

**Testimony of Rep. Bill Posey (FL-08)**  
**House Armed Services Committee**  
**April 9, 2014**

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I appreciate the work you do in crafting the National Defense Authorization Act. This is no small task, and your work is crucial in ensuring the national security of the United States, which is by far the most important Constitutional responsibility of the federal government.

In addition to this testimony, I also submit a letter outlining priorities I believe are worthy of your consideration. Please allow me to highlight a few of these for you today.

First, I would like to thank the Committee for recognizing the “national importance of having a safe, secure, reliable, and modern space launch range infrastructure to support the national security space mission” in the FY2014 NDAA. Last year I testified on the importance of urging the Air Force to take steps to ensure that the Range Communications Building—also known as the “XY” Building”—at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station is in sufficient shape to support our nation’s space launches. The deplorable condition of this building—with its structural problems, flooding issues, and outdated vacuum tube technology—must be addressed. I understand the Air Force rates this as the number one current mission MILCON priority for FY2013-2016. Please continue to urge the Air Force to prioritize resources, as appropriate, to modernize this vital launch infrastructure.

Second, I would ask the Committee to include in the NDAA a common sense provision that passed the House last year on a voice vote as part of an “en bloc” amendment relating to Space Available military transport. Unfortunately, this provision did not make it through the Senate or the conference process. The provision simply allows nonprofit organizations to ship

items to U.S. service members serving overseas on a space available basis. A similar policy is in place for sending cargo to foreigners under the Denton program. This provision, previously adopted by the House, gives the Secretary of the Defense the authority to do this for our own troops.

Next, I understand that there may be requests to the Committee that would require the Army to execute FY2014 appropriated funds for an additional non-competitive procurement for the Army's Joint Tactical Radio Handheld, Manpack, and Small Form Fit program (JTRS HMS). Without getting too technical, I would urge the Committee to instead continue the successful approach of the last few years and promote competition in the procurement process. Competition saves money in this case and drives competition. Sole source does neither.

In closing, I would ask the Committee to support the Army's network modernization with the Small Airborne Networking Radio (SANR) program; the continuation of a successful J-STARS fleet with the T-3 test aircraft; and proper utilization of the Kiowa Warrior in its last years of availability for the warfighter, including upgrades to ensure that if called into action our troops would have the best equipment possible.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.