

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

I am writing to encourage the committee to support the National Guard's acquisition of acoustic hailing devices and to request the inclusion of "Acoustic Hailing Device" in the list of high priority equipment contained in the FY17 National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA).

The acoustic hailing device (AHD) is a technology that allows for mass communication despite vast distances, ambient noise, or obstructions. Traditional loud speaker technologies can result in degraded sound that is often difficult to hear. AHSDs can be heard at vast distances, through walls, windows, and doors and can be heard over ambient noise such as engines, rotor blades and other sources of noise interference that currently prevent mass communication through traditional methods.

AHDs are a Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS), dual-use, non-lethal technology that supports the National Guard's overseas and domestic missions. AHDs significantly enhance the Guard's ability to perform its Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA), Homeland Defense (HD), and Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) missions. For example, the Guard used AHDs to communicate with survivors during emergency response operations including Hurricane Katrina (2005) and the Colorado flood relief (2013). AHDs have also been used in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to communicate with the civilian populace.

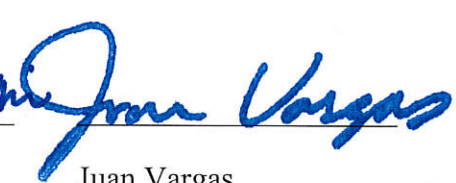

As mentioned, the National Guard has been a user of this technology for a number of years. Fifty-two of 54 states and territories have procured AHDs in small quantities with the largest buyer being the California National Guard. Procurement of these devices for the Army is funded under *Other Procurement, Army Line #115: Family of Non-Lethal Equipment*. Under that line, AHDs are procured in small quantities, but none have yet been transferred from active duty to the Guard.

We acknowledge the difficult budget constraints you are working within, and appreciate your consideration of the AHDs inclusion in the list of high priority equipment in the National Guard Reserve Account.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress