

Written Statement for the Record
Congressman Steve Chabot
FY15 HASC Testimony Submission
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Mr. Chairman, as you and the other Members of the House Armed Services Committee work to craft the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, I want to provide written testimony to convey my general support for several items.

Air Force Centers for the Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills (C-STARS). C-STARS offers a unique and invaluable experience to prepare our servicemen for the traumatic situations that unfortunately occur on the battlefield. I respectfully request that the Committee consider including the following language conveying general support for the program:

“(A) U.S. Air Force Centers for the Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills

The Committee continues to support the Air Force Centers for the sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills (C-STARS), a unique and valuable Air Force training program that trains members of the Air Force’s Critical Care Transport Teams (CCATT) to provide vital care during the transport of members of the armed services who are critically injured. During training, CCATT trainees have access to a one-of-a-kind, high-fidelity simulation training center, which provides the most realistic environment for training the men and women who treat critically injured service members as they are transported, often from conflict zones. The Air Force has designated three national C-STARS Centers, which are each valuable and offer unique collaboration among the centers in developing specialized training programs. Particularly, the Committee recognizes the groundbreaking research and specialized training focused on the en route care of critically injured servicemen and women and encourages continued investments in this area.”

Comprehensive Subcontracting Plan

With the enactment of P.L. 101-189, Congress agreed to streamline the subcontractor acquisition process and authorized a test program to allow subcontracting plans to be negotiated at the corporate or division-wide level. This program, known as the Comprehensive Subcontracting Plan (CSP), has been extended eight times and administered for more than 23 years.

While a more recent study on the efficacy of this program has yet to be reported by the Department of Defense, the data that we do have demonstrates that this plan has benefited all those involved, particularly small subcontractors, the Department of Defense, and American taxpayers.

An independent review of this program, completed in 2007, recommended the program be made permanent, stating, “[CSP] has successfully met its goal of increasing subcontracting opportunities for small business concerns while reducing the

administrative burden (for both large prime contractors and DoD) and, therefore, should be made permanent.”¹

Currently, there is an ongoing debate about the future of this program, and whether small businesses and subcontractors would be better served by discontinuing it.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Small Business, I am concerned that discontinuing the CSP without a better understanding of its impact on small businesses could yield unintended results for small subcontractors. Furthermore, I feel that a decision to end this program without adequate data to justify such an action would be an irresponsible approach to policy making.

I respectfully request that the Committee consider extending the CSP until a more recent study measuring its efficacy can be produced by either the Department of Defense or the Government Accountability Office. Such a study should seek to identify:

- (1) Whether the CSP is more effective than other existing subcontracting programs in developing small businesses that support the defense industrial base;
- (2) The effect that the CSP has had on job creation among small businesses since its implementation; and
- (3) The impact that suddenly eliminating this program without a clear pathway forward would have on small businesses currently participating in the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony for the record, and for all the work that this committee undertakes in order to serve our warfighters and our country.

¹ Jackson, Clyde P., Jr., Janet Koch, and John B. Jennings. *Review of the Department of*