

## **Testimony by Congressman Trent Franks, AZ-08**

I would first like to thank Chairman Black and Ranking Member Yarmuth for the opportunity to add my voice to those of many others concerned about the crisis facing our military.

Mme. Chairman, our guardian class has consistently set before us the devastation Sequestration has wrought upon our military, and the doubt it has cast upon our ability to defeat existing and emerging threats, let alone deter them.

For my part, I am here today to alert you to the dangerous state of our nation's strategic capabilities, and what the Obama years have done to our ability to deter and defeat the deadliest weapons known to humanity.

Under President Obama, the Kim Dynasty in North Korea evolved from an eccentric regional problem with nuclear weapons, into an extremely dangerous nuclear threat to America, and they are now very close to mastering the physics required to range the entire continental United States.

Barack Obama's defense policies also placed Iran, the world's largest financier and enabler of terrorism, on track to gain a nuclear weapons capability. And unlike the Soviet threat, nuclear Jihad cannot be deterred by fear of retaliation. It is an existential threat to the peace and security of the entire human family.

And while the Obama administration debated whether or not we should develop and maintain a missile defense against such threats, our near-peer adversaries – who never had any such qualms – were working tirelessly to exploit weaknesses in our missile defense architecture.

Mme. Chairman and members of the committee, effective missile defense is not only a last line of defense against a launched nuclear missile, it is our first line of defense against proliferation, because it devalues such weapons as offensive military assets.

However, the shameful reality is, that under President Obama, our near-peer adversaries expanded their capabilities while ours atrophied.

While we drastically cut funding to the MDA as is illustrated in your handouts, China and Russia were rapidly developing and test-flying High-Speed Maneuvering Weapons (HSMWs) including hypersonic glide vehicles, which are specifically designed to exploit the “gaps” and “seams” in our existing missile defense architecture, and defeating the systems we currently have in place. These new weapons are capable of traveling more than 1 mile per second, and fly at a flat (non-ballistic) trajectory to prevent our missile defense systems from tracking them. The threat has out-paced us and we must invest the appropriate resources to defend against the new threats or lose our ability to deter potential adversaries.

Moreover, even as our near-peers find ways to defeat our current defensive capabilities, our strategic nuclear deterrent has fallen into desperate need of modernization. We currently spend about \$25 billion per year on our nuclear arsenal, or 5% of the DOD budget which itself is only 17% of our total federal budget. For less than .1% of our GDP spent on our nuclear deterrent, we have prevented WWIII for 70 years. To be effective, a deterrent must be effective, reliable, and credible.

Mme. Chairman and distinguished members, in order to revitalize our military – to maintain a nuclear deterrent, which is effective, reliable, and credible, and to build a missile defense architecture capable of meeting identified emerging threats – we require a defense budget topline of \$640 Billion. The \$603 Billion topline, visits a modest 3% increase above Mr. Obama’s projected FY18 defense budget of \$584 Billion, and, if we intend solve our readiness crisis, a budget of this size it will force us to underfund key capabilities such as Nuclear Arsenal and Deterrent, Defending National Security Space Assets and Ballistic Missile Defense just to name a few. If we are to Make America Safe Again, a 3% increase will not suffice.

In conclusion, may I say to all of us here today that the first purpose of any government or its leaders is to protect the lives and security of its people. The failure of this responsibility renders all others meaningless.

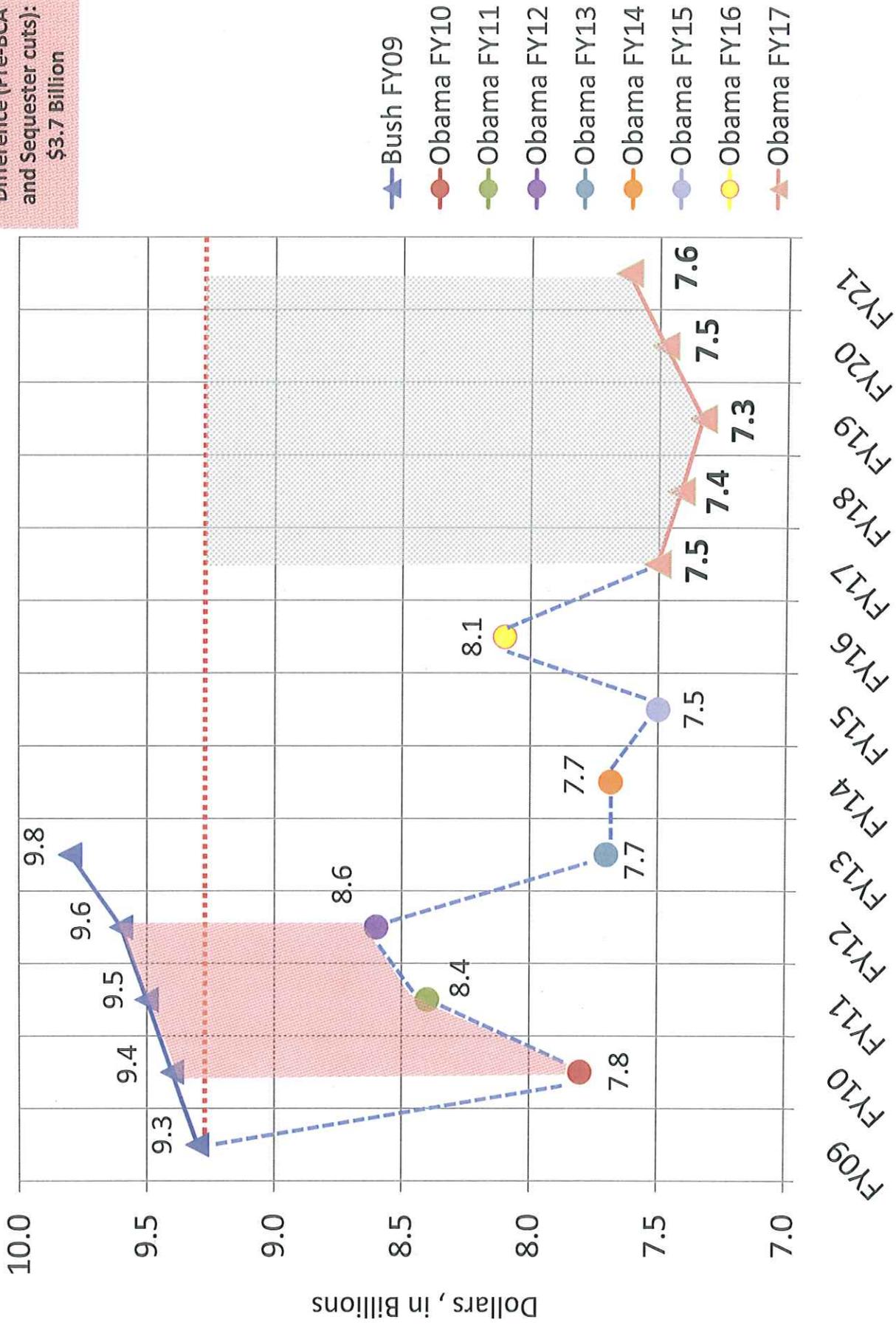
Ronald Reagan once said to all of us: “You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We can preserve this, the last best hope of mankind on earth for children. Or we can sentence them to take that last step into a thousand years of darkness. If we do fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us that we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done”.

May history judge that this Congress was one that did all that could be done protect the innocent in our own generation and to further ensure that American generations yet unborn will continue to walk in the sunlight of freedom. Thank you and God bless you all.

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# Missile Defense Agency Budget (President's Request)

President's Budget Difference (Pre-BCA and Sequester cuts): \$3.7 Billion



# FY18 Defense Base Funding Breakdown (\$B)

