November 12, 2021

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Rogers:

On behalf of the Security Industry Association (SIA), which represents companies that manufacture and integrate physical and cyber security solutions vital to various Department of Defense (DOD) programs, we write regarding ongoing consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022. As the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives continue its discussions on H.R. 4350/S. 2792, we ask for the following sections be considered in the final conference report.

FY22 Program Level Funding and Legislative Updates

Support for Critical Biometric Programs

Advanced biometric programs, such as those identified below, significantly improve military personnel's situational awareness and readiness for missions abroad. SIA supports the authorized FY22 funding levels for critical biometric procurement and research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) programs noted in the House and Senate versions; specifically, the following line items:

- **Line item 0152B13000**: Army Procurement – Biometric Enabling Capabilities, House and Senate Funding Requests: **$914,000**
- **Line Item 9988BK5300:** Army Procurement – Biometric Tactical Collection Devices, House and Senate Funding Requests: **$11,097,000**
- **PE 0605143A:** Army RDT&E – Biometric Enabling Technology, House and Senate Funding Requests: **$4,326,000**
- **PE 0607665A:** Army RDT&E – Family of Biometrics, House and Senate Funding Requests: **$1,178,000**
- **PE 0307665A:** Army RDT&E – Biometrics Enabled Intelligence, House and Senate Funding Requests: **$2,066,000**

Support Robust Physical Security Equipment Procurement Programs

Military installations continue to experience unpredictable threats from individuals planning to cause physical damage to military facilities, harm military personnel and strategic assets, and commit security breaches into classified areas. To respond to these ongoing threats, the DOD and each service branch created physical security procurement programs to improve the security posture of critical military facilities by overseeing the acquisition of closed-circuit television cameras, locking mechanisms at points of entry, counter UAS technology, and electronic physical access control systems, to name a few. SIA supports the House and Senate approved funding levels for the following items:

- **Line Item 6438:** Navy's U.S. Marine Corps Procurement – Physical Security Equipment, House and Senate Funding Requests: **$84,513,000**
- **Line Item 0050MA0780:** Army Procurement – Physical Security Equipment (OPA3), House and Senate Funding Requests: **$86,930,000**

Regarding the Navy Procurement – Physical Security Equipment programs, SIA supports the Senate's FY22 funding amount since it fully funds DOD's FY22 request:

- **Line Item 8128:** Navy Procurement – Physical Security, Senate Funding Request: **$110,647,000**

Support Senate Sec. 569: Increasing Physical Security of Military Installations

SIA supports retaining **Senate section 569** into the final conference report to ensure military construction projects prioritize the installment of physical security equipment, such as locking mechanisms at points of entry, closed-circuit television security cameras, and other passive security measures. Under the present threat environment against U.S. service men and women, this critical section will secure military facilities against individuals seeking to cause physical harm, and we commend the section's flexible approach in allowing the Secretary of Defense to determine which security solutions are appropriate based on the installation's security requirements.

FY 22 Report Language Requests

Support Senate Report Language on Facial Recognition and Surveillance Technologies

Under this section, the Senate report calls attention to the troubling advancements made by U.S. adversaries in the development of facial recognition technologies that, in some cases, outperform U.S. and allied produced technologies. More troubling is the fact that certain Federal agencies have awarded competition funds in the past to these same companies whose facial recognition systems outperformed competing algorithms in "identification speed" and "verification accuracy." A lack of U.S. and allied leadership in modeling responsible technology use also would cede ground to our adversaries who, unlike the U.S., allow use of facial recognition technology in unconstrained ways, which could establish a standard of practice abroad that impacts human rights and enables our adversaries to outperform the U.S. in future innovation. Therefore, we support the inclusion of the Senate's report language on facial recognition technologies that prohibits Federal agencies from awarding competition funds to facial recognition providers based in adversarial nations.

SIA supports the conference report to H.R. 4350/S. 2792 the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022," and we thank you for your attention to our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Don Erickson
CEO
Security Industry Association

CC: Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee
Members of the House Armed Services Committee