

Opening Remarks
Honorable Michael D. Rogers
Chairman, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
House Armed Services Committee

**Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for
National Security Space Activities**

April 25, 2013

Good afternoon. I want to welcome everyone to the Strategic Forces Subcommittee's hearing on the fiscal year 2014 budget request for national security space activities. Our distinguished panel of experts this afternoon are:

- General William Shelton, Commander of Air Force Space Command;
- Ms. Betty Sapp, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office
- Mr. Gil Klinger, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Space and Intelligence Office; and
- Mr. Doug Loverro, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy.

I appreciate your time in appearing before this subcommittee, and I thank you for your leadership in national security space.

Space is a critical element of our national security, in both peace and wartime environments. I am very concerned of the impact of sequestration on national security space programs, and I appreciate hearing more from you, during your opening statements, on this issue.

Potential adversaries have taken note of our reliance on space, and are developing the means to degrade, deny, or destroy our capabilities. Just like in the evolution of ground, sea, and air platforms, when defenses and survivability mechanisms had to be developed to keep pace with the threat, now this is happening with space systems.

I am pleased to see the Department's recognition of the threat, as evidenced by the increased investment in space situational awareness in the fiscal year 2014 budget request. But I remain concerned on the future implementation of space defense and resilience, to include breaking-up or "disaggregating" programs that we've invested billions to develop and are just starting to provide the necessary capabilities for the warfighter. I look forward to further dialogue and study of this important topic.

Separately, I commend the Department on the significant advances it has made on many space programs. After years of massive cost and

schedule overruns, we have entered a new period of stable procurement and incremental development. As noted above, I am skeptical when I hear that we now may want to break up these successful programs.

For instance, the Air Force recently reported that new block buy strategies for the Space-Based Infrared System, Advanced Extremely High Frequency Satellite, and the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program are resulting in over \$2.5 billion in savings over the next 5 years.

That is a tremendous success for the military and the taxpayer and I hope to see those savings reinvested to provide the necessary modernization initiatives in accordance with warfighter requirements.

Thank you again for being with us today, and I look forward to your testimony. Ranking Member Cooper and I have spent a lot of time together visiting an NRO ground station, the NGA headquarters, and getting the classified mission and threat briefs. We're both focused on the opportunities and threats we face in space.

Ranking Member Cooper, over to you for your statement.