

Statement for the Record
House Armed Services Committee, April 9, 2014
Congressman Stephen Fincher

Mr. Chairman, I want you to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today regarding Milan Army Ammunition Plant (Milan AAP), located in Tennessee's 8th Congressional district. The Milan AAP went into operation in 1941 and has been a rich part of the history of Milan and the surrounding communities that call West Tennessee home. Many families have seen multiple generations work at the Milan AAP and serve their country.

The families in Milan and the surrounding communities have tremendous interest in saving and bringing more business and opportunities to the Milan AAP. In fact, there have been over 2,000 letters to the Army, American Ordinance, and elected officials along with a petition signed by approximately 3,000 people to save the Milan APP. I have personally toured the arsenal and met many of the employees. I continue to pledge my support to the community to work with the Army to bring opportunities to Milan AAP. This is too important an issue to my district and one I take very seriously.

It is simple for me, the move by American Ordinance of the ammunition production jobs from Milan AAP to Iowa AAP resulted in the loss of approximately 600 direct jobs and an estimated 2,000 jobs in the surrounding communities. As you are aware, this move has had a devastating economic impact to Northwest Tennessee.

I fully support the actions this Committee has taken by directing the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology as well as the Joint Munitions Command to study and report to the defense committees on improvements to the ARMS program, which Milan AAP is a member. I am looking forward to that report being completed and seeing what recommendations to the ARMS program the Army believes will improve opportunities for new jobs at Milan AAP.

I urge this Committee to wait for the ARMS report and to evaluate the recommendations in order to maximize the opportunities at Milan AAP.