our efforts to reinvigorate U.S. diplomatic capabilities, invest in job creation, and jump start a struggling U.S. economy.

As we look toward finally ending the costly war in Iraq by the end of this year, and transitioning to a military drawdown in Afghanistan, it is absolutely essential that the committee retain provisions in FY 2012 barring the establishment of permanent military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. This policy sends a clear signal that the United States does not seek a permanent

foreign military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has been supported and signed into law by successive White House administrations under former President Bush and now President Obama.

I believe the FY 2012 Defense Authorization Bill must reaffirm the timeline for ending the war in Iraq by December 31, 2011 by explicitly prohibiting the maintenance of U.S. military installations in Iraq beyond this date. Further, in the House report accompanying the FY11 Defense Authorization bill, this committee previously articulated its expectations that any "[U.S.-Iraq security agreement] if it were to make any commitments or guarantees that either party would take military action to defend the interests of the other party, must be either enacted by an Act of Congress or ratified as a treaty by the United States Senate, consistent with the Constitution and the past practice of the United States." It is our constitutional responsibility to uphold Congress's oversight authority over our nation's commitments while at war. With that in mind, I urge members to of the committee to include bill language prohibiting the implementation of any U.S.-Iraq security agreement which obligates the United States to respond to internal or external threats against Iraq beyond December 31, 2011 without prior approval from Congress. The same principle should also be applied to any agreement between the United States and the Government of Afghanistan which imposes upon the United States burdens in excess of those customarily included in a status of forces agreement.

I often speak of the moral costs of these wars, but this committee also has a long, bipartisan history of working to address the hidden costs of war here at home- most notably to reduce the strained on our armed forces and improve services for returned veterans. An estimated 300,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are currently suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD) and major depression, and Congress and the Department of Defense have expressed increasing concern about the problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse among military personnel. With that in mind, of the funds made available in the President's Budget under Defense Health Programs for continued support of wounded, ill and injured medical research, I encourage the committee to recommend a modest $15,000,000 be set aside for the continued support of a competitive program for translational research centers tasked with addressing alcohol and substance abuse issues.

Lastly, the committee is well aware of the pledge of past and present U.S. Presidential Administrations to build a balanced U.S. national security strategy around three equal pillars of Development, Diplomacy, and Defense. I am confident that we can agree the current balance of national security spending between military, homeland security, and non-military foreign engagement programs continues to fall short of levels commensurate with this commitment or the national security interests of the United States in achieving this goal.

It is time to finally provide equal footing to U.S. development and diplomacy strategy and capabilities in recognition of their importance to our economic and national security and their cost-effective significance in preventing conflicts before they start.

I thank the Committee once again for the opportunity to share my testimony. I would also like to submit for the record an appendix detailing proposed language for the critical policy provisions which I have highlighted in my testimony. Thank you.

Appendix to the testimony of Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA-09) on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012

(Proposed Policy Language)

I. **REQUIREMENT OF AUDIT READINESS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.** (a) None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used for any account of the Department of Defense (other than accounts excluded by subsection (b)) in excess of the amount made available for such account for fiscal year 2011, unless the financial statements of the Department for fiscal year 2011 are validated as ready for audit within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) The following accounts are excluded from the prohibition in subsection (a):

(1) Military personnel, reserve personnel, and National Guard personnel accounts of the Department of Defense.
(2) The Defense Health Program account.

(c) In this section, the term "validation", with respect to the auditability of financial statements, means a determination following an examination engagement that the financial statements comply with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable laws and regulations and reflect reliable internal controls.

II. **NO PERMANENT BASES IN IRAQ.** None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government for a purpose as follows:

a. to establish or maintain any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq ***after December 31, 2011;***

b. To exercise United States control over the oil resource of Iraq;

III. **NO PERMANENT BASES IN AFGHANISTAN.** None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended by the United States Government to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan.

IV. **POLICY ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM IRAQ.** It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all United States troops and military contractors from Iraq by no later than December 31, 2011.

LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE TIMELINE FOR WITHDRAW OF U.S. FORCES FROM IRAQ. No provision of any agreement between the United States and Iraq which amends the timeline for withdrawal described in subsection (a) in a manner that obligates the United States to respond to internal or external threats against Iraq beyond December 31, 20n shall be in force with respect to the United States unless the agreement—

a. is in the form of a treaty requiring the advice and consent of the Senate (or is intended to take that form in the case of an agreement under negotiation); or

b. is specifically authorized by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

V. **LIMITATION ON NON-TREATY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AFGHANISTAN.** None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government to implement any agreement, other than a treaty, between the Government of Afghanistan and the United States that imposes upon the United States burdens in excess of those customarily included in a status of forces agreement or otherwise involving commitments or risks affecting the nation as a whole, that has not been previously authorized and approved by an Act of Congress.

** (Similar to language included in the FY08 Defense Authorization bill regarding the SOFA agreement in Iraq)*

VI. **RESEARCH IN ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.** Of the funds made available in the President's Budget under Defense Health Programs for continued support of wounded, ill and injured medical research, to include psychological health and TBI/PTSD, the Committee recommends that $15,000,000 be set aside for the continued support of a competitive program for translational research centers tasked with addressing alcohol and substance abuse issues.

VII. **BALANCED NATIONAL SECURITY BUDGET.** The Committee encourages the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of Homeland Security, National Security Council (NSC), Homeland Security Council (HSC), and Office of Management and Budget, to develop and implement measures aimed at improving coordination of security policy and budget planning in order to improve cooperation and eliminate "stove piping" between parallel processes including the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR), Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (QHSR) and Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). The Committee notes such efforts should include the consideration of a unified security budget assessment which prioritizes and identifies critical missions, resource needs, and constraints across all United States security-related programs.

Written Testimony: House Armed Services Committee

William Shemin Jewish World War I Act

Testimony of Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer
Before
The House Armed Services Committee

April 13, 2011

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this written statement on the *William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act*. This bill would allow the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy to conduct a review of military service records of Jewish veterans during World War I. This review would include those previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or other military decoration during service in World War I to determine if they should be awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. The bill, H.R. 1457, was introduced on April 8th and has bipartisan support from 15 cosponsors, including members of the House Armed Services Committee.

This amendment also had bipartisan support last Congress. It was offered as an amendment to H.R. 5136, the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act on the House floor in May 2010. The amendment was included as part of an en bloc group of amendments that was agreed to by the House on a 416 to 1 vote. In 2001, the House Armed Services Committee approved nearly identical legislation in the *Leonard Kravitz Jewish War Veterans Act of 2001*. Unfortunately, some qualified soldiers have not been considered for the Medal of Honor because of religious discrimination. This legislation presented Jewish soldiers who served in World War II the opportunity to be reviewed by the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy to receive the Medal of Honor. However, Jewish soldiers serving in World War I faced the same discrimination. My legislation would extend the review to World War I Jewish veterans who represent the same proud tradition of patriotism and service to America as soldiers from all races, religions, and background.

Under this legislation, the Secretary of each military department would review the following service records (actual text from the bill):

1) Any Jewish American war veteran who was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or other military decoration for service during World War I.

2) Any other Jewish American World War I veteran whose name is submitted to the Secretary concerned for such purpose by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America before the end of the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

William Shemin was a Jewish American who earned the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) in 1918 for saving three of his fellow soldiers' lives during an intense three-day battle in France, while leading his platoon in combat after more senior soldiers were wounded or killed. Shemin passed away in 1973, but his daughter, Elsie Shemin-Roth, a resident of my district, passionately works on behalf of her father's military legacy.

A study of Jewish participation in the military during World War II clearly indicates Jewish soldiers served in the Armed Forces beyond their numerical proportion to the general population. They have received more than 52,000 military awards. Jewish soldiers have participated in the Korean War, Vietnam, Persian Gulf War, and continue to serve in today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There is precedent of discrimination in regards to veterans' receiving the Medal of Honor. The National Defense Authorization for FY1996 included an amendment to review the files of Asian American and American Pacific Islanders who previously received military war honors in World War II, such as the Distinguished Service Cross. At the time, many of these American soldiers' records were not reviewed, because of their being sent to internment camps. Additionally, in 1996, Members of Congress diligently worked to help African American soldiers receive the Medal of Honor. The 1997 Defense Authorization waived the restrictions and limitations so that these Asian American, American Pacific Islanders, and African American veterans' files could be reviewed to determine if they should be awarded the Medal of Honor. Fortunately, because of this legislation and through the hard work of Congress and the Secretaries of the Army and Navy, twenty-two Asian Americans and seven African Americans received the Medal of Honor that they so rightfully deserved.

Precedent shows discrimination has occurred throughout history, deterring some of our worthy veterans from being reviewed for, and/or presented, the Medal of Honor. The *William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act* would expand previously enacted legislation to ensure that our Jewish World War I veterans' records are reviewed for the Medal of Honor. We owe much to the patriotic Americans who have worn and are wearing the uniforms of our nation's Armed Forces, and our country has been blessed to have citizens who have selflessly volunteered to defend our nation and freedom. Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to the many brave men and women who served this country with honor, as they are the reason our nation stands as a shining example for other freedom-loving nations around the world.

I encourage you to please review the *William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act*, and I ask for your support. Should you have any questions, please contact Brittney Loch on my staff at 202-225-2956 or Brittney.Loch@mail.house.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to the House Armed Services Committee.

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree
House Committee on Armed Services Testimony
Thursday, April 14, 2011

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith: Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on the upcoming Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

As we move forward with crafting a defense bill, I want to reiterate my commitment to America's service members, especially providing them with the tools they need to protect our Nation, as well as protecting the healthcare and benefits of the families of our brave men and women. The district that I represent in Maine is compromised of over twenty percent of veterans and service members — and I believe we must continue to recognize the sacrifices they make by upholding our promise to provide the benefits and services they deserve.

Maine has always had a very active shipbuilding base at Bath Iron Works. Maine also continues to support the Navy's needs at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) by repairing and modernizing the nuclear powered submarine fleet with quality overhaul in a safe and timely manner. Founded in 1800, PSNY is the oldest continuously operating shipyard in the United States Navy.

I was thrilled to learn that it is the Navy's intent to award PSNY four projects through the Navy's Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) program. These projects, currently programmed for FY12, would be used for energy conservation and repairs to submarine enclosures, building renovations, repair to waterfront support facility, and structural repair and consolidation of the yard's workshops.

In November, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that found that the Navy's modernization requirements at nation's four public shipyards were underestimated, amounting to $3 billion shortfall in modernization, including $513 million at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Sustaining the FY12 proposed funding levels for Navy Operations and Maintenance (O&M) will be an important step forward in addressing this backlog. I hope that you will keep this mind as you begin to consider the FY12 Defense Authorization Act. Providing the fully requested funding for Navy O&M will not only be critical to the district I represent, but will affect the other public shipyards, directly supporting our national security.

Thank you Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of these important updates to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen
Testimony for Armed Services Committee Hearing on
FY12 National Defense Authorization Act
Thursday, April 14, 2011

I am here as the Representative of the 18th Congressional District.

Before proceeding, I would like to note, however, that as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I look forward to working with Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith on issues that also involve our Committee.

Some of these are:

- The Iran report;
- Authorities, funding, reporting and programmatic implementation of the Cooperative Threat Reduction activities; and
- Such items relating to Afghanistan and Pakistan as the administration and implementation of the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capabilities Fund, the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund and Task Force for Business and Stability Operations in Afghanistan.

These are just a few items that we understand may be included in the NDAA.

Additionally, I look forward to working with you throughout the markup processes in our respective Committees to address areas in which the authorities of the NDAA overlap with State Department authorities or activities.

Finally, I look forward to working with you to avoid infringement of either of our Committees jurisdiction.

Back to the issue at hand:

My main concern today involves **Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB)**

Homestead Air Reserve Base has two entry control points to allow traffic in and out of the installation.

However the current Coral Sea gate has been closed due to anti-terrorism concerns and its proximity to base lodging facilities.

The remaining Westover gate is substandard and not designed to function as a primary entry control point and does NOT meet force protection standards.

Yet this gate remains the sole gate for ALL pedestrian, private and commercial vehicle traffic.

With the current and projected future mission growth at the installation, HARB provides a high visibility target for potential attacks and is vulnerable to terrorist attack.

With only one guard shack as protection any moderately determined foe could gain access to the base.

This single guard shack within close proximity to the base bulk fuel storage compound and is only a 30 second drive to the F-16 Ramp, the heart of HARB.

The ramp holds HARB's $800 million F-16 fighter jets and is where 200 Airmen maintain and operate these aircraft.

Overall, HARB has 2700 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 country.

HARB is extremely vulnerable to attack and the loss of life.

Our service men and women deserve better.

On a different note:

Currently, there is no practical way to monitor exposures to terrorist or other threats from unknown biological, chemical or radiological agents in a timely fashion - on the battlefield or in civilian situations.

The existing standard relies on laborious, largely manual and time-consuming methods that are not appropriate for in-theater defense and other time-sensitive applications.

Continuation of research to develop devices that can detect non-specific unknown toxicants using nano-scaled based portable biosensor devices is vital to the security of our troops and our nation.

And lastly:

Forensic science programs today focus almost exclusively on civilian forensic science.
There is a need to expand the use of forensic science beyond the historical judicial and medical uses, including support to intelligence operations and the war fighter.

Current programs ignore the unique needs of the U.S. military in the defense of our troops in world-wide.

Improving operations related to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives threats will help prepare the U.S. military for the challenges that they face in defense of our nation.

Addressing the current gaps in forensic science military applications will require a training center dedicated to increasing the pipeline of forensics-trained workers.

Rep. Todd Young, IN-09

Representative Todd Young (IN-09)
Statement for the Record
Supporting the President's FY2012 National Guard Bureau MilCon Budget Request
House Armed Services Committee
April 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2012 with regard to Military Construction, or MilCon, for the National Guard Bureau.

As you know, the National Guard, and members all of our reserve components for that matter, have played a historically unprecedented role defending our nation since September 11, 2001. Members of this Committee are all too familiar with the fact that we have more combat experienced veterans in our reserve ranks than ever before. Many members of the reserve components have multiple deployments and have fought side-by-side with their active duty counterparts, virtually indistinguishable in training and experience. Because we depend on the National Guard to play such a critical role in the current fight, we must also provide for them the means to train and equip to maintain their sharp combat-ready edge.

With that in mind, I would like to express my support for the authorization by this Committee funds for construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard:

I support the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2012 for Army National Guard Military Construction which includes 48 projects and totals $773.6 million, a subset of the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) for Army National Guard Military Construction which includes 133 projects, totaling $1.8 billion.

Furthermore, I support the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2012 for Air National Guard Military Construction which includes 9 projects and totals $116.2 million, a subset of the Future Years Defense Program for Air National Guard Military Construction which includes 92 projects, totaling $659.9 million.

These projects are critical to our nation's security, as they are the classrooms, training facilities and offices in small towns and cities across America in which our citizen Soldiers and Airmen - our neighbors, our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues - prepare to defend our country when called upon.

I know that you share with me the deep conviction that our National Guard provides unique and crucial capabilities for our sustained national security and defense. Thank you for your consideration.

Todd Young
Congressman

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