

Congressman Jolly – FL-13
Testimony on the Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016
April 15, 2015

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and other Members of this Subcommittee:

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to share my thoughts on matters that I believe the Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Department of Defense Appropriations Act should thoroughly consider. The work of this subcommittee is no small task, and I am grateful for your steadfast dedication to fulfilling the most important Constitutional responsibility of Congress, to provide for our common defense.

Firstly, I would like to discuss the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program and Condition Based Maintenance capabilities. As described by the Navy, LCS “is a fast, agile, focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation. It is designed to defeat asymmetric ‘anti-access’ threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft.” Funding through the Rapid Innovation Fund program has been utilized by the Navy for the development and testing of an advanced Condition Based Maintenance and distance support capability for the LCS. This capability will increase combat readiness, streamline LCS’ ability to perform combat system element advance maintenance planning and execution, and enable reliable and secure transmission of combat system data to meet current and future Navy cybersecurity advancements. I urge the subcommittee to ensure continued funding for this program and technology.

Secondly, on a recent visit to MacDill Air Force Base, I had the opportunity to meet with military personnel at U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). Mr. Chairman, I know that you understand and appreciate the work and security that these Commands provide to the American people. This has been evident through the support you've provided SOCOM and CENTCOM over the years. I wholeheartedly thank you and the subcommittee for that. On this occasion, I would like to draw your attention to the importance of SOCOM's Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (SOF AT&L) Science and Technology (S&T) Accounts. SOCOM SOF AT&L's aim is to apply and invest resources to provide asymmetric advantage for our Special Operations Forces (SOF). During the past few years, S&T accounts have provided capabilities of decisive importance that directly support SOF missions, to include: 4 major types of tags/taggants; unattended ground sensors; 8 communications/dissemination capabilities; 1 portable biometrics/forensics rapid DNA device; 2 technical support systems; Military Information Support Operations (MISO) program projects; and 5 Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)/Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) payloads/devices. It's of the utmost importance that we provide adequate resources to ensure our men and women in uniform maintain the technological advantage on the battlefield, and for this reason I urge the subcommittee's continued support of SOCOM Science and Technology programs.

Thirdly, with the sophistication behind cyber threats growing on a daily basis, it is critical that we provide our Armed Forces with the capabilities and resources necessary to maintain effective cyber defenses. Sufficient resources are necessary for maintaining and improving CENTCOM's

cyber operations, which include cybersecurity technical support, Computer Network Defense products and solutions, Identity Management, and Cyber Situational Awareness/Common Operating Picture (SA/COP) capabilities. Throughout the CENTCOM Theater, any shortfalls in cybersecurity will hinder the Commander's ability to detect adversarial activity and maintain real-time situational awareness, which is a necessity for posturing and maneuvering cyber forces. I urge the subcommittee to consider this issue when finalizing Department of Defense funding.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation for this opportunity to provide testimony as to what I believe our FY2016 Defense Appropriations bill should encompass. I look forward to working with you and the other members of the subcommittee during the 114th Congress to ensure that our nation's defense spending is thoroughly debated and is carried out in the most responsible way to protect our nation and her people.