

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We are writing to encourage the committee to support the National Guard's acquisition of acoustic hailing devices (AHDs) at a level of \$27,000,000, which is the level listed in the President's budget, and to request the inclusion of "Acoustic Hailing Device" in the list of high priority equipment for the FY19 National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA).

The AHD is a technology that allows for mass communication despite vast distances, obstructions, and ambient noise such as engines and rotor blades. Traditional loud speaker technologies can result in degraded sound that is often difficult to hear. AHDs can be heard over noise interference that currently prevents mass communication through traditional methods in times of crisis.

AHDs are a Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS), dual-use, non-lethal technology that supports the National Guard's overseas and domestic missions, particularly Defense Support to Civilian Authorities, Homeland Defenses, and Overseas Contingency Operations. For example, the Guard used AHDs to respond to Hurricane Katrina.

We appreciate your consideration of funding for AHDs and its inclusion in the list of high priority equipment in the NGREA.

Sincerely,



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress