

STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE PAUL COOK

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BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.