

**The Honorable Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson (PA-15)**

Submission for the Record for the House Armed Services Committee Member Hearing on  
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022

Monday, May 3, 2021

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee:

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to share my priorities for Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. As a Member of Congress, I strive to meet the needs of our servicemen and women. As the father of an active-duty soldier who received a Purple Heart during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and a firm believer in the importance of a strong national defense, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be here today and share my priorities for Fiscal Year 2022.

I recognize the challenges placed before the Committee and appreciate your ongoing commitment to our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen even when difficult choices must be made. Despite these tough choices, you recognize the troops are on the front lines, in danger, defending the freedoms we all hold so dear. It is imperative our country always maintains the lethality and strategic edge it has had for decades. It is our duty to maintain and ensure robust funding for the defense of our nation.

Over the past year, the pandemic taught us the importance of having a strong, efficient, and effective domestic supply chain. Thus, it is critical continue to strengthen our Buy American policies. We cannot allow our military to lack equipment, parts for maintenance, or suffer delays to production. Therefore, we should consider investing additional funds into Additive Manufacturing. Additive Manufacturing will reduce manufacturing times by 60% at an affordable cost. This program could reduce weight of systems and optimize the manufacturing process to ensure parts can be manufactured fast enough, without defects, at a cost structure meeting overall U.S. military performance requirements.

The United States military has always had a dominating presence which includes sustaining our overall readiness. Maintaining an edge requires our military technologies be a step ahead of our adversaries. In a time when we face unprecedented challenges from near-peer actors who are making strides in the development of hypersonic weapons and other new programs, we must invest in our own advanced technologies.

As we continue to prepare for the future by optimizing our technologies, we must also ensure our Navy remains the tip of the spear by rebuilding and maintaining its capabilities. Our sailors regularly face aggressive action when navigating our world’s waters. The U.S. Navy has taken serious steps in developing and investing into proven programs ensuring the freedom of navigation for all. For instance, we must continue to support evolutionary modifications to programs like the MK 48 MOD 7 Heavyweight Torpedo, which will maintain its capabilities while improving range and payload. Additionally, the lightweight torpedo program designs, integrates, and tests the LWT MK 54 torpedo to make it more effective in shallow water. This type of research and development will give our sailors the edge they need to face our adversaries.

As a former health care professional, I respectfully request we continue to support and fund vital Department of Defense research programs. These include research programs for Multiple Sclerosis, ALS, Breast and Ovarian Cancer, as well as the Peer Reviewed Orthopedic Research Program. I strongly believe making critical investments in medical research at the federal level will improve the well-being of our nation, veterans, and active duty military.

Finally, we must keep in mind more than 80,000 American citizens who served in the Vietnam War, Korean War, and World War II are still missing in action. The families and friends of these American heroes deserve no less than our greatest efforts to bring their loved one's home. Therefore, I respectfully request the Committee support robust funding for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Fiscal Year 2022.

I want to thank Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Rogers, and the members of this Committee for your continued dedication to the matters within the jurisdiction of the House Armed Services Committee. I appreciate your consideration of these priorities and look forward to working together in the future.