

**Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy, III (MA-04)**  
**March 15, 2016**

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our national security and for your continued oversight of the Department of Defense. As our nation's soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen defend our nation and her citizens, this subcommittee works day and night to ensure they are safer and more prepared than ever before.

My testimony today will focus on the importance of a critical modernization program for the U.S. Army called the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, also known as WIN-T, and why it is critical that we increase funding for the program in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

WIN-T provides soldiers with secure voice, video and data where there is no existing communications infrastructure. Carrying the Army's battle command, intelligence and operations communications, the WIN-T program is the Army's cornerstone mission command program. The WIN-T Increment 2 program builds on the capabilities of Increment 1 by making that mission command mobile.

In June 2015, after years of rigorous testing, the Department of Defense approved WIN-T Increment 2 for full-rate production. More importantly, the system has deployed in combat with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and earned positive reviews for its innovative capability and unwavering reliability. And as our men and women in uniform arrived in West Africa to confront the deadly Ebola virus, the system provided crucial coordination and seamless communication to the United States. Whether they are fighting our enemies, protecting our homeland or addressing a global public health crisis, our duty in Congress is to ensure our soldiers are ready and equipped for any circumstance or challenge – the WIN-T Increment 2 does exactly that.

Despite its proven success and the importance of the program, the Army's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request reflects a drastic reduction in funding. As recently as the FY2016 budget request, the Army had planned to spend \$417 million on WIN-T Increment 2 in Fiscal Year 2017. Yet the request for Fiscal Year 2017 is down to \$292 million, a troubling low for the program.

The Army's Fiscal Year 2017 request would procure only two division sets of WIN-T Increment 2 capability. The Army hopes to bring this program to a total of 106 units but at this point has only delivered it to 14 brigades and 6 divisions. Based on the requested funding level, it will take the Army two or three decades to provide WIN-T Increment 2 across the Army. We cannot wait that long to give our servicemembers the tools they need as they put their lives on the line to protect us.

Today I am requesting an increase of \$114 million for the WIN-T Increment 2 program, an amount that will allow the Army to procure two additional full brigade sets of the program. This would simply maintain current funding levels. The low Fiscal Year 2017 budget also would cause significant disruptions in the WIN-T production base and impact several suppliers across my district and state.

This subcommittee has strongly supported the WIN-T Increment 2 program in the past. The Fiscal Year 2017 request for the program is insufficient and adversely impacts soldier readiness. I strongly urge you to add \$114 million to the WIN-T Increment 2 program.

Thank you Mr. Chairman Ranking Member for allowing me to testify on behalf of a program that I believe will make a difference on for our troops in times of war and peace.