

Congressman Steve Pearce  
National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2019  
Testimonial Initiatives

Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Smith and distinguished Members of the Committee, I want to thank you for affording me the opportunity to discuss issues I consider vitally important to our national security and the United States ability to protect the homeland. I have four initiatives to bring to your attention.

The first effort pertains to the Department of Defense's (DoD) ability to produce ground-based passive high resolution optical imaging. Recent, global advances in imaging with optical interferometer telescope arrays offers order of magnitude increases in resolution for long range surveillance at a realistic size and weight capable of being put into outerspace. In particular, the development of technology for space based vibration control means it is foreseeable to maneuver extremely stable structures in outerspace. An optical interferometer could then meet the stringent requirements eventually needed for space-based optical imaging exploiting an amplitude interferometer.

I therefore request the following language be added to Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 National Defense Authorization Act:

*REPORT REQUIRED. - The Committee is pleased to see the progress with ground-based experiments being made by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Joint US-UK Research Team. Results indicate great potential for high resolution imaging of Geosynchronous satellites that also supports the AFRL STEM education goals. The team will soon be doing ground based experiments using full scale baseline separations of over 100 meters between the tracking telescopes. The committee therefore directs the Air Force Research Lab to provide a report to the defense committees by December 31, 2018, or within 30 days of passage, that explains the utility of passive/unobtrusive optical amplitude interferometry for high resolution (x centimeters) imaging in combination with other surveillance systems.*

Next, I request a change to the Test Resource Management Center's Strategic Plan for Department of Defense Test and Evaluation Resources. As it currently stands, the strategic plan only forecasts ten years in the future; however, nearly all other military strategic plans look at least twenty years, if not fifty years, into the future. The changes I propose (see attachment 1) would alter the plan to cover a thirty-year fiscal period, reviewing both funded and unfunded test and evaluation requirements, and receive input from Joint Staff Combatant Commands such as PACOM and EUCOM. Often times, the DoD understands and has identified outside threats, but does not have the capabilities, technology, or funding to test against these threats. Incorporating these elements allows the DoD's testing facilities flexibility and justification future to retain real assets to include airspace, land, and other resources in a shrinking global landscape.

The third initiative is a technical change to clarify eligibility requirements for Military Airport Program (MAP) funding. As it stands, MAP funds are only available, due to Department of Transportation regulation, to civilian airports that were closed under the Base Realignment and

Closure (BRAC) process. U.S. Code does not limit MAP funding to BRAC facilities. It was designed and written to support transitioning facilities. This simple technical fix will not change prioritization of the funds, but merely allows MAP funding to be distributed as it was originally intended— to revitalize former DoD assets to be used by civilian airport entities.

I therefore request the following amendment to *Section 47118(a) of title 49, United States Code*:

*(1) in paragraph (1)(C) by striking “or” at the end;*

*(2) in paragraph (2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and*

*(3) by adding at the end the following:*

*“(3) the airport is—*

*“(A) a former military installation; and*

*“(B) a primary airport.”.*

Finally, I would like to discuss airspace for our nation’s vital facilities. An increased demand exists for restricted airspace due to enlarged testing safety corridors, emerging threat complexity, and advancements in aircraft technology. As our military capabilities continue to grow, the DoD will face the challenge of satisfying an increased testing and training requirement with a dwindling allocation of restricted airspace due to encroachment issues. It is therefore imperative that we maximize the efficiency and through-put for both training and testing on one of our most valuable assets, our Major Range and Test Facility Bases (MRTFBs).

In order to overcome this emerging spatial shortfall, DoD must continue to develop its capabilities in conducting multiple mission sets within its finite land and airspace ownership. This modernization effort should have MRTFBs utilize their assets to the maximum output available for both Research Development Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) and training requirements. This includes MRTFBs having integrated scheduling software that has predictive and analytical capabilities to de-conflict competing interests between RDT&E and training; and, grants the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) direct decision making authority for approving scheduling changes when two different services have significant competing interests such as the pilot shortage and missile defense.

I therefore request the following language be added to this FY 2019 NDAA:

*SENSE OF CONGRESS (IN GENERAL). - Major Range and Test Facility Bases’ (MRTFB) shall work in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s (OSD) Director of Operational Test and Evaluation and the Director of Test Resource Management Center (TRMC) to increase through-put of test and training missions by developing standardized processes and scheduling systems that accommodate joint force utilization.*

*PLAN REQUIRED. - The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall develop a plan –*

- (1) Modernize and standardize MRTFB processes and scheduling systems for current and future advancements in technology to include (1) 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> generation aircraft avionics, propulsion and weapons systems, (2) offensive and defensive hypersonic missile and directed energy testing, and (3) the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile replacement -*
  - a. Maximize use and effectiveness of MRTFBs land and airspace assessing the demand for long-range testing and training capabilities; and*
  - b. To execute all means available to achieve testing and training goals, and objectives of all Armed Forces Branches*

*SUBMITAL OF PLAN AND BREIFING. – Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall submit to the congressional defense committees a written plan on the plan required under subsection \_\_\_\_.*

## Attachment One

The highlighted text are the changes I request to 10 U.S. Code § 196.

*(d) Strategic Plan for Department of Defense Test and Evaluation Resources.—*

*(1) Not less often than once every two fiscal years, **the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Director TRMC**, in coordination with **the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency**, the Secretaries of the military departments, and the heads of Defense Agencies with test, evaluation **missile defense, and intelligence** responsibilities, shall complete a strategic plan reflecting the **future** needs of the Department of Defense with respect to test and evaluation facilities and resources. **The strategic plan(s) shall cover the period of thirty fiscal years** beginning with the fiscal year in which the plan is submitted under paragraph (3). The strategic plan shall be based on a comprehensive review of both **funded and unfunded** test and evaluation requirements of the Department, **future threats to national security** and the adequacy of the test and evaluation facilities and resources of the Department to meet those **future requirements and threats**.*

*(2) The strategic plan shall include the following:*

*(A) An assessment of the test and evaluation requirements of the Department for the period covered by the plan.*

*(B) An identification of performance measures associated with the successful achievement of test and evaluation objectives for the period covered by the plan.*

*(C) An assessment of the test and evaluation facilities and resources that will be needed to **meet current and future** requirements based on **current and emerging threats** and satisfy such performance measures.*