

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405 The Capitol
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6269

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you are hard at work drafting the fiscal year 2017 Defense Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for the full funding of two critically important five-year small arms simulation systems contracts.

The two contracts we refer to are the U.S. Army's Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) II contract and the U.S. Marine Corps' Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer – Upgrade (ISMT-U) contract, for which the President has requested \$14.168 million and \$8.159 million, respectively, in his FY2017 Department of Defense Budget Submission. The prime contractor for both of these contracts, Meggitt Training Systems, is headquartered in our home state and has been doing great things in the State of Georgia, but has the potential to fulfill a vitally important readiness need that will enhance the training of the men and women serving in these two branches of our military should these two contracts continue to be funded in a timely manner.

As you may have heard from anyone from our lowest ranking enlisted soldiers to our highest ranking generals, the invaluable nature of weapons simulation systems is unquestionable. With the ability to simulate countless different training scenarios, terrains, weather patterns, and tactical situations with a few clicks of a computer mouse, all without the firing of a single round of ammunition, the cost savings and training benefits are measurable and substantial. While procuring updated, state-of-the-art small arms simulation systems under these contracts comes at a cost today, it is a truly valuable investment that will save money and make our men and women in uniform more ready to complete their missions tomorrow.

It is for that very reason that we're also requesting that you to include language in the House Report for the FY2017 Department of Defense Appropriations bill that includes small arms simulation training systems as a priority item for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA). Given that our guardsmen and women and our reservists can be called up at any time and are expected to be ready to defend the United States and its interests all over the globe, it is of the utmost importance that they receive training on the most up-to-date simulations systems as well.

Investing in the readiness future of our men and women in uniform is something that we all agree is truly valuable, and we hope that you recognize the importance of this investment as well as you draft the FY2017 Defense Appropriations bill. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our requests.

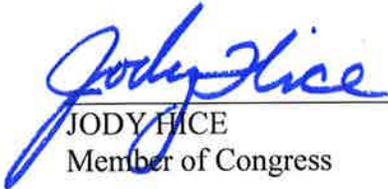
Sincerely,



ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress



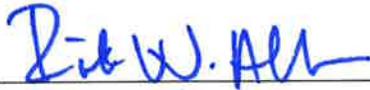
EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress



JODY HICE
Member of Congress



LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress



RICK ALLEN
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BARRY LOUDERMILK
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