

**Testimony of Congressman Ron DeSantis (FL-6)**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**House Armed Services Committee**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, Members of the House Armed Services Committee, thank you for having me here to testify today. I know this is a particularly busy period for this committee, and I appreciate your time.

I'm here to talk about the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye – which as you know is the Navy's carrier-based Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management Command and Control system. Variants of this aircraft have been serving our military well since the 1960's. The most advanced version – the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye – has now been cleared for full production.

The E-2D is equipped with new, cutting-edge communications capabilities and radar systems. These advancements will enable the E-2D to synthesize information from multiple onboard and off-board sensors to provide increased missile protection to our carrier defense groups, while also improving the aircraft's offensive capabilities; key capabilities in support of our combatant commands.

The E-2D program has met every major milestone on schedule since the program's inception in 2003. As the program moves forward, I urge you to support the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D in the President's FY14 budget.

FY14 is the first year of a planned five-year fixed-price multi-year procurement, which would provide the Navy with the full complement of 32 E-2D aircraft in the Program of Record over the next five years. Multi-year procurement will yield a 10% savings over annual single-year contracts – an expected savings of more than \$522 million over the length of the contract term.

This program is critical for our Navy and our military. As our friend, and E-2 pilot Rep. Bridenstine puts it:

“Given the threats to the strike groups, multiyear procurement of E2-D is absolutely necessary. The only question is, “Are we purchasing enough E-2Ds and missile interceptors to counter the high volumes of incoming missiles that our sailors and soldiers could face?”

Thank you for your consideration of support for the multi-year procurement of the E-2D. This procurement method will ensure that this vital aircraft is produced in a timely, and cost-effective way.

As an appendix to my submitted written testimony, I've attached a May 7<sup>th</sup> letter from myself, Rep. Bridenstine, Rep. Crenshaw, Rep. Mica, Rep. Brown, Rep. Posey, Rep. Rooney, Rep. Miller, Rep. Yoho and Rep. Diaz-Balart to Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith in support of the E-2D program.

The role technology plays in modern warfare can never be discounted, and the technological advances of the E-2D will ensure that our military maintains its critical edge. There are other ways we can and should maintain that edge.

I would also like to encourage the Department of Defense to examine the advantages of acquiring simulation capability using short term, fee for service contracting, thereby rewarding and expanding innovation and commercial-off-the shelf offerings.

Likewise, DoD should encourage common commercially-developed, commercially supported R&D investments by industry.

These common standards would reduce cost, eliminate duplicative government R&D, create a competitive industry base, ensure that simulation components can plug and play regardless of original equipment manufacturer and most importantly eliminate the long acquisition cycle.

Thank you again for having me here today, and thank you for all you do for our warfighters and our country.

APPENDIX

Letter to Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith from: Rep. Ron DeSantis, Rep. Ander Crenshaw, Rep. Jeff Miller, Rep. John Mica, Rep. Bill Posey, Rep. Thomas Rooney, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, Rep. Corrine Brown, Rep. Jim Bridenstine, Rep. Ted Yoho

RON DESANTIS  
6TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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May 7, 2013

The Honorable Buck McKeon  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

As you consider Fiscal Year 2014 authorizations for the Department of Defense, we request your support for the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program in the FY14 President's Budget. FY14 is the first year of a planned five-year fixed-price Multi-Year Procurement (MYP), which would provide the Navy with the full complement of 32 E-2D aircraft in the Program of Record and yield 10% savings over annual single-year contracts. The savings attributed to this MYP is estimated to be just over \$522 million. We represent constituents across the country who engineer, manufacture, maintain, and operate the E-2D system.

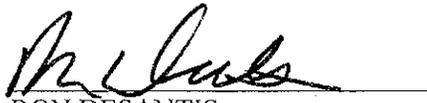
As you know, E-2D is the Navy's carrier-based Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2) system. The E-2D provides Theater Air and Missile Defense, synthesizing information from multiple onboard and off-board sensors, making complex tactical decisions, and disseminating actionable information to Joint Forces in a distributed, open-architecture environment. Using the newly-developed radar, the E-2D works with surface ships to provide force protection and allow the Navy to project forces into the littorals and overland to ensure access in contested areas.

The E-2D program, which is currently in development, has met every major milestone on schedule since the program's inception in 2003. Full funding for the E-2D ensures that the carrier air wings will fully realize the power and protection provided by this state-of-the art early warning and battle management command and control weapons system.

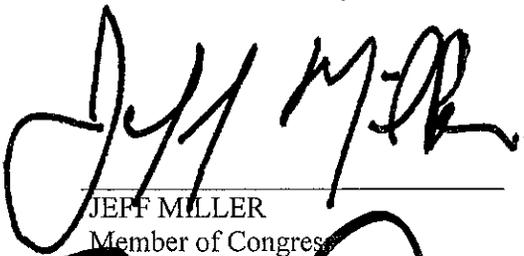
E-2D is a critical asset to our military. It provides thousands of manufacturing jobs and billions of dollars to communities nationwide. Your support for the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program included in the FY 14 President's Budget is essential to the start of the Navy's MYP, which is the most cost-effective and efficient way to provide the military with this critical airborne capability.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your support for our men and women in uniform.

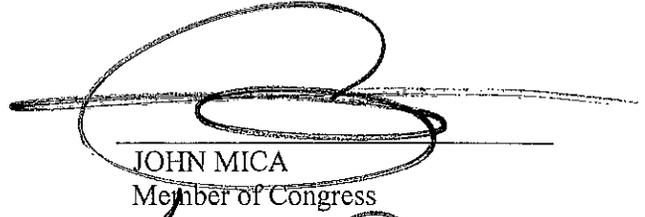
Sincerely,

  
RON DESANTIS  
Member of Congress

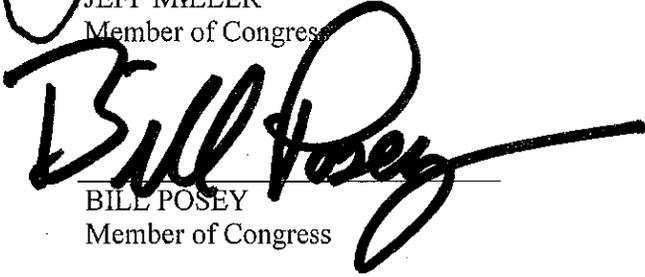
  
ANDER CRENSHAW  
Member of Congress



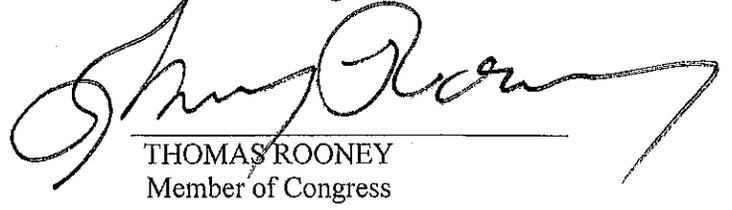
JEFF MILLER  
Member of Congress



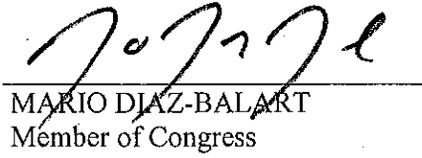
JOHN MICA  
Member of Congress



BILL POSEY  
Member of Congress



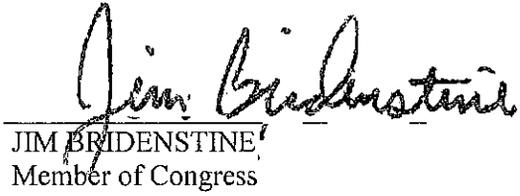
THOMAS ROONEY  
Member of Congress



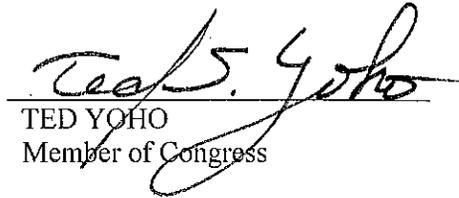
MARIO DIAZ-BALART  
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN  
Member of Congress



JIM BRIDENSTINE  
Member of Congress



TED YOHO  
Member of Congress