

Chairman Rogers, FY14 NDAA Hearing on MDA Budget Request

Opening Statement

This hearing of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee is hereby called to order.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our witnesses for being here today and investing their time in preparing their written and oral statements.

We have a good panel today; our witnesses are:

- **The Honorable Madelyn Creedon**

Assistant Secretary of Defense, Global Strategic Affairs

Office of the Secretary of Defense

- **Vice Admiral James D. Syring, USN**

Director

Missile Defense Agency

- **The Honorable J. Michael Gilmore**

Director, Operational Test and Evaluation

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Before I start my brief remarks, I'd just like to say, at the risk of giving you a big head Admiral, we are grateful to have you here today in this position as Director.

Those of us who follow missile defense closely, as I have been doing for my eleven years on this committee, have noticed the significant difference at that agency since you have assumed your new position of responsibility. We are grateful for your service and its imposition on your family.

And we are grateful to our other witnesses as well.

I will be brief so that we can get into the good part of this hearing, which is your statements and our opportunity to ask questions.

While I am pleased that the President adjusted his missile defense strategy to one more closely resembling the plans of the previous administration in recognition of the threat this country faces, I have to say that I continue to be concerned about what appears to be a lack of support for missile defense by this Administration.

The cut to this years' budget request – \$100 million from the topline, and even more when compared to last year's appropriated sums and the addition of new programs this year – comes on top of more than \$6 billion in cuts to the Missile Defense Agency since President Obama came to office in 2009; more than 16% below what was planned by the Bush Administration.

And while programs have been cancelled, like the PTSS and SM-3 block IIB programs, decisions I largely agree with, those funds have been hollowed out of the missile defense budget instead of kept in it.

Even with the plus-up of \$1 billion over the next several years to implement Secretary Hagel's missile defense announcement on March 15th, we're still facing a further cut of \$3 billion from the MDA top-line across the President's FY14 FYDP.

Yet the threat to the homeland is considerably greater this year than last.

Why are we waiting for enemies to field capabilities before we build defenses?

Are we going to anticipate the threat from Iran and be ready to meet it, or just wait until they deploy?

I intend to explore these issues today.

I now turn to my good friend from Tennessee, the Ranking Member, Mr. Cooper for his opening statement.