

The Honorable Paul Cook (CA-08)

Good morning Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Visclosky, and Members of the Defense Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning to testify on an issue important to our national security.

In today's Digital Age, our troops have access to more information than ever before. Intelligence can be sent into the field by radio, cell phone, e-mail, data link, or satellite. The problem becomes how our service members can organize and make use of this information before going into battle. Multiple communications devices and an increasing need for power to operate those devices are weighing down our troops and slowing down our missions. Centralizing all of this information and making it useable to the warfighter will mean shorter, safer, successful missions and more soldiers coming home alive.

The Army Geospatial Center is the office responsible for all geospatial intelligence mapping. They are creating standards, common across all Army platforms that will receive intelligence feeds, to create a single, standardized operating picture for a commander, free from conflicting information. With

one common overlay, a commander can spend more time making decisions and less time de-conflicting data.

An additional \$4 million is needed in fiscal year 2018 to finish development efforts and push this product into the field. These funds would provide necessary hardware, software, and personnel to complete this critical technology. This program can be found under “Army’s Technical Information Activities” in R-1, line 155. My request would bring the appropriation to a total of \$36.7 million.

Close air support, or a moving battalion of tanks can and re-shape the battlefield in a matter of minutes. It is essential that our intelligence tools provide one common picture to the commander and the soldiers in the field, allowing our troops to share intelligence in real time. This competitively-awarded program will provide the Army a tool that visualizes all critical intelligence in overlay and allows commanders to make informed decision before they send our troops into harm’s way.

I thank this subcommittee for its time, its hard work on this year’s appropriations bill, and for your consideration of my request to help protect our troops.