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*Statement before the House Armed Services Committee for the Hearing Titled: "Member's Day"
2118 Rayburn House Office Building
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Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing prior to the release of the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). With our nation engaged in two wars and a new campaign in Libya, now is the time to zero in on those Department of Defense (DOD) priorities which ensure the readiness and strength of United States Military. The funding mechanism the FY2012 NDAA moves forward must build out the necessary long-term planning to tailor program and mission support as well as weapons, technology, and supply development to a rapidly changing world. Areas where the FY2012 NDAA can be helpful to advance the DOD's readiness and strength include:

#1 Small Business Contracting with DOD

DOD needs a better, more local, contracting system which supports small business. In certain regions of the nation, contracts must be awarded locally, based on individual projects. The current system that promotes wrapping projects and contracts around large regions or city-sectors, then sub-contracting to the local small businesses unfairly distributes DOD resources and often allows outside entities to procure a contract on bases where local businesses have better regional and technical knowledge to perform the service. That local company loses out on significant revenue and job opportunities. Further, when outside companies obtain the contract, the state housing the base unfairly loses out on a significant tax opportunity to collect gross receipts taxes from the local company.

#2 Navy R&D

Support key Department of Defense and federal agencies through the development and support of advanced instrumentation and telescopes for use in astronomical missions. Examples of initiatives where these monies can be helpful to DOD include:

- Provide near lift-off to point of impact tracking of missile test for the US Army
- Play a dominate role in space situational awareness for the US Air Force and the Department of Defense Space Command
- Asteroid tracking and orbit projections
- Track and characterize potentially hazardous Near-Earth Objects over a 3-year period

Increase the Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation by \$20 million.

#3 Air Force R&D

Jet fuel from algae is an alternative source of fuel for aviation. The need to find an alternative energy for power generation and transportation, especially for aviation, highlights the importance of developing biofuels from algal biomass. Because petroleum is an algae derivative the result is a "drop in" fuel that the same as JP-8. Examples of initiatives where FY2012 NDAA should concentrate include:

- Scale algal mass production to billions of pounds a year (hundreds of millions of gallons JP-8)
- Refine competing oil extraction technologies for low cost production of standard commercial refinery feedstock.
- Demonstrate low cost modification of refineries to produce high volume production of JP-8.

Increase the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation by \$30 million.

#4 Training and Experimentation

The focus of the joint national training experiment is to develop facilities, establish training venues, and perform training experiments that will facilitate joint operations between Services and inter-governmental agencies – to include state and local governments – during times of emergency. These emergencies can be the result of natural or human created disasters from either accidental or hostile occurring events. Examples of active development initiatives of this program are:

- Irregular warfare and WMD
- New and emerging missions
- Emergency management
- Civil affairs and peacekeeping missions

Increase the Department of Defense FY12 Budget for RDT&E Management Support Budget by \$10 million.

I look forward to receiving the committee's FY2012 NDAA. It is my hope that the FY2012 NDAA will reflect the smart funding levels that puts our soldiers in a position today to support the critical missions at home which maintain America's security position without sacrificing the future planning for America's next generation fighters and weapons.