H.R. 1735—FY16 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

SUMMARY OF BILL LANGUAGE

Table Of Contents

Section 1624—Limitation on Availability of Funds for Distributed Common Ground System of the Army

---

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE B—ARMY PROGRAMS

Section 111—Limitation on Availability of Funds for AN/TPQ-53 Radar Systems

This section would limit the obligation or expenditure of 25 percent of the funds for AN/TPQ-53 radar systems until 30 days after the date on which the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology submits to the congressional defense committees a review of the current delegation of acquisition authority to the Program Executive Officer for Missiles and Space.

Section 112—Prioritization of Upgraded UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters within Army National Guard

This section would require the Chief, National Guard Bureau to issue guidance within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that prioritizes UH-60 helicopter upgrades within the Army National Guard to those units with the highest flight hour aircraft and highest utilization rates. This section would also require the Chief to submit a report to the congressional defense committees within 30 days after issuing such guidance, that describes such guidance.

Section 113—Report on Options to Accelerate Replacement of UH-60A Blackhawk Helicopters of Army National Guard

This section would require the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, containing detailed options for the potential acceleration of the replacement of all UH-60A helicopters of the Army National Guard.

SUBTITLE E—DEFENSE-WIDE, JOINT, AND MULTISERVICE MATTERS

Section 141—Limitation on Availability of Funds for Joint Battle Command-Platform

This section would require the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to submit a report by March 1, 2016, to the congressional defense committees that addresses the effectiveness, suitability, and survivability shortfalls of the joint battle command–platform equipment identified by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in the Director's fiscal year 2014 annual report to Congress. This section would further limit the obligation or expenditure of 25 percent of the funds for the joint battle command–platform until 30 days after the Assistant Secretary submits such a report.

Section 144—Report on Use of Different Types of Enhanced 5.56mm Ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, regarding the current use of two different types of 5.56mm ammunition in combat by the Army and the Marine Corps. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) an explanation of the reasons for the Army and the Marine Corps current use of different 5.56mm combat ammunition; (2) an explanation of the appropriateness, effectiveness, and suitability issues that may arise from the use of these two types of ammunition; (3) an explanation of any additional costs that have resulted from the use of two different types of 5.56 combat ammunition by the two services, if any; (4) an explanation of the future plans, if any, of the Army or the Marine Corps to eventually transition back to using one standard 5.56 mm combat ammunition round; and (5) if no such plans exists, an analysis of the potential benefits of a transition back to a common 5.56mm combat round in the future, including how long such a transition may take to occur.

The committee understands that the Army and the Marine Corps have proceeded on different paths to upgrade 5.56mm ammunition in terms of both soft tissue damage and penetration of certain hard materials. As a result, the Army and the Marine Corps currently use different 5.56mm ammunition in combat, with the Army using the M855A1 round and the Marine Corps using the Mk318 Mod 0 round. The committee notes that the military services appear to have different requirements and a different perspective on the utility of the two rounds. As a result, the small arms ammunition logistics system has to maintain two separate, incompatible inventories of 5.56mm ammunition. In addition, the committee believes there may be additional costs to the Department of Defense in procuring two types of ammunition rather than just one, which it had been doing before 2009. While the current inventory levels of the two rounds is substantial, with the Marine Corps having more than two million in stock, this section is intended to encourage the Department to develop a plan to get back to one standard 5.56mm combat round.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE B—PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS

Section 213—Limitation on Availability of Funds for F-15 Infrared Search and Track Capability Development

This section would limit the obligation or expenditure of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Air Force, for F-15 infrared search and track capability to not more than 50 percent until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits a report to the congressional defense committees. This section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit such report not later than March 1, 2016, detailing the requirements and cost estimates for the development and procurement of infrared search and track capability for F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft of the Navy and the Air Force. The report would include: a comparison of the requirements between the F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft infrared search and track development efforts of the Navy and the Air Force; an explanation of any differences between the F/A-18 and F-15 infrared search and track capability development efforts of the Navy and the Air Force; a summary of the schedules and required funding to develop and field such a capability; an explanation of any need for the Navy and the Air Force to field different F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft search and track systems; and any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

Section 214—Independent Assessment of F135 Engine Program

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract with a federally-funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the F135 engine program and to submit a report containing such assessment by March 16, 2016. The assessment would include an assessment of the reliability, growth, and cost reduction efforts with respect to the F135 engine program, including a detailed description of the reliability and cost history of the engine, the identification of key reliability and cost challenges to the program as of the date of the assessment, and the identification of any potential options for addressing such challenges. Additionally, the assessment would include a thorough assessment of the F135 engine failure and subsequent fire on June 23, 2014, including the identification and definition of the root cause of the incident, the identification of potential actions or design changes needed to address such root cause, and the associated cost, schedule, and performance implications of such incident to both the F135 engine program and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program. The federally-funded research and development center selected to carry out the assessment would do so by analyzing data collected by the F-35 Joint Program Office, other elements of the Federal Government or contractors, and the conduct of such assessment would not affect the Secretary's plans to dispose of the aircraft involved.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER MATTERS

Section 224—Comptroller General Review of Autonomic Logistics Information System for F–35 Lightening II Aircraft

This section would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an analysis of the autonomic logistics information system (ALIS) element of the F-35 program, and to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by April 1, 2016 on the analysis. The committee intends this review to address issues of performance, cost, and suitability with ALIS software that will inform committee action on the F-35 program in the future. The committee supports the F-35 Lightening II aircraft program as a critical component required to maintain future air superiority and global strike capability. The committee also notes that the F-35 Joint Program Office and the prime contractor have taken steps to address maintainability and reliability issues with the F-35 that have the potential to significantly improve performance in those areas.

However, the committee is concerned that continued problems with the performance of the ALIS element of the F-35 program may put the program at significant risk of cost increases and performance shortfalls. The committee notes that section 218 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) required the Department of Defense to conduct an independent detailed review of F-35 software, including the ALIS system, and that the subsequent report highlighted the potential risks that challenges with the ALIS program could create. The committee further notes that as part of oversight visits to facilities where F-35 is being operated, the committee received numerous complaints and concerns by F-35 maintenance and operational personnel regarding the limitations, poor performance, poor design, and overall unsuitability of the ALIS software in its current form. Finally, in testimony provided by Department of Defense officials at a hearing before the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces on April 14, 2015, that Government witnesses confirmed the same problems observed by members at field locations.

TITLE VIII—ACQUISITION POLICY, ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT, AND RELATED MATTERS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE E—OTHER MATTERS

Section 850—Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment

This section would ensure the Secretary of Defense uses best value contracting methods to the maximum extent practicable when procuring an item of personal protective equipment.

TITLE XV—AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE D—LIMITATIONS, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Section 1542—Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund

This section would authorize various transfer authorities, reporting requirements, and other associated activities for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Defeat Fund, as managed by the Joint IED Defeat Organization, or director of the successor defense agency to the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, during fiscal year 2016. This section would also modify the implementation requirements associated with the plan for consolidation and alignment of rapid acquisition organizations required to be developed by section 1533(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). Finally, this section would repeal the prohibition in section 1533(d) of Public Law 113-291 on the use of fiscal year 2015 funds for the Joint IED Defeat Fund to assign personnel or contractors to combatant commands or associated military components under certain circumstances.

TITLE XVI—STRATEGIC PROGRAMS, CYBER, AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE B—DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AND INTELLIGENCE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Section 1624—Limitation on Availability of Funds for Distributed Common Ground System of the Army

This section would limit the availability of funds for the Army's Distributed Common Ground System to 75 percent of the funds authorized to be obligated by the program until the Secretary of the Army conducts a review of the program planning and submits the findings of such review to the congressional defense committees and the congressional intelligence committees.

BILL LANGUAGE

Subtitle B—Army Programs

SEC. 111.[Log 60116] LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR AN/TPQ–53 RADAR SYSTEMS.

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for AN/TPQ–53 radar systems, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics submits to the congressional defense committees the review under subsection (b).

(b) REVIEW.—The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall—

(1) review the appropriateness of the current delegation of milestone decision authority for the AN/TPQ–53 radar program to the Program Executive Officer for Missiles and Space; and

(2) submit to the congressional defense committees such review.

SEC. 112.[Log 60120] PRIORITIZATION OF UPGRADED UH-60 BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS WITHIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

(a) PRIORITIZATION OF UPGRADES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall issue guidance regarding the fielding of upgraded UH–60 Blackhawk helicopters to units of the Army National Guard. Such guidance shall prioritize for such fielding the units of the Army National Guard with assigned UH–60 helicopters that have the most flight hours and the highest annual usage rates within the UH–60 fleet of the Army National Guard, consistent with the force generation unit readiness requirements of the Army.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after which the Chief of the National Guard Bureau issues the guidance under subsection (a), the Chief shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that details such guidance.

SEC. 113.[Log 60117] REPORT ON OPTIONS TO ACCELERATE REPLACEMENT OF UH–60A BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS OF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing detailed options for the potential acceleration of the replacement of all UH–60A helicopters of the Army National Guard by not later than September 30, 2020. The report shall include the following:

(1) The additional funding and quantities required, listed by each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020, for H–60M production, UH–60A-to-L RECAP, and UH-60L-to-V RECAP that is necessary to achieve such replacement of all UH-60A helicopters by September 30, 2020.

(2) Any industrial base limitations that may affect such acceleration, including with respect to the production schedules for the other variants of the UH–60 helicopter.

(3) The potential effects of such acceleration on the planned replacement of all UH–60A helicopters of the regular components of the Armed Forces by September 30, 2025.

(4) Identification of any additional funding or resources required to train members of the National Guard to operate and maintain UH–60M aircraft in

order to achieve such replacement of all UH-60A helicopters by September 30, 2020.

(5) Any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

Subtitle E—Defense-wide, Joint, and Multiservice Matters

SEC. 141.[Log 60115] LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR JOINT BATTLE COMMAND–PLATFORM.

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for joint battle command–platform equipment, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics submits to the congressional defense committees the report under subsection (b).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that provides a detailed test and evaluation plan to address the effectiveness, suitability, and survivability shortfalls of the joint battle command–platform identified by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in the fiscal year 2014 report of the Director submitted to Congress.

SEC. 144.[Log 60079] REPORT ON USE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENHANCED 5.56 MM AMMUNITION BY THE ARMY AND THE MARINE CORPS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the use in combat of two different types of enhanced 5.56 mm ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An explanation of the reasons for the Army and the Marine Corps to use in combat two different types of enhanced 5.56 mm ammunition.

(2) An explanation of the appropriateness, effectiveness, and suitability issues that may arise from the use of such different types of ammunition.

(3) An explanation of any additional costs that have resulted from the use of such different types of ammunition.

(4) An explanation of any future plans of the Army or the Marine Corps to eventually transition to using in combat one standard type of enhanced 5.56 mm ammunition.

(5) If there are no plans described in paragraph (4), an analysis of the potential benefits of a transi-

tion described in such paragraph, including the timeline for such a transition to occur.

(6) Any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 213.[Log 60119] LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR F–15 INFRARED SEARCH AND TRACK CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Air Force, for F–15 infrared search and track capability, not more than 50 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the report under subsection (b).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements and cost estimates for the development and procurement of infrared search and track capability for F/A–18 and F–15 aircraft of the Navy and the Air Force. The report shall include the following:

(1) A comparison of the requirements between the F/A–18 and F–15 aircraft infrared search and track development efforts of the Navy and the Air Force.

(2) An explanation of any differences between the F/A–18 and F–15 aircraft infrared search and

track capability development efforts of the Navy and the Air Force.

(3) A summary of the schedules and required funding to develop and field such capability.

(4) An explanation of any need for the Navy and the Air Force to field different F/A–18 and F–15 aircraft infrared search and track systems.

(5) Any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 214.[Log 59748] INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF F135 ENGINE PROGRAM.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the F135 engine program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the reliability, growth, and cost reduction efforts with respect to the F135 engine program, including—

(A) a detailed description of the reliability and cost history of the engine;

(B) the identification of key reliability and cost challenges to the program as of the date of the assessment; and

(C) the identification of any potential options for addressing such challenges.

(2) In accordance with subsection (c), a thorough assessment of the incident on June 23, 2014, consisting of an F135 engine failure and subsequent fire, including—

(A) the identification and definition of the root cause of the incident;

(B) the identification of potential actions or design changes needed to address such root cause; and

(C) the associated cost, schedule, and performance implications of such incident to both the F135 engine program and the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

(c) CONDUCT OF ASSESSMENT.—The federally funded research and development center selected to conduct the assessment under subsection (a) shall carry out subsection (b)(2) by analyzing data collected by the F–35 Joint Program Office, other elements of the Federal Government, or contractors. Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting the plans of the Secretary to dispose of the aircraft involved in the incident described in such subsection (b)(2).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than March 15, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 224.[Log 60938] COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF AUTONOMIC LOGISTICS INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR F–35 LIGHTENING II AIRCRAFT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the autonomic logistics information system for the F–35 Lightening II aircraft program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The fielding status, in terms of units equipped with various software and hardware configurations, for the autonomic logistics information system element of the F–35 Lightening II aircraft program, as of the date of the report.

(2) The development schedule for upgrades to the autonomic logistics information system, and an assessment of the ability of the F–35 Lightening II aircraft program to maintain such schedule.

(3) The views of maintenance personnel and other personnel involved in operating and maintaining F–35 Lightening II aircraft in testing and operational units.

(4) The effect of the autonomic logistics information system program on the operational availability of the F–35 Lightening II aircraft program.

(5) Improvements, if any, regarding the time required for maintenance personnel to input data and use the autonomic logistics information system.

(6) The ability of the autonomic logistics information system to be deployed on both ships and to forward land-based locations, including any limitations of such a deployable version.

(7) The cost estimates for development and fielding of the autonomic logistics information system program and an assessment of the capability of the program to address performance problems within the planned resources.

(8) Other matters regarding the autonomic logistics information system that the Comptroller General determines of critical importance to the long-term viability of the system.

SEC. 850. [Log 59753] PROCUREMENT OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall use best value tradeoff source selection methods to the maximum extent practicable when procuring an item of personal protective equipment or critical safety items.

(b) PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''personal protective equipment'' includes the following:

(1) Body armor components.

(2) Combat helmets.

(3) Combat protective eyewear.

(4) Environmental and fire resistant clothing.

(5) Footwear.

(6) Organizational clothing and individual equipment.

(7) Other critical safety items as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

SEC. 1542 [Log 59750]. JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND.

(a) USE AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Subsections (b) and (c) of section 1514 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2439), as in effect before the amendments made by section 1503 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4649), but as modified by section 1533(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3615), shall apply to the funds made available for fiscal year 2016—

(1) to the Department of Defense for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund; or

(2) to the Director of the successor defense agency to the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

(b) EXTENSION OF INTERDICTION OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PRECURSOR CHEMICALS AUTHORITY.—Section 1532(c)(4) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2057), as most recently amended by section 1533(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3616),

is amended by striking ''December 31, 2015'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

(c) REPEAL OF TIMELINE REQUIREMENT FOR CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDING SOURCES FOR RAPID ACQUISITION ORGANIZATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section 1533(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3615) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.—The plan required by this subsection shall include a timeline for implementation of the consolidation and alignment decisions contained in the plan.''.

(d) REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Subsection (d) of section 1533 of the National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3616) is repealed.

(e) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 1533(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3615) is amended by striking ''as amended by subsection (b)'' and inserting ''as modified by subsection (b)''.

SEC. 1624.[Log 59835] LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND SYSTEM OF THE ARMY.

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Army, for the distributed common ground system of the Army, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of the Army—

(1) conducts a review of the program planning for the distributed common ground system of the Army; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees the report under subsection (b)(1).

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the review of the distributed common ground system of the Army conducted under subsection (a)(1).

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A review of the segmentation of the distributed common ground system program of the Army into discrete software components with the associated requirements of each component.

(B) Identification of each component of Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army for which commercial software exists that is capable of fulfilling most or all of the system requirements for each such component.

(C) A cost analysis of each such commercial software that compares performance with projected cost.

(D) Validation of the degree to which commercial software solutions are compliant with the standards required by the framework and guidance for the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise, the Defense Intelligence Information Enterprise, and the Joint Information Environment.

(E) Identification of each component of Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army that the Secretary determines may be acquired through competitive means.

(F) An acquisition plan that prioritizes the acquisition of commercial software components, including a data integration layer, in time to meet the projected deployment schedule for In-

crement 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army.

(G) A review of the timetable for the distributed common ground system program of the Army in order to determine whether there is a practical, executable acquisition strategy, including the use of operational capability demonstrations, that could lead to an initial operating capability of Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army prior to fiscal year 2017.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

DIRECTIVE REPORT LANGUAGE

Table Of Contents

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

Items of Special Interest

Armed aerial scout rotorcraft

The committee understands the Army has an enduring requirement for an Armed Aerial Scout (AAS) platform. Additionally, the committee is aware that the Army's decision to utilize AH-64 Apache Attack helicopters in conjunction with current unmanned aerial systems was a recommended course of action from the official AAS Analyses of Alternatives. In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the committee directed the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on the Army's interim Apache scout implementation plan, as well as the concept for the follow-on plan to replace this interim solution. Based on the information provided to it, the committee continues to have concerns regarding the Army's long-term strategy to address the AAS requirement.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services by February 15, 2016, on the conclusions and recommendations of the AAS Analysis of Alternatives. The committee also expects this briefing to address and examine any joint multirole technologies that could be implemented as part of an AAS platform. The committee notes that the Joint Multirole Technology Demonstration program is currently informing the Army's ability to implement potential technologies in Future Vertical Lift aircraft.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

Items of Special Interest

M240 production and industrial base sustainment

The budget request included $1.4 million for M240 medium machine gun modifications.

The committee is concerned that the budget request for the M240 medium machine gun does not provide adequate resources to maintain the capability of the industrial base workforce. The committee notes the M240 medium machine gun inventory is aging significantly. Consistent with previous committee activity regarding the need for small arms modernization, the committee encourages a general top-line increase for the M240 medium machine program across the Future Years Defense Program in order to sustain the U.S. small arms industrial base, as well as to ensure continued optimal M240 production for the military services.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the Army's long-term sustainment strategy and life-cycle sustainment plans for the M240 medium machine gun.

The committee recommends $1.4 million, the full amount requested, for M240 medium machine gun modifications.

Small arms production industrial base

The committee recognizes that a robust and viable small arms production industrial base (SAPIB) is essential to the long-term sustainment of reliable and capable sources that can develop, produce, and maintain military performance specifications for small arms parts and components, as well as to maintain competitively priced small arms property and services for use by the military services. In the interest of full and open competition, the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) repealed section 2473 of title 10, United States Code, which had required the Department of Defense to only procure certain small arms repair parts and components from a limited number of industry sources that the Department had identified as comprising the SAPIB.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the senior military services acquisition executives, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the current state of the SAPIB, as well as on the effect the repeal is having on the current SAPIB.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

Items of Special Interest

Cost assessment of decommissioning lead-based ammunition and associated components

The committee is concerned about the potential impact the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601–2629) could have on military ammunition and associated components containing lead components. Specifically, the committee notes that the Toxic Substances Control Act could potentially be used to ban conventional lead-based ammunition which would result in significant increases in the price of conventional ammunition for both ammunition manufacturers and the Department of Defense. The committee is aware that the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are now procuring enhanced performance non-lead based 5.56mm and 7.62mm small caliber rounds, which provide better performance against soft and hard targets than lead rounds. However, the committee notes that the other military services still continue to use lead-based small caliber rounds. Additionally, the committee notes that other categories of conventional ammunition beyond small caliber ammunition contain significant amounts of lead-based components and that

implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act to ban lead-based ammunition could have a much broader effect across the ammunition enterprise beyond small caliber rounds.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a cost assessment to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, that details the costs associated with decommissioning lead-based ammunition. The cost assessment should consider all Class V supply items, ammunition of all types, fuses, detonators, pyrotechnics, propellants, and associated component items to include primers.

Joint Hydra 70 guided rocket acquisition strategy

The committee understands that the Hydra 70 rocket is comprised of an unguided rocket system with an M151 fragmentation warhead and is categorized as an area weapon because once launched, the weapon impacts in the general direction that it is fired. The committee also understands that the Navy and the Marine Corps have been procuring and fielding the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) since 2012. The APKWS adds a precision guided system component to the existing unguided Hydra rocket system, which provides a low-cost, low-yield precision guided kill capability against soft to lightly armored and hardened targets.

The committee is aware the Joint Requirements Oversight Council has recently re-validated the Army Operational Requirements Document for the APKWS, and notes that there is also a validated Army operational needs statement (ONS) for additional APKWS for use in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee understands the Army plans to leverage the Navy APKWS contract to procure Army APKWS rockets to address the ONS. The committee commends the Army for taking the necessary actions to rapidly field this capability to address an immediate warfighter need; however, the committee remains concerned over the absence of a long-term acquisition strategy for guided Hydra rockets. The committee is also concerned by the Department of Defense's perceived inability to field more capable warhead technology with greater lethality that could be used on these precision guided rocket systems. The committee is aware that such warheads exist and are in current inventory.

The committee directs the Secretary of Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the Department of Defense's near- and long-term acquisition and fielding strategies for precision guided rockets and warhead technology.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

Items of Special Interest

Mine resistant ambush protected family of vehicles enduring requirement

The committee commends the military services for retaining the most capable mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles to meet military operational and training needs, as well as standardizing the fleet to improve long-term sustainment. The committee notes that approximately 8,000 excess MRAP vehicles will first be offered to other U.S. Government entities and then to potential Foreign Military Sales (FMS) or excess defense article (EDA) customers. The committee understands that if there are no U.S. Government, FMS, or EDA claimants, the vehicles will follow approved disposition procedures for demilitarization.

In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the Chief of Staff of the Army was directed to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on the advisability and feasibility of reusing MRAP vehicles as part of current mobile command post modernization strategies. The committee received the briefing and remains interested in the extent to which the Department of Defense has considered options for reuse of MRAP vehicles. The committee notes there could be emerging requirements for MRAP vehicles, such as fulfilling the requirement for Key Leader vehicles, as well as Command and Control vehicles, that may not have been fully considered as part of the broader context for the Department's long-term tactical wheeled vehicle modernization strategy. The committee also notes that since the Department's decision to finalize the enduring requirement for MRAP vehicles 2 years ago, the military services currently face a significantly worse global threat environment.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the following:

(1) The current and planned disposition of MRAP vehicles across the military services' inventory;

(2) Current mission requirements for MRAP vehicles, to include the status of the mobile command post requirement;

(3) The current guidance relative to the prioritization system used for handling excess MRAP vehicles based on threat and national interest; and

(4) A discussion of the relative threat environment, and whether the current threat environment would require a new review of the current enduring MRAP vehicle requirements.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

Items of Special Interest

MH-60R and MH-60S service life extension plans

The budget request contained $995.2 million for procurement of MH-60S and MH-60R helicopters.

The committee notes that production of new MH-60S helicopters will end in fiscal year 2015 and that production of new MH-60R helicopters will end in fiscal year 2018. The committee also notes that the long timeline for the future vertical lift program will likely require a service life extension program (SLEP) for the MH-60S and MH-60R fleets in order to keep the required number of aircraft in service. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, that includes a detailed layout of the timeline and funding for a potential SLEP program that maintains enough aircraft to meet requirements through fiscal year 2030 or beyond for the MH-60S and MH-60R helicopter fleets.

The committee recommends $995.2 million, the full amount requested, for the MH-60S and MH-60R helicopters.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

Items of Special Interest

Joint surveillance and target attack system sustainment report

The E-8C aircraft was developed for ground surveillance, targeting, and battle management. Air battle managers onboard the E-8C joint surveillance target attack radar system (JSTARS) aircraft use its wide-area ground surveillance radar to build situation awareness and identify targets which are passed to strike assets or cross-cued with other intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms.

The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force plans a JSTARS recapitalization program which would replace the aging E-8C aircraft with a modern, more efficient, and capable aircraft and mission systems, with an initial operational capability of 2023 and a full operational capability in subsequent years. Until the JSTARS replacement aircraft attains full operational capability, the committee believes that the current E-8C JSTARS aircraft will require a modest amount of sustainment funding, especially to address the issue of diminishing manufacturing sources.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by February 15, 2016, which describes all actions required to avoid degradation to the performance of the E-8C radar and fleet, each upgrade required to meet minimum warfighter requirements for combat operations and to pace evolving threats during this period, and the Secretary's plan, schedule and budgets to accomplish this objective between fiscal years 2016 and the time that the JSTARS replacement aircraft achieves full operational capability.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, ARMY

Items of Special Interest

Active protection system

The budget request contained $55.4 million in PE 63005A for combat vehicle and automotive advance technology, which includes funding for Active Protection System (APS) research and development.

The committee is encouraged that funding for APS research and development was included in the fiscal year 2016 budget request. In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-102) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, the committee noted that a lack of investment could soon create a critical capability gap for Army combat vehicles due to the rapid proliferation of advanced anti-tank guided missiles and next-generation rocket propelled grenades. The committee notes that there are numerous types of APS available, including some that have already been fielded on operational vehicles in other countries and have performed well in recent demonstrations. It is crucial the Army keeps momentum going in this important effort; therefore, the committee encourages the Army to establish a program of record to ensure APS is integrated into the Army's combat and tactical vehicle platforms as soon as practicable based on technology development and funding. In addition, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 31, 2016, that includes a description of all currently planned and budgeted activities that are related to active protection systems.

The committee recommends $55.4 million, the full amount requested, in PE 63005A for combat vehicle and automotive advance technology.

Ballistic Resistant Adaptive Seating System

The committee understands current helicopter seating systems (HSS) were designed for primarily limited duration missions and focused solely on mitigating injuries from hard landings. The current seating system design did not consider other areas of concern that could impact the warfighter, such as increases in flight duration, the long-term effects of poor ergonomics, whole body vibration, as well as changes in pilot demographics, to include omitting female pilot anthropomorphic data. The committee understands the Department of Defense and the Army are studying current HSS designs and have identified a need to improve current systems. The committee is aware the Joint Aircraft Survivability Program Office, the U.S. Army Aviation Development Directorate–Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, and industry are now focusing on identifying, developing, and optimizing new technologies in order to mitigate or eliminate deficiencies in current HSS performance. The committee believes the Department should develop ways to accelerate this technology, which could provide increases in force protection, survivability, as well as eliminate long-term disability that is common in rotary wing aviators. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a

briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 15, 2016, on any plans for the potential improvement of the HSS.

Indirect Fire Protection Capability

The committee notes that the Army is planning on integrating only a single missile as part of the Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) Increment 2 Block 1 program. The committee is concerned by the lack of funding to assess the suitability of other interceptors known to have significant capability to address rocket, artillery, and mortar threats, as well as other threat classes, to demonstrate the Multi-Mission Launcher can perform multiple missions.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 15, 2016, the Alternate Interceptor Trade Study that was directed by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology in 2014. In addition, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 15, 2016, that details the Army's plan and an estimate of required funding to potentially demonstrate and integrate alternate interceptors on the Multi-Mission Launcher before milestone B of the IFPC Increment 2 Block 1 program.

Rotorcraft Degraded Visual Environment

The committee notes that the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (division C of Public Law 113-235) appropriated an increase of $20.0 million above the budget request for the development or procurement of a Degraded Visual Environment (DVE) system for rotorcraft programs. The committee is aware of the Army's challenge of operating rotary winged aircraft in austere environmental conditions, including brown-out landings and marginal weather while operating in difficult terrain. The committee also believes that the Army's Medical Evacuation, Utility, and Cargo platforms face unique challenges operating in environments that levy significant risks to aircraft and crew members. However, the committee is concerned that the progress for pursuing these critical safety enhancements for rotorcraft programs is taking too long.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by August 31, 2015, that includes an update on the Army's plans to test and evaluate DVE sensors and provide a potential funding profile and fielding plan of a DVE system.

Simplified Army Radio Network

The committee notes that modernizing the tactical network remains a top priority for the Army, and that ease of use will be critical to the success of the deployed tactical network. The committee understands that feedback from deployed capability sets emphasizes the need to simplify tactical communications systems

and make them easier for soldiers to operate with minimal training or intervention by industry or civilian field-support representatives. The committee supports the Army's drive to simplify the network and the goals of Force 2025, including efforts already underway to improve waveform configuration, loading, and unit-task reorganization. However, the plan to achieve the goals that the Army has set with regard to improving the network remains unclear.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by July 30, 2015, on the Army's current plan to enhance and simplify the network in order to meet the goals of the Simplified Tactical Army Reliable Network, including key milestones and the resources needed.

Ultra-light combat tactical vehicle test and evaluation

The committee understands the Army is proceeding forward to address the infantry brigade tactical mobility gap in accordance with a three-phased plan outlined in the operational need statement (ONS) submitted by the 82nd Airborne Division and endorsed by 18th Airborne Corps and the U.S. Army Forces Command. The committee notes the ONS outlined immediate, interim, and long-term solutions to address this urgent capability gap for light infantry units.

The committee understands the immediate solution allows the 82nd Airborne Division to retain a tactical mobility set of high mobility, multi-purpose wheeled vehicles. The interim solution is the procurement of a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) set of vehicles, and the long-term solution is the development of a programmatic solution through the traditional Army acquisition process. The committee is aware that the Army has addressed the immediate solution and has now authorized the interim COTS solution with the procurement of 33 ultra-light tactical vehicles in order to allow the execution of a proof-of-principle concept. The committee understands that additional vehicle procurement is contingent on the results from testing conducted by the 82nd Airborne Division.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the test results for the proof-of-principle for the interim solution. Should the test results prove favorable, the committee expects the briefing to provide details of the funding profile and acquisition strategy for the rapid acquisition and fielding of this interim solution, as well as the acquisition strategy for the proposed long-term solution.

Vehicle occupant protection technology development

The committee is aware of the development of technology to detect and autonomously respond in real time to vehicle underbody explosive incidents with an active response to counter vehicle flight, and reduce the physical effects on vehicle occupants through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement between industry and the Army. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services within 45 days after the date on which the

budget for fiscal year 2017 is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, on the results of the testing on this technology to date, as well as provide an assessment of the potential and prospective timing for this technology to be incorporated into vehicle occupant protection technology vehicle procurement programs.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

Items of Special Interest

Next Generation Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System operational concepts

The budget request contained $44.3 million in PE 37581F for the Next Generation (NextGen) Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) program.

The committee is aware that the Department of the Air Force has a requirement for a new manned command-and-control/intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance aircraft given that the current, high-demand E-8C JSTARS aircraft are facing low availability rates, end-of-life issues, and growing sustainment costs. The committee encourages the Air Force to take into consideration a platform that is able to grow and adapt for unknown future threats and game-changing technologies.

In addition, the committee would like to better understand the relationship between the system requirements and how the Department of the Air Force intends to employ JSTARS in the future. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 29, 2016, detailing the planned operational mission concepts for the NextGen JSTARS. This briefing should include, but not be limited to, how the aircraft and mission system will be employed in various phases of peacetime and combat operations. Additionally, the briefing should explain concepts for mission training, aircraft maintenance, force protection, aircraft security, crew manning, and future sustainability and modernization to include growth margin.

The committee recommends $44.3 million, the full amount requested, in PE 37581F for the NextGen JSTARS program.