

**PAIRS CASE2025-C-0753
TESTIMONY
OF
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**BEFORE
THE**

**HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL SECURITY, ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO**

**“EXECUTIVE AGENT PROGRAM OFFICE SUPPORT TO DEFENSE
PRODUCTION ACT TITLE III”**

August 13, 2025

Good morning, Committee Chairman Hill, Vice Chairman Huizenga, Subcommittee Chairman Davidson, and Representative Moore. Thank you for inviting me to testify today. I am happy to testify regarding the Defense Production Act Title III program. I will discuss the Executive Agent Program Office’s role, history, and status in executing the Defense Production Act Title III. I serve as the acting Director of the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate within the Air Force Research Laboratory, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (AFB), Ohio. In this position, I lead the Defense Production Act Title III Executive Agent Program Office.

The Secretary of Defense formally designated the Secretary of the Air Force as Department of Defense Executive Agent for the Defense Production Act Title III program. The Air Force's dedicated Title III Program Office, known as the Executive Agent Program Office, resides within the Air Force Research Laboratory

Materials and Manufacturing Directorate. This Executive Agent Program Office is staffed by a multidisciplinary team including program managers, scientists, engineers, National Environmental Policy Act specialists, purchase agreement specialists, financial managers, and other subject matter experts required to execute often complex, unique projects.³

The Executive Agent Program Office is central to the practical execution of Defense Production Act Title III investments for the Department of Defense. While the Executive Agent Program Office manages the operational and technical aspects, the projects are authorized and funded by the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.¹ Specifically, the Manufacturing, Capability Expansion and Investment Prioritization Directorate within Industrial Base Policy is responsible for the Title III program and its funding.⁵ This organizational structure indicates a clear division of labor, with Industrial Base Policy providing strategic guidance and financial oversight, and the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate serving as the primary technical and execution arm. I am pleased to have Mr. Jeffrey Frankston, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Resilience, joining me as a co-witness today.

The Executive Agent Program Office initiates project solicitations through a Funding Opportunity Announcement.² We issued a “hybrid” Funding Opportunity Announcement in July 2019, allowing for both unsolicited white papers from industry and government-initiated "Calls" for specific proposals addressing vetted requirements.⁷ We are also executing Other Transactions using a Washington Headquarters Services procurement vehicle. We are executing 109 Technology Investment Agreements from the Funding Opportunity Announcement. Additionally, we are processing one Other Transaction Prototype award that will include project management support, and we are providing a Purchase Agreement – Agreements Officer Representative and project management support for additional Other Transactions to be awarded by Washington Headquarters Services.

The Executive Agent Program Office executes from six funds including core Title III dollars, CARES Act Supplemental funds, Ukraine Supplemental funds, Inflation Reduction Act funds, Indo-Pacific Security Supplemental fund and Israel Security Supplemental funds. These funds have varying structures; for some

funds, obligation and expenditure have no expiration dates, but for other funds, expiration dates are stated.

The Executive Agent Program Office's diverse staff of engineers and scientists are proud to provide critical technical depth for assessing industrial base capabilities and ensuring investments achieve a resilient Defense Industrial Base. Notable recent examples include a project that significantly improved production of gallium nitride monolithic microwave integrated circuits, achieving a threefold yield improvement and a 76% cost reduction.⁶ Another project expanded domestic nickel production, identifying the purest mined nickel in the United States and perhaps globally. The purity was so good, examples were placed in the Smithsonian just last week.

Our expertise extends to managing projects across critical chemicals, hypersonics, radiation-hardened microelectronics, critical minerals and materials, castings and forgings, and energy storage and battery value chains.⁴ The Executive Agent Program Office employs over 60 government civilians and contractors to support the program in full-time or part-time positions. Executive Agent Program Office personnel benefit from a strategic understanding of their technical fields that extends to science and technology projects they support outside of Title III. This enables our team to initiate materials and manufacturing technology programs of great value to the Department of the Defense. The Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, through the Executive Agent Program Office, takes pride in our 33 years securing the defense industrial base for our nation. I thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I look forward to your questions.

Works cited

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