

PETE AGUILAR
31ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1223 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3201

685 EAST CARNEGIE DRIVE
SUITE 100
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408
(909) 890-4445

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0531

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY
EXCHANGES, ENERGY, AND CREDIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING
THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
House Appropriations Committee
The Capitol H-405
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
House Appropriations Committee
The Capitol H-405
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

Please find below the contents of the testimony I delivered on March 15th, 2016 before the Defense subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations:

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and members of the Defense Subcommittee: Thank you for allowing me to testify before your Subcommittee today on few of the priorities I humbly believe should be highlighted in Fiscal Year 2017's Defense Appropriations bill. The use of big data by the DIA, an often forgotten health concern impacting our service men and women, possible savings connected to our nation's carriers, and our efforts to confront the ever-growing cyber threat, are all critical issues that I believe deserve more discussion as we debate the appropriate methods for defending our nation.

One of the Defense Intelligence Agency's (DIA) responsibilities includes creating and maintaining an infrastructure-focused Foundational Intelligence database to aid our situational awareness and mission planning activities. While it is critical for foreign infrastructure assessments, database creation and maintenance is unfortunately quite labor intensive, leading

the DIA to embark on the Foundational Intelligence Modernization (FIM) program in an effort to use big data to our advantage. While this program will focus on crowd-sourced big-data discovery, commercial database integration and open source location-based data services to populate the databases – the analytical issues that inevitably come with big data will still need to be addressed. Furthermore, the modernization program will not necessarily assist us in efficiently and effectively presenting this data to others within the government. After Defense and Intelligence Community users select the relevant data, and create analytic models, putting the data in a more understandable format so that it can be disseminated to other senior decision-makers is critical. That is why I support additional funding to create cloud-based, all-source GeoAnalytics based on commercial off-the-shelf technology in support of DIA's new Foundational Intelligence Modernization program. We need to develop tools to analyze changes to critical foreign infrastructure through big data, while also providing an interactive web-based executive briefing tool. These tools will not only help decision makers conceptualize the battlespace environment and determine the correct course of action, but will also assist our warfighters in taking the fight to the enemy.

I will now turn my attention to a military personnel issue that I don't believe receives enough attention. Hearing plays a vital role in the performance of our servicemen and women. Because of the nature of warfare, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are constantly exposed to high levels of noise. I cannot tell you the number of service members and veterans I have met that suffer from hearing loss and have been wearing hearing aids for years. Unfortunately, unlike civilians, military personnel have little option but to remain in noisy environments in order to complete specific tasks and missions. And even though areas such as military flight lines are prime examples of places that routinely expose our service members to

harmful noise, hearing loss is a largely preventable condition. That is why I ask the committee to direct additional funding to accelerate the current research and development efforts of the Naval Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) program. The Navy's efforts should not only assist those exposed to harmful noise on our aircraft carrier flight decks, but also across the services on all flight lines. Doing so will save countless dollars of future medical costs for thousands of personnel, and will protect the precious investments that we make in our brave warriors.

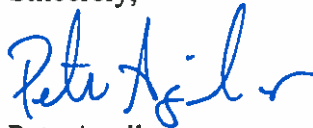
On a note also related to America's Navy, it is my belief that our aircraft carriers offer us an array of unique capabilities that allow us unparalleled force projection, with the ability to marshal assets anytime, anywhere. Whether related to our fight against the Islamic State or a humanitarian mission after a natural disaster, few can argue with the importance of such an asset in our efforts. Similarly, I believe that few can argue with the impact that Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation dollars spent now can have on the future of our fleet. Our ability to refine and improve the Ford-class carriers design through the "design for affordability" project will help put downward pressure on the construction costs of future carriers in the Ford-class, like the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN-81). Because we continue to confront a complex global threat environment, while also facing the challenges of a fiscally tight budgetary outlook. I request that the committee provide an increase in funding for the "design for affordability" program so that our RDT&E efforts can lead to future savings at the same time that we will be confronting a very expensive modernization wave throughout our Armed Forces.

Finally, issues related to cyber defense, in the military as well as the civilian sphere, are directly connected to our most critical infrastructure and overall national security. Given the complexity of the threat posed to federal, state and private entities within the United States from cyber-attacks, investments must be made on a whole-of-government approach. One of these

investments should be through the funding and activation of the Army National Guard Cyber Protection teams. Many part-time members of the National Guard have civilian cyber security skill sets and experience from their private jobs. These are invaluable skills that should and must be used to counter this growing threat. These forces would not only offer outreach to states, but would also bring a suite of robust capabilities to civilian authorities and other entities. We cannot rest until our cyber needs are met, and I ask the committee to take the necessary steps to engage these untapped resources. As this committee continues its efforts to confront the multitude challenges facing the nation, I thank it for the opportunity to come and speak about a few of the issues that I believe are vitally important. Thank you.

If you require further information, do not hesitate to contact me or Wendell White, my Military Legislative Assistant, at 225-3201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Aguilar", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress