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COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

JUDICIARY

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

AGING

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April 19, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2013 Defense Appropriations Bill, I am writing to urge your support for the programmatic requests summarized in the enclosed list. While recognizing the fiscal realities and restraints of this historic moment, I believe strongly that significant additional steps are needed to assure our military's strength and force structure and keep faith with the courageous, dedicated men and women who serve and sacrifice in uniform and afterwards.

These requests are submitted in accordance with the proper constitutional role that the Congress performs in the authorization of and appropriations for programs providing for the nation's common defense. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any such request consistent with Rule XLIV of the Senate and that a copy of this letter is posted on my official website.

Should you or members of your staff have any questions or require additional information, I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me or Ethan Saxon (x8-6765) of my staff.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Item Name: Virginia Class Submarine (AP-CY)

Request: Increase the President's budget request of \$874.9 million by up to \$777.6 million to \$1652.5 million.

Account: Procurement, Navy

Line: 4, Shipbuilding and Conversion

Justification: The Navy has a long-standing requirement for a fleet of at least 48 attack submarines (SSNs). The FY13 budget request defers the procurement of a second attack submarine that had been programmed for FY14 to FY18, which will cause the fleet to drop to 43 ships in the late 2020s, according to the Navy's most recent 30-year shipbuilding plan. Even today, the attack submarine fleet is only sufficient to address 61 percent of combatant command requirements, and given the emergence of adversary anti-access and area-denial capabilities in the Western Pacific and Persian Gulf, it is reasonable to expect that combatant commanders' demand for this platform will only increase. Congressional testimony by the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations before both your Subcommittee and the Committee on Armed Services clearly indicates that this change was made for fiscal rather than strategic reasons and that the Navy remains interested in finding a way, if possible, to restore the procurement of a second Virginia-class submarine to FY2014. Enabling the restoration of the second submarine in FY2014, would bring forward its entry into service by four years and help mitigate the projected shortfall in the Navy's attack submarine fleet.

There are two possible ways to secure this objective. One way is to ensure that there is adequate Advanced Procurement funding in the FY2013 budget for nuclear propulsion and other long-lead time components for both Virginia-class boats to be built in FY2014. While this would require an additional \$777.6 million in Advanced Procurement funding in FY2013, congressional testimony by the Navy suggests that a procurement rate of two boats in a given year would be best from an industrial-base point of view to reduce workforce fluctuations.

The alternative method, which would have the advantage of defraying up-front costs and relieving stress on the Navy topline, would involve the use of incremental funding mechanisms, which would involve paying for the submarine's procurement costs as they come over the period of several years. While this approach is generally reserved for the purchase of large capital ships such as aircraft carriers, I request that your Subcommittee consider allowing this approach given the unique budget environment our country faces and the national security requirement for a robust attack submarine fleet.

Item Name: Ohio Replacement Program

Request: Increase the President's budget request of \$483.095 million by up to \$150 million to \$633.095 million.

Account: RDT&E, Navy

Line: 44, Advanced Submarine System Development

PE: 0603561N

Justification: The President's budget defers the construction of the replacement of the OHIO Class SSBN by two years from FY2019 to FY2021. Accordingly, the Navy's proposed FY2013 budget requests \$483.095 million in Advanced Submarine System Development. This is a reduction of \$372.681 million from the previous President's budget for FY2013. Ballistic

missile submarines are our nation's most secure and survivable strategic deterrent. Under the New START Treaty the percentage of U.S. operational nuclear deterrent arsenal carried by our SSBNs will grow to 70 percent. The reduction in research and development in FY2013 goes too far in reducing funding for development work that must continue despite the unduly elongated acquisition schedule. An additional \$150 million requested will reduce program risk by keeping the design plans in alignment with the development schedule to meet U.S. commitments to the United Kingdom for collaboration on the Common Missile Compartment.

Item Name: C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft

Request: Report Language, "The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to continue the \$479.896 million programed acquisition of the Joint Cargo Aircraft as previously appropriated in Fiscal Year 2012 and to sustain the operation and maintenance of Joint Cargo Aircraft assigned to Air National Guard units."

Account: Procurement, Operations & Maintenance, Air Force

Line: N/A

Justification: The C-27J is a medium-size airlift aircraft that provides flexible and responsive delivery of time sensitive and mission critical (TS/MC) equipment, supplies, and personnel to austere operating locations during contingency operations abroad, and in support of domestic homeland security and disaster response operations. Funding in FY2013 was deleted as a result of the Department's decision to terminate the C-27J program. The Air Force terminated the C-27J aircraft on the basis of higher than expected lifecycle maintenance costs and sustainment. This justification has not been validated either by the record of service of the Joint Cargo Aircraft in operations in Afghanistan or by a valid business case analysis by the Air Force. The Air Force should reexamine both suitable solutions between organic and contractor support and the optimal basing and manning strategy to keep this vital tactical airlift capability in service.

Item Name: Army National Guard Black Hawk Modernization

Request: Increase the President's budget request of \$53.5 million for UH-60A to UH-60L conversions of 38 aircraft by an additional \$20 million to fund 15 additional conversions.

Account: Procurement, Army

Line: 26, Utility Helicopter Mods

Justification: UH-60A-to-L conversion is listed as the #1 priority on the Army National Guard's Major Item Shortfall List for FY2013. Military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have taken a toll on the Army National Guard Black Hawk fleet. The airframes built in the 1970s and 1980s are reaching the end of their useful life. The Army is modernizing the Black Hawk fleet with two initiatives: fielding new UH-60M utility and HH-60M MEDEVAC helicopters and recapitalizing and converting UH-60A models to the UH-60L model, including development of a digital cockpit for the UH-60L. The President's budget request for FY2013 drops the procurement rate for new UH/HH-60M helicopters and the completion of the re-manufacture of a number of older UH-60As into the UH-60L configuration provided to the National Guard by 17% or 12 aircraft a year. The latest estimates now indicate that the last Army National Guard UH-60A will not be retired until FY2027. By 2027, the "A" model Black Hawks will be more than 37 years old.

Item Name: Army Pelvic Protection Systems

Request: Increase the President's budget request of \$5.078 million in FY2013 for Rapid Equipping Soldier Support Equipment by \$25 million to \$30.078 million to provide for Pelvic Protection Systems.

Account: Procurement, Army

Line: 183, Rapid Equipping Soldier Support Equipment

Justification: During FY2013 U.S. forces will continue to transition security responsibilities in Afghanistan but future operations will still require counter IED capabilities and protection against IED attacks. The prevalence of IEDs during dismounted operations in Operation Enduring Freedom is causing a greater number of injuries to the lower body. Better protection against ground-based IEDs blasts reduces the penetration of dirt and fine debris into a wound area. To that end, I support the inclusion of the President's budget request for such protective equipment for both the Marine Corps and Army in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

Item Name: Engines for F-16 and F-15 Aircraft

Request: Report Language, "The Committee understands that the Air Force has a shortfall of 30 spare engines in their War Readiness Engines objective for F-100-229 engine powered F-15 and F-16 aircraft. Given the delay in the fielding of the F-35 and the life extension efforts to these older aircraft, the committee encourages the Air Force to make every attempt possible to properly budget for and fund this spare requirement to the fullest degree."

Account: Procurement, Air Force

Line: 81, Initial Spares/Repair Parts

Justification: The Air Force has a War Readiness Engine shortfall for F-100 engines for F-15 and F-16s. The Air Force generated a spare engine requirement of 96 engines to meet the War Readiness Engines (WRE) objective for the fleet of F100-PW-229 powered aircraft. Only 66 engines are available, creating a shortfall and a documented requirement for 30 additional spare F100-PW-229 engines.

Item Name: National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account

Request: In Fiscal Year 2012 Congress appropriated \$1 billion for National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. A similar level of support is requested in FY 2013.

Account: Procurement, Defense-wide

Line: N/A

Justification: To equip units for both their combat missions and their missions in support of State governors the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2013 should consider ongoing National Guard equipment shortfalls. For example, Army National Guard helicopters have inadequate protection and warning against Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) and small arms fire. Such warning systems are critical to the Army following the August shoot down of a CH-47 Chinook. Another example for the Air National Guard is the upgrade to eight-bladed propellers on their LC-130 aircraft. The improved design provides increased thrust needed for the Air National Guard's Arctic operations with improved reliability and maintenance.

Item Name: Suicide Prevention

Request: \$20 million

Account: Operations and Maintenance, Defense-wide

Line: In-House Care and Consolidated Health Support

Justification: Suicide is now the leading cause of death among military personnel who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Young servicemen are more than four times as likely to commit suicide than their civilian peers. Additional resources are needed to prevent suicide and provide a continuum of care as military personnel transition into the care of the Department of Veterans Affairs. According to the Department of Defense, “from 2005 to 2010, service members took their own lives at a rate of about one every 36 hours.... while only 1 percent of Americans have served during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, former service members represent 20 percent of suicides in the United States. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates 18 veterans die by suicide each day.”

Item Name: Joint Strike Fighter

Request: Support the President’s budget request for the Joint Strike Fighter

Account: Procurement, Air Force and Navy

Line: 1, F-35 (Air Force); 5 Joint Strike Fighter (Navy); and 7 JSF STOVL (Marine Corps)

Justification: The Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps depend on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter to meet the Secretary’s strategic guidance of projecting power despite enhanced anti-access/area denial challenges. While the acquisition of this new aircraft has proved lengthy, it still remains the only viable path forward to equip the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps with a 5th generation fighter aircraft.

Item Name: Emerging Capabilities Technology and Development (ECTD)

Request: Support the President’s request of \$24.662 million

Account: RDT&E, Defense-wide

Line: 45

PE:0603699D8Z

Justification: The ECTD includes Department-wide efforts to fill gaps in tools and capabilities that support the National Counterterrorism Strategy, and the Countering Violent Extremism Abroad Framework. The ability to understand the full spectrum of active real-world messaging and on-line operations by violent extremist organizations and transnational criminal organizations within the proper cultural and linguistic context is critical. The Department must understand their motives, and reduce their ability to gain both ideological and financial support, which is a significant driver for continued increased global violence and regional instability.

Item Name: Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Programs

Request: Peer-Reviewed Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health Research, Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research, Peer-Reviewed Gulf War Illness Research, Peer-Reviewed Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research

Account: RDT&E, Defense-wide

Line: N/A

Justification: Each year Congress has provided support for medical research in key areas that advance the health of the war-fighter and benefit the civilian population through the clinical analysis and enhanced treatment of critical illness such as PTSD and TBI, Breast Cancer, Gulf War illness and Tuberous Sclerosis Complex. The Department of Defense has demonstrated the ability to manage innovative, competitive and accountable medical research programs in these areas. The groundbreaking science performed through the program is literally changing the face

of biomedical research. The programs are able to quickly respond to current scientific advances and fill gaps by focusing on research that is traditionally under-funded.

Item Name: Unmanned Undersea Vehicle, Air-Independent Propulsion

Request: Report Language, "The committee supports ONR's technology development efforts for air-independent, high density power systems for UUVs. However, the Committee is also aware that there are existing fuel cell technologies that could be easily modified into existing platforms and prove out the concept. The Committee encourages the Navy to fund these existing technologies as soon as possible."

Account: RDT&E, Navy

Line: 5

RDT&E: PE 0602123N

Justification: The Department of Defense spends roughly \$20 billion annually on energy costs and accounts for roughly eighty percent of the federal government's total energy consumption. The Defense Logistics Agency and each of the military services are currently pursuing energy initiatives to reduce fossil fuel use through innovations such as fuel cells that can conserve energy use. To that end, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 should serve as a guide towards the adoption of such practical technology in a prudent manner for the Navy that reduces dependence on fossil fuels and improves our energy security.

Item Name: EC-8 Joint STARS

Request: Report Language, "The Committee directs the Air Force to continue the effort to re-engine Joint STARS to acquire necessary ship sets for re-enging of the entire JSTARS fleet, and encourages the Air Force to spend the previously appropriated funds for their intended purpose."

Account: Procurement, Air Force

Line: 71, EC-8

Justification: Joint STARS surveillance aircraft have accumulated over 70,000 combat hours supporting operations, including ongoing support to Operation New Dawn over Iraq, Operation Enduring Freedom over Afghanistan and Operation Odyssey Dawn over Libya. The onboard systems detect and tracks moving targets from distances of over 150 miles, over an extremely wide area. The E-8C's significant communications suite enables USAF and Army operators to cue other assets and direct combat information with air and ground elements. Since the test-bed demonstration of the new engines was successful and the Air Force will need to utilize the E-8C Joint STARS for the foreseeable future upgrading the engines now will realizing operational savings with lower maintenance and fuel costs.

Item Name: Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS)

Request: Cancel the \$400.9 million requested in the President's budget

Account: RDT&E, Army

Line: 122

PE: 0604869A

Justification: For years, MEADS has been plagued by constituent scheduling delays, cost overruns and an overall failure to deliver results. As stated in a February 2011 Office of the Secretary of Defense document, the program's poor performance "might ordinarily make it a candidate for cancellation." The Army has already invested over \$2 billion into a failed system that will never be procured by our military.