



# **Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**

*Subcommittee on Defense*

*House Committee on Appropriations*

## **Fiscal Year 2015 Missile Defense Agency Budget Hearing**

**April 3, 2014**

### **Opening Statement As Prepared**

This morning, the subcommittee holds a closed hearing on the fiscal year 2015 budget request for the Missile Defense Agency.

I would like to welcome Vice Admiral James Syrin, Director of the Missile Defense Agency. It is your first time appearing before the subcommittee. We welcome you and look forward to your testimony.

As the hostility continues to escalate on the Korean peninsula, with batteries exchanging artillery fire and the North Koreans firing missiles and threatening to test another nuclear device, we are increasingly concerned with the safety of our allies in the Pacific area of operations and our own homeland defense against missile threats.

Realizing that our Ground-based Midcourse Defense program has been plagued by test failures in recent years, we are anxious to learn of any improvements to the system to increase its reliability. The threat is increasing....we have to figure out a way to make the GMD system reliable to protect America and our allies.

Of course, North Korea is not the only threat we face. Iran continues to work on its own missile capabilities. We need to make sure that we are addressing the threat that Iran poses both to our allies in Israel and other partners in the region, as well as here at home.

We also need to hear your views on the capabilities of near-peer adversaries China and Russia and what other countries are working on to challenge our security.

Likewise, we do have partners in this area and the Committee is anxious to learn more about our collaborations with the Israelis and others.

So welcome – I look forward to your testimony and to an informative question and answer session. Now before we invite your testimony, I would like to turn to my Ranking Member Pete Visclosky, for any comments he may want to make.

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