

University at 1845 Fairmount St, Wichita 67260.

Most of the aging research being conducted presently is focused on metallic structures. In addition to the ongoing research in aging metallic structures, the requested appropriation will permit NIAR to partner with the NAVY and investigate the effects of aging on composite structures as well as composite/metallic hybrid structures. As more composite components are being certified and used on primary and "flight critical" secondary structures, a future need of the military and commercial aviation industry will be the investigation of these composite structures and the assurance of the airworthiness of composite components. NIAR already has a background in this through partnerships with the FAA by investigating Boeing 737 composite tail structures which flew commercial service for over 20 years and by examining the first of all composite certified aircraft recently taken out of service, the Beechcraft Starship. Lessons learned from this research will provide insight into the aging aspects of other composite aircraft structures and influence the use of advanced materials on new aircraft being proposed for military service as well as maintenance of the existing fleet.

The biggest concerns with aging aircraft are the unknowns that emerge with little or no warning, raising the concern that an unexpected phenomenon may suddenly jeopardize an entire fleet's flight safety, mission readiness, or support costs. The DoD can benefit from the direct application of the research results into fleet management strategies as well as proactively provide strategies that will reduce the cost of maintenance for advanced materials used on military aircraft.

Financial Plan:

Labor (salary and fringes)*—32%
Travel*—2%
Materials & Supplies*—9%
Laboratory Testing—39%
Equipment—18%

Percent and Sources of Matching Funds: 25%—FAA; 10%—Aviation Industry. No matching funds are required for the Department of Defense program.

COMPOSITE SMALL MAIN ROTOR BLADE

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, H.R. 3326, contains \$3,000,000 for development of a Composite Small Main Rotor Blade in the Department of the Army, RDT&E Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Kaman Aerostructures at 1650 South McComas Street, Wichita, KS 67213.

It is my understanding that the funding would be used to continue development on the Composite Small Main Rotor Blade which would replace the legacy main rotor blade on the US Army's A/MH-6 Little Bird helicopter. The Little Bird, flown by the U.S. Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, has been heavily modified to better meet operational needs; however, the main rotor blade, a critical dynamic component, has not been upgraded to modern standards. Constructed of metal, this blade is highly susceptible to damage and fatigue, and since metal lacks ballistic tolerance, the blades leave the aircraft especially vulnerable to enemy weapons in hostile action. Moreover, when gunners fire their weapons from the aircraft, expended shell casings can cause minor skin dents, and even these small dents require that the blades be

replaced. The Composite Small Main Rotor Blade takes advantage of the inherent ballistic tolerance of composite construction, advanced aerodynamic design, and state-of-the-art erosion-resistant materials and will significantly improve the safety, reliability, performance—and survivability—of the aircraft. Specifically, the blades will increase damage tolerance, enhancing survivability in hostile environments, and improve hover performance, increase operating ceiling, increase maximum forward speed, all adding to the aircraft's maneuverability and performance envelope. The composite blades will also improve erosion resistance, experience better field reparability, and reduce the cost and logistics burden related to premature metal blade replacement due to damage.

Funds are requested to fabricate production tooling, fabricate FAA certification blades, and conduct FAA certification ground and flight testing required to create Commercial-Off-The-Shelf acquisition capability for the military. Composite Small Main Rotor Blades will (1) make the A/MH-6 Little Bird helicopter more survivable in hostile environments; (2) expand the flight envelope of the aircraft; and (3) reduce logistics burden and cost associated with supporting the legacy blade.

No matching funds are required for the Department of Defense program.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: OP—Army

Project Amount: \$5,000,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: TN Army National Guard, Houston Barracks, 3041 Sidco Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37204

Description of Request: The funding would be used to allow Army National Guard trainers (both fielded and yet-to-be procured) to network together on a Combined Arms virtual battlefield.

HONORING SCOTT JOSEPH BURGER UPON ATTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a young man in my district, Scott Joseph Burger.

Scott will be celebrating his Eagle Court of Honor on August 2, 2009. For his community service project, he designed and facilitated the construction of two lecterns for Walt Whitman High School in Huntington Station, New York.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN
STATE UNIVERSITY'S IMPACT
89FM RADIO STATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of the students and staff of Michigan State University's WDBM "Impact 89" FM Radio Station on the occasion of the station being named the College Radio Station of the Year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and Broadcast Music Inc.

MSU's Impact 89 FM has received this prestigious honor nine of the past 10 years, making the station a standout among all the college radio stations in the entire Great Lakes region. The 2009 Gold Record Award was presented at the Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference in March.

Judging for the awards is by professional radio and television broadcasters in Michigan.

In addition to winning the overall college station of the year award, Impact staffers also earned first place in four of seven individual categories, including Jon Erickson for air check; Wes Holing for talk show; Nate Gray for promotional announcement; and the team of Jeremy Whiting and Brock Elsesser for the station activities report.

Other staffers receiving individual awards were Mike Weber, Doug Neal, Corrina Van Hamlin, John Simpkins, D'Destin Kaufmann, Lindsay Machak, Emily Fox, Brandon Jaksim, Autumn Maison, Dan Dugger, Jamal Spencer, Ed Glazer and Jesse McLean.

The Impact 89 team is led by Gary Reid, Distinguished Senior Specialist with the MSU Department of Telecommunication, Impact 89 FM General Manager, and Associate Director of the Quello Center for Management and Law, named after long-time FCC Commissioner, James H. Quello.

As someone who worked on the college radio station at my own alma mater, I have great respect for the professionalism and competitive spirit of the Impact 89 FM team and their manager and mentor, Gary Reid.

In 2009, Impact 89 FM is celebrating its 20th anniversary and the thousands of students who have worked there and gone on to successful careers throughout the country.

Impact 89FM has been a leader in creative, diverse programming and adoption of new technology. WDBM was the 132nd among nearly 14,000 radio stations in the country to be licensed by the FCC to make the transition to High Definition broadcasting in 2004.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the students and staff of WDBM "Impact 89" FM for their dedication to excellence. They are truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

TAYLOR: THE LITTLE MIRACLE BABY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also