

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith and distinguished Members of the House Armed Services Committee: thank you for the invitation to testify before the committee regarding the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). While my schedule did not allow me to be there in person, I appreciate the opportunity to submit a written statement for the record.

An issue of great importance is the recapitalization of MQ-1s to the MQ-9. As you are aware, the Department of Defense (DoD) has yet to provide a comprehensive plan to recapitalize MQ-1 aircraft in the National Guard with MQ-9 aircraft. Beginning in 2015-2017, Air National Guard squadrons will begin to lose their mission capability simply because of a lack of MQ-1 aircraft that have been lost by attrition. Furthermore, the current recapitalization plan does not place proper emphasis on the importance of current MQ-1 Flying Training Units (FTUs) schoolhouses.

As part of the FY14 NDAA, the Committee should recommend that the Air Force prioritize the replacement of MQ-1s with MQ-9s at locations with an existing FTU schoolhouse, which would allow the Air Force to capitalize on existing infrastructure, trained personnel, instructor expertise, and save taxpayer money. In addition, the Air Force should submit a comprehensive recapitalization plan for the replacement of all National Guard MQ-1 aircraft with MQ-9 aircraft. The plan should include the criteria for beddown, including both the weight and scoring of said criteria that will be given to MQ-1 wings and squadrons with co-located FTU schoolhouse missions. The plan should be submitted to the Committee no later 90 days after enactment of the FY14 NDAA.

The Air National Guard executes global unmanned aerial systems, combat support, and humanitarian missions that greatly augment the Active Duty Component. We should ensure that we are capitalizing on existing infrastructure and expertise as we retire the MQ-1 and replace them with the MQ-9 within National Guard units.

Thank you.