

Congressman Paul Cook (CA-08)
Member's Day – Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
March 15, 2016

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for allowing me to testify before your Subcommittee today on an important initiative for the Air Force.

We have come a long way since my days in the Marines. What I used to have to do with grease pencils, sheets of plastic, and a paper map is now all done digitally. Compared to the intelligence products I used to work with, today's trooper has access to amazing technology. We can share intelligence and develop targets faster than ever, and our troops can use this information immediately. But, we cannot assume we will always have this advantage. We must keep investing in the tools our intelligence analysts need to give our troops the edge to win on the battlefield. Supporting cutting-edge digital mapping software in the Air Force's Geospatial Enterprise would provide one of these vital tools.

This year, the Air Force requested \$10.9 million for Combat Air Intelligence System Activities. Within that amount, \$4.6 million is requested for a project called "Geo-intelligence Information and Service Software", which provides Air Force personnel support from the software developer to create layered maps that combine multiple sources of intelligence. These maps have broad application within the Air Force: developing good unit-level

intelligence, allowing for just-in-time dissemination and targeting, and helping commanders make more timely and accurate decisions.

This Subcommittee knows very well the high cost and capabilities of Air Force aircraft. But, mission planning information is equally important. Increasingly sophisticated air defense systems are being deployed throughout the Middle East and Europe and challenge our supremacy in the air. Networked mapping data allows our forces to reduce risk to our pilots and combat aircraft.

While the Air Force is developing the requirements for the next phase of the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System, DCGS, this mapping software can fill a capability gap right now. This software would have an immediate impact on the capabilities of units like the Air Force Geospatial Production Cell at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, or the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

So I am asking you to closely evaluate the Air Force's budget request for "Geo-intelligence Information and Service Software". The Committee can provide a generic program funding increase of \$5 million for the competitive acquisition of commercial off-the-shelf software to enhance the Air Force's targeting and intelligence capability.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this with you today.