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Before the

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE POLICY AND PROGRAMS TO COUNTER THREATS
TO THE UNITED STATES FROM TERRORISM AND IRREGULAR
WARFARE

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Washington, D.C.

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Tuesday, April 21, 2015

U.S. Senate
Subcommittee on Emerging
Threats and Capabilities
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:39 p.m.
in Room SR-222, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Deb
Fischer, chairman of the subcommittee, presiding.

Committee Members Present: Senators Fischer
[presiding], Cotton, Ernst, Tillis, Nelson, Shaheen,
Gillibrand, Donnelly, and Kaine.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DEB FISCHER, U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM NEBRASKA

3 Senator Fischer: The hearing will come to order.

4 I'd like to welcome everyone to the hearing today.
5 Senator Nelson is on his way, but we're going to start the
6 hearing.

7 This subcommittee meets today to receive testimony on
8 the Department of Defense's counterterrorism activities and
9 policy.

10 And I'd like to welcome our witnesses. Before us
11 today, we have Michael Lumpkin, the Assistant Secretary for
12 Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, and Brigadier
13 General Scott Howell, the Deputy Director for Special
14 Operations and Counterterrorism on the Joint Staff.

15 Welcome, gentlemen, and I thank you both for your
16 service.

17 Following their brief opening statements, we will have
18 a 5-minute round of questions for each member, and then we
19 will proceed to a closed session.

20 I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today
21 about how the Department is keeping pace with an
22 increasingly unstable global threat picture. In the last
23 year, ISIL has taken Mosul and expanded its control in
24 Syria; Libya has descended further in the chaos; Yemen's
25 government has collapsed; and al-Shabaab continues to

1 conduct high-profile attacks in Somalia and Kenya. Those
2 who seek to attack our Nation are taking advantage of this
3 rising tide of instability, and the lack of credible local
4 partners casts doubt on whether the President's strategy of
5 taking out terrorists who threaten us while supporting
6 partners on the front lines can even be applied today. I
7 hope the witnesses will help this committee understand how
8 the U.S. policy has adapted to this new landscape and what
9 new approaches are being utilized to protect U.S. interests.

10 I also hope to hear more from our witnesses on the
11 amount of risk our current strategy is accepting. General
12 Votel has characterized it as moderate, but I hope our
13 witnesses can add further detail and explain how this risk
14 is distributed. My concern is that, if we are only
15 responding to the highest-priority verified threats against
16 our country, we will be unable to proactively deal with
17 smaller problems before they become serious threats.
18 Accepting such risk seems, at best, to be a temporary
19 strategy, since small problems will inevitably accumulate
20 and grow.

21 I would ask unanimous consent that we enter Senator
22 Nelson, the Ranking Member's, comments -- opening statement
23 into the record.

24 [The prepared statement of Senator Nelson follows:]

25 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

1 Senator Fischer: And, with that, I would ask our panel
2 to please give us their opening statements.

3 Secretary.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. MICHAEL D. LUMPKIN, ASSISTANT
2 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND LOW-
3 INTENSITY CONFLICT

4 Mr. Lumpkin: Thank you, Chairman Fischer, Ranking
5 Member Nelson, and distinguished members of the committee.
6 Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today.

7 I am joined at the table by Brigadier General Scott
8 Howell, the Deputy Director for Special Operations on the
9 Joint Staff. And Mr. Steve Vanech, the Acting Director for
10 National Counterterrorism Center's Director of Intelligence,
11 will join us for the closed session.

12 As I speak, U.S. Special Operations Force, also known
13 as SOF, are deployed globally to support our mission to
14 defend America, our allies, our partners, and from the
15 threats posed by terrorist organizations. In today's
16 environment, USSOF successfully take direct action against
17 multiple terrorist organizations, in addition to building
18 the capacity of our partners. USSOF provide a vital but
19 small component of our comprehensive approach to
20 counterterrorism. These efforts take time to mature, but
21 our operations are having positive effects.

22 As you are keenly aware, our Special Operations Forces
23 are unique assets. These assets are only effective when the
24 Department has the authority to employ them properly. While
25 the 2001 Authorized Use of Military Force, also known as

1 AUMF, and the 2002 Iraq AUMF provide statutory authority for
2 our current operations, I fully support the President's
3 proposed AUMF to counter the Islamic State of Iraq in
4 Levant, or ISIL. This proposed legislation provides the
5 adequate flexibility to counter ISIL today while signaling
6 to our friends and our enemies that we are serious about
7 addressing future permutations of this expanding threat. I
8 urge you to favorably consider it.

9 I will now provide general comments on our
10 counterterrorism efforts. My colleagues and I will present
11 additional details during the closed session.

12 Since August 2004, USSOF has aggressively pursued ISIL
13 in Iraq and Syria. USSOF have deployed more than 3,000
14 personnel to the region and conducted more than 10,000 hours
15 of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance
16 operations. USSOF have enabled thousands of strikes against
17 ISIL's leadership and forces, weakened its ability to exert
18 external territorial control, and challenged the foundation
19 of its expansionist propaganda.

20 As part of our broader effort to assist the Iraqi
21 Security Forces, USSOF are coordinating with the central
22 government in Baghdad to provide training, equipment, and
23 assistance to the Kurdish Peshmerga. USSOF will also
24 provide training and assistance to select members of the
25 moderate Syrian opposition.

1 While we work to destroy ISIL in Syria and Iraq, the
2 group is taking steps to expand its reach into Africa and
3 Southeast Asia. Recent killings of civilians in
4 Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia, and groups loyal to ISIL
5 highlight the expanding nature of the threat.

6 In West Africa, USSOF are partnering with local and
7 European allies to degrade Boko Haram, which recently
8 pledged allegiance to ISIL. With a relatively modest
9 investment of personnel and resources, USSOF and our allies
10 are exerting significant pressure on Boko Haram and its
11 facilitation network.

12 I am deeply concerned that the lack of unity of
13 government and deteriorating situation in Libya has created
14 a safe haven for militias and terrorist organization.
15 ISIL's increased popularity and presence in Libya highlight
16 the need to quickly achieve a lasting political solution.
17 As I mentioned earlier, the President's draft AUMF would
18 provide appropriate flexibility to confront ISIL's
19 affiliates, where conditions merit.

20 USSOF are also working in multiple countries to
21 eliminate the threat posed by al-Qaeda. In Afghanistan,
22 USSOF, in partnership with the Afghans, continue to pressure
23 al-Qaeda, the Haqqani Network and others that pose threat to
24 U.S. and coalition interests. USSOF provide critical
25 support to train, advise, assist the Afghans, in addition to

1 conducting targeted counterterrorism operations.

2 Across Africa, USSOF are partnering with local and
3 regional forces and our European allies to degrade terrorist
4 groups, such as the Somali-based al-Shabaab and al-Qaeda in
5 the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb. These efforts have had
6 significant disruptive effects on these organizations. In
7 addition, USSOF are supporting other U.S. Government efforts
8 to improve governance and promote security across the
9 continent.

10 In Yemen, I am troubled by the ongoing military
11 aggression perpetuated by the Houthis and the resulting
12 widespread unstable security conditions. Before the
13 Houthis' destabilizing military actions against the
14 legitimate Government of Yemen, USSOF provided critical
15 support to the Yemeni security forces to develop their
16 ability to counter the threat of al-Qaeda in the Arabian
17 Peninsula. USSOF will continue to contribute to the broader
18 U.S. Government efforts to restore stability in Yemen and
19 degrade AQAP.

20 And in Syria, USSOF are conducting strikes against key
21 members of al-Qaeda's Syria-based affiliate.

22 USSOF are taking steps to understand and address
23 multiple global threats, including terrorist networks, the
24 flow of foreign fighters, the proliferation of weapons of
25 mass destruction, and malign activities undertaken or

1 sponsored by other states. USSOF are deployed around the
2 world, and are working closely with our allies and partners
3 to leverage our respective strengths and capabilities
4 against these common threats. USSOF represent relatively
5 small slice of the U.S. Government's efforts against these
6 threats; however, they are achieving meaningful and positive
7 effects.

8 I look forward to providing details in answering any
9 questions you may have.

10 Thank you very much.

11 [The prepared statement of Mr. Lumpkin follows:]

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1 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.
2 General.
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1 STATEMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL SCOTT A. HOWELL, USAF,
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND COUNTERTERRORISM
3 (J37), JOINT STAFF

4 General Howell: Chairman Fischer, Ranking Member
5 Nelson, distinguished members of the committee, appreciate
6 the opportunity to come appear before you today to discuss
7 these important topics.

8 I do not have a prepared opening statement, but look
9 forward to the discussion and your questions.

10 Senator Fischer: Thank you, sir.

11 With that, I will begin the questioning. We will have
12 our 5-minute rounds.

13 And, Mr. Secretary, as I mentioned in my opening
14 statement, General Votel has stated that he's able to meet
15 the current threats with moderate risk. Can you elaborate
16 on what a moderate risk is and if we're only going to be
17 dealing with, I guess, verifiable threats to the homeland?

18 Mr. Lumpkin: I think the -- what General Votel was
19 speaking of when he was reflecting the moderateness of the
20 risk is that, because of the size of the force and the scope
21 of the problem, we have to work with our limited means to do
22 what we possibly can. And those things that are imminently
23 threat to U.S. interests are -- and U.S. lives -- are what
24 we at the Department are focused on.

25 Again, we are just a part of the larger U.S.

1 counterterrorism effort that involves State, it's involved
2 -- Department of State, USAID -- in these efforts to restore
3 governance, because these terrorist organizations take root
4 and take hold in areas where there's a -- not a strong
5 central government and they have maneuver room to grow and
6 to metastasize.

7 So, again, I think what he was speaking of specifically
8 is that section of what we're able to do within our --
9 within the toolbag of the Department of Defense.

10 Senator Fischer: Would you say our focus now, then, is
11 on Syria and Iraq? And at what point do we, I guess, not
12 play defense and we start looking more at offense? Do we
13 wait until something gets out of control? Does it have to
14 boil over? When do we commit resources in places like Yemen
15 and Libya?

16 Mr. Lumpkin: That's a great question. Thank you very
17 much.

18 I think the key is -- and I think that's one of the
19 reasons why the President submitted the Authorized Use of
20 Military Force against ISIL that was not geographically
21 bounded. It allowed -- it was against the organization of
22 ISIL, as we see it metastasizing in these areas that lack
23 governance, these places like Libya. We have seen, you
24 know, ISIL expanding across northern Africa into other
25 places into the Middle East. So, I think this was a -- an

1 initiative to have the flexibility, should they metastasize
2 to prove a threat against the United States, that we could
3 effectively respond.

4 Senator Fischer: You don't feel that you have the
5 authority or the flexibility now to counter threats in
6 places like Libya or Yemen?

7 Mr. Lumpkin: I believe that if we -- I mean, I would
8 have to defer to the lawyers and the -- how they see the
9 current authorities and how they're interpreted. But, I
10 know that there are limitations to what we can do, going
11 back, the AUMF of 2001 has very -- has been -- has strict
12 adherence guidelines, and we have to make sure we're fully
13 compliant. And again, I think that the President's intent
14 of submitting the AUMF for -- against ISIL was to -- as we
15 look at the current problem in Iraq and Syria, but also to
16 see, as they are metastasizing, make sure we have the
17 agility to do what's necessary before they get out of hand.

18 Senator Fischer: Do you try to look at policy, and
19 what the policy should be, what the strategy should be,
20 where we need to commit our forces, before you look at what
21 the resources are? I mean, this committee -- this
22 subcommittee and the full committee hear constantly about
23 sequestration and the challenges that that has put on our
24 military. But, shouldn't it be policy that's driving
25 decisions that are made, and not looking at the limits that

1 we may or may not be facing with resources?

2 Mr. Lumpkin: With regard to DOD's counterterrorism
3 policy, yes. And that's why we have a strategy that
4 dovetails Section 1208 strategies that the Congress has been
5 very supportive of, as well as Section 2282, global train-
6 and-equip strategies, to make sure we can build our partner
7 capacity to make sure that we have those -- our -- those
8 partners that we can with -- by, with, and through to
9 achieve the outcomes that we're looking for. So, yes, we
10 have a -- what I would say, a coherent strategy. But,
11 again, a small slice of the larger U.S. Government strategy.

12 Senator Fischer: And how do you judge when a moderate
13 risk becomes a high risk?

14 Mr. Lumpkin: We continually evaluate, every day, to
15 see, as things change and they shift, the speed with which
16 the enemy can move, based on the lack of governance and
17 security vacuums in numerous countries, can -- forces us to
18 monitor all the time.

19 Senator Fischer: Well, thank you, Mr. Secretary.

20 Mr. Lumpkin: Yes, ma'am.

21 Senator Fischer: Next, I would call on my Ranking
22 Member, Senator Nelson.

23 Senator Nelson: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

24 And I will hold most of my questions for the classified
25 session.

1 But, let me just ask you. Last year, Congress provided
2 DOD with a CT-focused transfer fund of 1.3 billion. But,
3 that hasn't been spent. So, why not? And which one of your
4 deputies is charged with executing this program?

5 Mr. Lumpkin: Thank you for that question, Senator.

6 I received oversight responsibility of the Global
7 Counterterrorism Partnership Fund within the Department
8 about 30 days ago. Since that time, we -- of the \$1.3
9 billion, about 220 million of it has been obligated, to
10 date. We're -- I fully expect to obligate about another
11 \$270 million, here, shortly.

12 One of the things we have to make sure as we're
13 building this program, which the Congress was so supportive
14 on, is to make sure we have the right governance in place to
15 provide -- that we're putting -- effectively managing the
16 monies and managing the resources so that we have measures
17 of effectiveness with the program as we build it.

18 So, what we want to make sure we're not doing is, we're
19 not just throwing money against the problem, and make sure
20 that we -- it's part of a larger strategy, and that we put
21 it in places where the respective nations can absorb the
22 material that we're putting into their respective countries.

23 Senator Nelson: Which deputy?

24 Mr. Lumpkin: That -- it's me that's doing it. I'm --

25 Senator Nelson: Okay.

1 Mr. Lumpkin: -- principally responsible.

2 Senator Nelson: All right. Good.

3 Now, this committee has also received a lot of
4 complaints from the combatant commanders -- as a matter of
5 fact, every one of them -- about the patchwork of security
6 assistance authorities that is available to them to build
7 partner capacity. So, why is this? Especially since the
8 Office of the Secretary of Defense has made the situation
9 additionally complicated by sprinkling these programs across
10 a bunch of offices. What's going on?

11 Mr. Lumpkin: Senator, I can speak to those programs
12 that I manage, specifically, which are the Section 2282,
13 Section 1208, as well as the Global Security Contingency
14 Fund. And the -- those -- that's -- those fall largely
15 outside of the traditional foreign military sales programs,
16 but they are focused on equipping and training our foreign
17 partners to make sure that they have the capacity to execute
18 missions in support of our interests and their interests.

19 I -- those particular ones that I'm responsible for, I
20 believe are well synchronized, and I'd look forward to
21 briefing you on how those are synchronized, where we would
22 have more time to spend on it.

23 But, I'll take -- I mean, I can take that question
24 back, from the whole of Department of Defense. I'll that
25 one for the record, sir.

1 [The information referred to follows:]
2 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]
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1 Senator Nelson: General Votel told us that a campaign
2 plan for global special operations -- when he was here last
3 month. What is the purpose of this new campaign plan?

4 Mr. Lumpkin: The campaign plan, which is still in
5 staffing, so it is not an approved campaign plan, is to
6 ensure that USSOCOM has the ability to fully synchronize its
7 efforts across the geographic combatant commands, to ensure
8 that there are no gaps in seams where our enemies can hide.
9 So, USSOCOM is focused largely on the counterterrorism
10 issue, is -- wants to make sure that we have all the bases
11 covered, so it's just kind of just to level the bubbles
12 across the entire defense enterprise, to make sure that
13 everybody's singing off the same sheet of music.

14 Senator Nelson: For the record, do you want to comment
15 on the effects of sequestration and your concerns about the
16 cuts to the service-provided enablers?

17 Mr. Lumpkin: Yes, sir, I would.

18 Sequestration in the Budget Control Act has -- will
19 have negative impacts, as structured, for U.S. Special
20 Operations Command. I think the largest challenges that
21 we'll see is those service-supported enablers from combat
22 support, combat service support. ISR, the intelligence,
23 surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities that support
24 special operations every day, are going to -- as well as the
25 force modernization for, particularly, special operations

1 aircraft. As you're aware, the services provide the
2 aircraft. We make those special-operations-peculiar
3 modifications. As they have a reduction in funds, those
4 aircraft will come to us at a slower rate, which will hurt
5 our modernization ability within the force.

6 So, I think that we -- it will have not only short-term
7 impacts, but I think you're looking at long-term impacts on
8 modernizing and maintaining a healthy special-operations
9 capability in the out years.

10 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Senator Nelson.

11 Senator Cotton.

12 Senator Cotton: Thank you, gentlemen, both, for your
13 service to our country.

14 Secretary Lumpkin, a little over a year ago, Vladimir
15 Putin, in Russia, invaded and took Crimea from the Ukraine.
16 That started out with what I think most would characterize
17 as a successful unconventional or irregular warfare campaign
18 involving the so-called "little green men." Would that be
19 your assessment of the way the invasion of Crimea began?

20 Mr. Lumpkin: I believe that his incursion into Ukraine
21 definitely used unconventional tactics.

22 Senator Cotton: Okay. Given what we've started to see
23 in the Baltics in recent months, between aggressive behavior
24 from Russian bombers or submarines, the alleged kidnapping
25 of an Estonian security officer from eastern Estonia, which

1 has a large Russian ethnic minority, as does eastern Latvia,
2 what is the Department's plans and position for that kind of
3 irregular campaign if it were to begin to be conducted by
4 Russia in Estonia and Latvia?

5 Mr. Lumpkin: That's one we should discuss in a closed
6 session, if you don't mind, sir.

7 Senator Cotton: Okay, sure.

8 I want to ask about the Foreign Intelligence
9 Surveillance Act. There are three provisions of that Act
10 that are expiring in about 6 weeks, the so-called "lone
11 wolf," roving wiretap, and business record provisions. Do
12 you have a perspective on the impact that it would have on
13 the men and women in your charge if those provisions are not
14 reauthorized and the programs they support continue?

15 Mr. Lumpkin: Sir, I'll be honest that that's a little
16 out of my lane, as far as the intelligence-gathering piece
17 of it. So, I would be -- wouldn't want to speculate.

18 Senator Cotton: Okay.

19 General Howell, do you have perspective on that?

20 General Howell: No, sir, I don't. I'd have to defer
21 to our intelligence-community colleagues to provide
22 assessment.

23 Senator Cotton: Okay.

24 I think I'll yield back the balance of my time, in the
25 interest of getting on to the closed session.

1 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

2 Senator Shaheen.

3 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 And, to Secretary Lumpkin and General Howell, thank you
5 both for being here.

6 I want to go back to -- and follow up a little bit on
7 Senator Nelson's question about the impact of sequestration
8 on the Special Forces, because -- I was very impressed,
9 Secretary Lumpkin, with your comment in your statement that
10 humans are more important than hardware. And I do believe
11 that to be true. And I believe that that -- if we look at
12 conflict over our history, that that's been a critical
13 element of our success, has been the importance of
14 individual leaders and the commitment that our men and women
15 in uniform have made.

16 So, as we look at the impact of sequestration, you've
17 talked about a number of things that would be affected by
18 service-provided capabilities, but can you talk directly
19 about the impact on the men and women who are serving in our
20 Special Operations? There's an impact with respect to their
21 deployments. And what does that do to morale? What does it
22 do to the men and women on the ground? And can you talk in
23 language that the average person out there can understand so
24 that they really appreciate what's happening to the men and
25 women who are serving?

1 Mr. Lumpkin: Well, I think, first, from an operational
2 standpoint, is -- if we reduce ISR -- this is the
3 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capability --
4 to our deploying forces, we inherently put our troops at
5 greater risk. We have less fidelity on what's happening.
6 We have -- we take greater risk in every operation. So,
7 you're -- you increase the risk to lives, at the very front
8 end, when you have reduced capability.

9 I think you also have -- from the human aspect, day to
10 day, is -- we make decisions, especially -- whether -- some
11 of our units are very reliant on the overseas contingency
12 operations funds. And it's very difficult for them to plan
13 and not anticipate what the future can be, whether it's a
14 program they're working or it's that their very job may
15 exist in the future, just for the nature of -- we don't --
16 because that's 1-year money, as you're aware, and it's not
17 part of base budget. So, I think that people are looking for
18 certainty and what's in their future. And I think that's
19 key. Because spending years in a precarious situation of
20 uncertainty is stressful, in itself.

21 We also have a challenge of that we frequently cut,
22 when times get tough, are those out-year expenses. And
23 those are research and development, and those are education,
24 which are absolutely key. And we have to make sure that,
25 whatever the outcome of a Budget Control Act scenario in

1 fiscal year 2016, that we continue to invest in our people,
2 educationwise, and as well as the research and development
3 to make sure we keep them safe and have sound operational
4 capabilities in the future, to give to Congress and the
5 President, options as we move forward.

6 And then it goes everything that trickles down to
7 preserving the force, as far as health, welfare, holistic
8 taking care of our troops, whether it's pay, allowances,
9 things of that nature, that gives us the military capability
10 that we have today.

11 So, I mean, this goes from the very, you know,
12 operational aspects in the field to what life -- how you
13 live life every day when you go to your housing on base or
14 anywhere else. So, this is -- the impacts are very
15 crosscutting and very deep, maybe not so much in itself at
16 the front end, but as you -- as it trickles down. And when
17 you add them all together, they are significant.

18 Senator Shaheen: And Chair Fischer was getting at the
19 question of, What's -- what drives -- to what extent is
20 policy driven by resources? And isn't it true that, despite
21 everybody's best intent, that if sequestration kicks in
22 again, that, in fact, resources are going to have an impact
23 on our policy and our planning?

24 Mr. Lumpkin: Absolutely. It does. I mean -- though
25 the reality is, you can -- I mean, whether it's your -- how

1 you manage your household -- you make decisions on how much
2 money you've got coming in as income, and it's no different
3 from the Department of Defense. We make decisions based on
4 resources that are available.

5 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

6 Senator Fischer: Senator Ernst.

7 Senator Ernst: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Thank you, gentlemen, for being here today. I do
9 appreciate the testimony and your service, as well. Thank
10 you very much.

11 Last month, I had sent a letter to President Obama
12 regarding my concern about Iranian-supported and -controlled
13 Iraqi Shi'a militia, and the long-term threat that they have
14 posed to our country and to a free Iraq. And, as both of
15 you know, throughout the war, we have lost a lot of
16 wonderful Americans to those that are involved with Iraqi
17 Shi'a militia. And I believe that we can't forget their
18 sacrifices against this type of enemy, and that Iran's long-
19 term -- Iran's long-term objective is to defeat both the
20 United States and Iraqi interests in Iraq. My opinion.

21 So, with respect to your near- and long-term
22 assessment, what are the most -- both the most likely and
23 the most dangerous -- not necessarily courses of actions,
24 but the implications for Iraq, particularly for the Iraqi
25 Kurds and the Sunnis, if Iranian-controlled Shi'a militias

1 and their groups continue at the forefront of taking back
2 territory in Iraq? So, again, focusing on Iran and those
3 Shi'a militias that are backed by Iran, and the implications
4 to both our interests and Iraq.

5 Mr. Lumpkin: Thank you.

6 I think that Mr. Steven Vanech will be in the closed
7 session, could give you a much more satisfying answer for
8 what --

9 Senator Ernst: Okay.

10 Mr. Lumpkin: -- you're looking for.

11 Senator Ernst: Okay, thank you.

12 General, the same, also? Okay, thank you very much.

13 And then, just a yes-or-no question in regards to this
14 type of situation. U.S. equipment that has been provided to
15 Iraqi Shi'a militias, that equipment that has been provided
16 to the Iraqi government, has it been obtained by Iranian-
17 controlled militias? Just simple yes or no.

18 Mr. Lumpkin: Again, that would be -- I would go to Mr.
19 Steven Vanech in the closed session for that.

20 Senator Ernst: Okay. Okay. I think most of my
21 questions will need to be asked in a closed session.

22 So, gentlemen, thank you very much. And I look forward
23 to that opportunity.

24 Thank you.

25 Senator Fischer: Senator Gillibrand.

1 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.
2 thank you for hosting this hearing, to you and the Ranking
3 Member.

4 I just got back from a CODEL to Tunisia, Chad, Kenya,
5 Senegal, and Djibouti to talk about antiterrorism, to talk
6 about growing terror threats from al-Shabaab, from ISIL,
7 from Boko Haram. And every single military leader we talked
8 to very specifically said counterterrorism can only be
9 addressed partly through military action, that, in fact, to
10 be effective, you had to combine that with work by the State
11 Department, USAID, a more holistic strategy on the ground,
12 economic development, a range of issues. Do you share that
13 view?

14 Mr. Lumpkin: Yes, I do. The key is, is that, as long
15 as there is a lack of strong governance in a region,
16 extremists will take advantage of that. They'll co-op the
17 people, and they will grow, and they will ultimately be a
18 threat regionally to the burgeoning governments, but the
19 regional and largely -- ultimately, probably
20 internationally. So, I absolutely agree with that.

21 Senator Gillibrand: General?

22 General Howell: I share the view, as well.

23 Senator Gillibrand: So, in closed session, I'll ask
24 you more specific questions about what type of strategies
25 might be effective. But, top line, every leader we talked

1 to, both U.S. and the foreign leaders, they did -- very
2 grateful for the work the U.S. was doing. They
3 overwhelmingly were grateful for all the training that was
4 taking place on the ground. They were very grateful for
5 intelligence-sharing. Several governments wanted
6 helicopters sooner than later. But, they were grateful.
7 And they saw how things were working effectively, in terms
8 of training their personnel to respond, particularly in
9 Chad, for example. They were doing very effective work
10 against -- in Nigeria, more so than the Nigerian government
11 was doing. We saw the same in Kenya, where they were
12 obviously doing far more effective measures than the
13 Somalians were able to do. So, do you think that we have
14 sufficient ISR capabilities to support the
15 counterintelligence efforts in Africa? Do you feel like we
16 have enough components and investment to do what we would
17 like to do in those places?

18 Mr. Lumpkin: Before I turn it over to General Howell,
19 I will tell you that our shortage of the ISR is not limited
20 to Africa. We don't have enough ISR, period. We work the
21 best we can to do with what we got. And that's exactly what
22 we do.

23 So, as we look at the future and we look at dwindling
24 budgets, we see the number of what we call "orbits," the
25 number of airframes in the air, is decreasing, not

1 increasing as the global threats are increasing so that --

2 Senator Gillibrand: So -- but, can I request, then, a
3 more formal request about what you actually need to meet the
4 needs and goals you have in counterterrorism, in terms of
5 ISR? Because I want to be able to prioritize that in budget
6 debates and also when we write the NDAA, that we need more
7 resources in this particular area, because some things are
8 going to be cut, but some things are plussed-up because of
9 the need. So, I'd like more specific requests on that.

10 Mr. Lumpkin: Will do.

11 [The information referred to follows:]

12 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Gillibrand: By region.

2 Mr. Lumpkin: Thank you.

3 Senator Gillibrand: And by terror threat.

4 General?

5 General Howell: Nothing to add to Mr. Lumpkin's

6 comments.

7 Senator Gillibrand: Okay.

8 The rest of my questions will be in -- I will submit

9 for the record for a different setting.

10 [The information referred to follows:]

11 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Gillibrand: Now I want to turn to the issue of
2 integration. I've read a lot about the Cultural Support
3 Teams, how Special Ops have very effectively used them in
4 Afghanistan. For example, they would use the Cultural
5 Support Teams to be able to go into a village to actually
6 inspect the women to make sure they weren't hiding weapons,
7 to question the women and children to find out if any
8 terrorists were among them, and to very, very positive
9 effects on the missions that certainly were being run by
10 Army Rangers and Navy SEAL teams. Can you talk about the
11 benefits of this program? And is SOCOM taking into full
12 account the range of benefits that would come from female
13 participation in Special Ops in its analysis of combat
14 integration?

15 Mr. Lumpkin: I'll just -- I share your comment from
16 the Cultural Support Teams that are in Afghanistan, having
17 served over there. I think those ladies were reaching part
18 of the population that the males were not reaching -- in
19 day-to-day conversation in the villages, sharing some of
20 their concerns, developing relationships, which made our
21 force more effective. So, I think we're constantly looking
22 for new ways to find out how both males and females can make
23 our force better.

24 Senator Gillibrand: And will you use the practical
25 benefits that you've seen on the ground as part of your

1 commitment to force integration? I mean, I just read that
2 the Army Rangers, a large number of the females who were
3 just trained in the latest group, passed through the
4 training.

5 Mr. Lumpkin: I believe you're talking about the women
6 in service review and the integration of women in U.S.
7 Special Operations Command. As you're aware, U.S. Special
8 Operations Command, like the service, is doing a study, and
9 they're working through to give a recommendation, not later
10 than -- I believe that the decision will be made by 1
11 January 2016. But, they're working through all of those
12 pieces to make sure -- everything from that we have
13 standards that are gender neutral, that we have -- and we
14 maximize the opportunity for full integration within the
15 Special Operations enterprise.

16 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you.

17 Senator Fischer: Senator Kaine.

18 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

19 The news is reporting today that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi
20 has been seriously injured, possibly in March, and is now
21 maybe not in operational command of ISIL. There has been
22 earlier reports of this. I think there was one in November.
23 There was one in March. The November one may have turned
24 out to be incorrect. What can you tell us about al-
25 Baghdadi's condition and the effect that that would have on

1 ISIL's effectiveness?

2 Mr. Lumpkin: Thank you, sir. I saw the report, as
3 well, earlier today. And again, not the first time we've
4 had this. But, I think that talking about the impacts is
5 probably a closed-session issue.

6 Senator Kaine: Okay. So, you would not have a -- I
7 mean, in here, not have anything to add, beyond what the
8 report might be today, but we can go into the impacts at the
9 later session.

10 Mr. Lumpkin: Yeah, I have nothing to add to that
11 report.

12 Senator Kaine: Okay.

13 Just a couple of questions to understand how a piece of
14 the Special Forces mission works. As I've traveled as an
15 Armed Services member, one of the things I've really seen is
16 how well Special Forces do in training foreign militaries,
17 and how much in demand that kind of training assistance is.

18 And I also know that the Marines have the Special
19 Purpose MAGTAV that's doing training. They've got a unit in
20 Africa. And then, the State Partnership Program, which the
21 National Guard has, also works on training of foreign
22 militaries. I mean, this is great, because it -- as far as
23 a expenditure of dollars in the grand Pentagon budget, it's
24 not a massive item, but it builds up goodwill. And when
25 countries really need it, they need it.

1 Talk a little bit about how that -- the training is
2 tiered. And is it the COCOM that decides this kind of
3 assistance would need Special Operations to do the -- SOF to
4 do the training, this kind would -- the State Partnership
5 Program would do it, or this time the Marines could do it?
6 How does that get done? Is it organized at the COCOM level
7 or is it done differently?

8 Mr. Lumpkin: It's largely organized by the -- within
9 the combatant commands, and they look at -- across their
10 theaters on where the capacity needs to be built. And so,
11 we work in -- within the Office of Secretary of Defense and
12 the Joint Staff, work in conjunction with the COCOMs to look
13 at the resources that are available and put the right amount
14 of resources in the right place at the right time.

15 There are some natural things, where Special Operations
16 will generally train Special Operations. But, they can
17 train other units, as well, whether it's law enforcement or
18 military. We also have the more enduring partnerships that
19 go on, are -- the State Partnership Program is where you
20 have this habitual relationship between a foreign nation
21 and, you know, a respective state in this country. So, you
22 end up with a very habitual relationship, more conventional
23 in nature, that exists. But, all of these are synchronized
24 across in -- which authority are we using? Are we going to
25 use a counternarcotics authority? Are we going to do a

1 joint combined exercise for training authority, which --
2 where we get 51 percent of the training? Are we going to
3 use some other mechanism? So, we try to take all these
4 different authorities that we have to maximize the
5 engagement with the respective nation to make sure we bring
6 up their capacity. And we'll overlay -- on the
7 counterterrorism front, we'll overlay the 2282, which is the
8 global train-and-equip authority, and to make sure that they
9 have the resources necessary, material resources -- to make
10 sure that they have the -- whether it's guns, planes,
11 trucks, or whatever they need -- to make sure that they can
12 execute those missions that we train them to in -- with
13 those other authorities that are out there.

14 Senator Kaine: My intuition would tell me that the
15 demand for this kind of training from U.S. is probably
16 increasing pretty significantly.

17 Mr. Lumpkin: It is increasing. What we do with --
18 anytime we do any of these training-type events, though, we
19 -- you know, of course, we've -- we do vetting for human
20 rights, and we do things -- and so, the -- you end up with
21 their -- as we work through this, is that -- especially in
22 areas where there is a lack of governance, it gets very
23 difficult to find forces to work with that we can adequately
24 and effectively vet to make sure that they -- we can put the
25 resources of both training and material in the country.

1 Senator Kaine: Am I right that, sort of as a part of
2 the big DOD budget, these training activities are not a --
3 you know, a massive percentage of the DOD budget?

4 Mr. Lumpkin: You are absolutely correct.

5 Senator Kaine: And, when you do them, you build
6 relationships, and some of the people you're training might
7 be the Defense Minister in 10 years, or maybe the President
8 in 15 or 20 years. And that's all part of the thinking
9 about why it's good for us to be that partner for these
10 foreign militaries?

11 Mr. Lumpkin: Absolutely. When -- recently when -- as
12 the Assistant Secretary, I was down in Peru, and I was
13 meeting with people that I had gone to SEAL training, you
14 know, 25 years ago, when I was an Active Duty Navy SEAL.

15 And the other piece that's so significant and important
16 about these military-to-military relationships is, when
17 political relationships become strained, which happens
18 between sovereign nations -- it's just part of the
19 international community -- is that the military-to-military
20 relationship is kind of the glue that holds things together,
21 that I can pick up the phone and call somebody, and we can
22 have -- build a rapport at our level to make sure that
23 things don't go sideways on us, and we end up with a
24 situation that's much more difficult.

25 Senator Kaine: Great.

1 I'm over time. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

2 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

3 My thanks to my colleagues. My thanks to you,
4 gentlemen, for this open session.

5 We will now adjourn for the closed session.

6 Thank you.

7 [Whereupon, at 3:18 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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