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THE CLIMATE CRISIS



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

April 2, 2019

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The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, I write to share my priorities for the bill, including robust support for our naval test ranges and support for Navy aircraft programs critical to our nation's defense. I also urge the Committee to retain House language from prior years that would prohibit any new round of a Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC).

As the proud representative of Naval Base Ventura County, I represent over 19,000 personnel working every day to keep our nation secure. Naval Base Ventura County's 90 tenant commands and its unique access to land, sea, and air test and training space make it a vital national security asset, made more important as the Department of Defense seeks to develop and field advanced capabilities for a high-end conflict.

As you know, the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Sea Range in Point Mugu, CA provides 125,000 square miles of instrumented sea range and 36,000 square miles of overlying airspace for testing DOD's most advanced assets and training U.S. warfighters so that they are prepared for any threats or environments they may encounter across the globe. Unfortunately, deferred maintenance has negatively impacted the DOD's ability to test and evaluate new systems, including those that we might need in a future conflict with a near-peer adversary.

First, I urge the Committee to authorize robust investments in range equipment, telemetry, and instrumentation that are vital to ensuring the range can continue to support these test and training missions. Specifically, I support an authorization of \$434.02 million for the Navy's Test and Evaluation (T&E) Support Program (Line 187, PE 0605864N), an increase of \$40 million over the President's budget request. Additionally, I support any additional authorization of funds the Committee can provide to support facility maintenance and upgrades. Backlogs in maintenance at bases supporting test and training activities have a direct effect on their ability to support the test and training mission.


Second, I support equipping the Department of Defense with the weapons systems and resources it needs to prevail over a near-peer competitor. The MQ-4C Triton gives the Navy a persistent maritime Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Targeting (ISR&T) capability that provides maritime domain awareness and readily-available lethality, when necessary. Additionally, ongoing upgrades to the program will incorporate signals intelligence capabilities, making the Triton an even more valuable intelligence-gathering asset. I am requesting the Committee authorize support for the President's budget request for MQ-4 Triton procurement (Navy Aircraft Procurement Line 23 and Line 24) and RDT&E accounts (Navy RDT&E, Line 248, PE 0305220N and Line 255, PE 0305421N), and \$128 million – an additional \$100 million above the President's budget request – for signals intelligence upgrades to the MQ-4 series (Navy Aircraft Procurement, Line 63).

Third, the Navy's E-2D Advanced Hawkeye is crucial to the Navy's battlefield management operations. By providing command and control capabilities for defense against air and cruise missile threats, the E-2D protects Navy Carrier Strike Groups (CSG) against lethal threats and enables naval operability, especially against potential near-peer adversaries in denied areas of operation. Therefore, I am requesting full support of the President's budget request for E-2D Advanced Hawkeye procurement (Navy Aircraft Procurement Line 16, Line 17, and Line 38) and RDT&E accounts (Navy RDT&E, Line 106, PE 0604234N).

Finally, I understand the need to identify excess infrastructure and cost-savings opportunities within DOD. However, I believe facilities outside the United States and its territories should be considered for closure. Nearly 70 years after the end of World War II, we have bases across the globe, many of which are outdated and do not reflect our current, and future, defense needs. I urge the Committee to include language similar to language in prior NDAA bills prohibiting any new round of BRAC.

I appreciate the Committee's continued willingness to listen to the views of Members, including myself, who represent our proud military personnel at bases around the country. I look forward to working with you to ensure the FY2020 NDAA supports the critical missions of our armed forces and fulfills our obligation to support our servicemembers and their families.

Sincerely,



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress