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April 3, 2014

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Visclosky,

As a fellow member of the Appropriations Committee, I want to thank you for permitting me the honor of testifying in front of the Defense Subcommittee, and for your continued support of our service members and DoD civilians who are committed to the national security of our country. In the wake of yet another tragic shooting at a military installation, I solemnly come before you today to ask for your support in helping to prevent such catastrophic events from occurring by fully funding the ACES Continuous Evaluation program. Because of the Washington Navy shooting, the intelligence leaks of NSA contractor Edward Snowden, and the 2009 Fort Hood shootings, President Obama ordered a review of the security clearance process by the Department of Defense, Office of Management and Budget, Department of the Navy and an Independent Review.

The consistent theme across all four reviews was the need for a Continuous Evaluation (CE) program, which means reviewing the background of an individual who has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information – on an ongoing basis -- to confirm that an individual continues to meet the requirements for eligibility for access to classified information. In my district, the Defense Personnel Security Research Center (PERSEREC) developed the Automated Continuous Evaluation System (ACES) program over nine years ago. It can provide Continuous Evaluation 24/7/365, instead of only periodic reinvestigations every 5, 10, or 15 years.

Currently, ACES is capable of checking over 40 government and commercial databases in areas relevant to personnel security and identify those individuals who may present a potential security risk. ACES is the only continuous evaluation program that complies with legal and regulatory privacy provisions and permissible uses of government and commercial data. ACES conducted a pilot test with a sample of 3,370 Army service members, civilian employees, and contractor personnel. ACES was able to identify over 730 individuals with previously unreported derogatory information. Based on the results of this ACES pilot, the Army revoked the clearances of 55 individuals and suspended the access of 44 more who had derogatory information like financial issues, domestic abuse, or drug abuse. In its report on Suitability and Security Processes Review, OMB has recommended the following timelines for implementation of CE:

- October 2014 - ACES CE pilot to expand to 100,000 personnel
- By 2015 CE capability to 225,000 personnel
- By 2016 CE capability to 500,000 personnel
- By 2017 CE capability to 1 million personnel

We owe it to our country to prevent insider threats. ACES is the only CE pilot that has proven results, has met privacy protections, is scalable and can meet the OMB recommendations and can do it now, today. I respectfully ask the Committee to fund PERSEREC's ACES program as the enterprise continuous evaluation solution for the federal government. ACES can

be funded by allowing the Director of National Intelligence to use funds that are already appropriated to Office of Personnel Management for the security clearance process. As recent events have clearly indicated, one of our biggest security challenges is insider threats. We can't afford to lose more lives. Please fund ACES so it can become fully operational.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Visclosky and the other members of subcommittee for your time and consideration. It's an honor to serve with you on the Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

SAM FARR
Member of Congress