

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF
ADMIRAL JOHN M. RICHARDSON, USN, TO BE CHIEF
OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Thursday, July 30, 2015

Washington, D.C.

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U.S. Senate

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Committee on Armed Services

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Washington, D.C.

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10 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:35 a.m. in
11 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. John
12 McCain, chairman of the committee, presiding.

13 Committee Members Present: Senators McCain
14 [presiding], Inhofe, Sessions, Ayotte, Fischer, Cotton,
15 Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Reed, Manchin, Gillibrand,
16 Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, and King.

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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN McCAIN, U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM ARIZONA

3 The Chairman: Good morning. The Senate Armed Services
4 Committee meets today to consider the nomination of Admiral
5 John Richardson to be the 31st Chief of Naval Operations.

6 Admiral Richardson, we thank you for joining us this
7 morning. We're grateful for your many years of
8 distinguished service to our Nation and for your continued
9 willingness to serve.

10 We also welcome members of your family who are joining
11 us this morning, and thank them for supporting you and the
12 Nation. As is our tradition, at the beginning of your
13 testimony we will invite you to introduce any family members
14 that are joining us.

15 The next Chief of Naval Operations will lead our Navy
16 in confronting the most diverse and complex array of global
17 crises since the end of World War II. With instability
18 spreading across the Middle East and North Africa, more than
19 ever our Nation is counting on the forward presence, power
20 projection, and rapid response that the Navy uniquely
21 delivers.

22 In the Asia-Pacific, China is undertaking an ambitious
23 naval buildup that seeks to project power and influence in
24 key waterways of the Asia-Pacific and beyond. While our
25 rebalance to the Asia-Pacific has shown some success, this

1 policy has not yet addressed the shifting military balance
2 in any serious manner. While some would rather avoid a
3 discussion of our competition with China, this relationship
4 will be a serious challenge for our Navy. And yet, while
5 worldwide challenges like these grow, the Defense Department
6 has grown larger but less capable, more complex but less
7 innovative, more proficient at defeating low-tech
8 adversaries but more vulnerable to high-tech ones. And
9 worse, the self-inflicted wounds of the Budget Control Act
10 and sequestration-level defense spending have made all of
11 these problems worse.

12 Now more than ever, a strong Navy is central to our
13 Nation's ability to deter adversaries, assure allies, and
14 defend our national interests. And yet, by any measure,
15 today's fleet of 273 ships is too small to address these
16 critical security challenges. The Navy's requirement is 308
17 ships. The bipartisan National Defense Panel calls for a
18 fleet of 323 to 346 ships. And our combatant commanders say
19 they require 450 ships. With continuing high operational
20 tempo and drastic reductions to defense spending, we will
21 conduct the downward -- we will continue the downward spiral
22 of military capacity and readiness until Congress acts.

23 Admiral Richardson, there are several challenges that
24 will require the next Chief of Naval Operations' personal
25 leadership. I look forward to discussing many of these

1 today.

2 First, each Ford-class aircraft carrier has experienced
3 more than \$2 billion in cost growth. This program continues
4 to be plagued by technology immaturity, concurrent
5 development and production, and a lack of reliability test
6 data for critical systems. This is unacceptable. I repeat,
7 unacceptable. And I fully expect the Navy's ongoing study
8 of alternative aircraft carrier designs to provide real
9 options.

10 Next, the Navy still needs to justify the littoral
11 combat ship's transition to a frigate, which is required in
12 the Senate NDAA, and all three of the LCS mission packages
13 must overcome major technology integration challenges to
14 deliver the promised warfighting capability.

15 Several other important new shipbuilding efforts will
16 require the service chief's leadership in the coming years,
17 including building the first Ohio-class replacement
18 submarine, building the first Flight-3 destroyer with the
19 new air and missile defense radar, and integrating the
20 Virginia payload module on attack air -- submarines. In
21 naval aviation, it will take strong leadership to address
22 the strike fighter shortfall, oversee the smooth and timely
23 integration of the F-35 joint strike fighter into the fleet,
24 and ensure the right requirements for the first unmanned
25 carrier-launched airborne surveillance and strike system.

1 We must also maintain our advantage in the capability and
2 capacity of our munitions. Fielding new weapons, like the
3 long-range anti-ship missile, and improving existing ones,
4 like the family of standard missiles, will continue to be
5 essential. Our ships and planes have been operating at a
6 sustained high operational tempo for over a decade. And it
7 shows. Clearing maintenance backlogs and restoring the
8 Navy's readiness will be a priority.

9 Finally, we cannot forget about our members of the
10 United States Navy. High operational tempo and lucrative
11 opportunities outside the Navy continue to drive some our
12 best talent to leave the service. I'm interested in your
13 plans to manage operational tempo and views on how best to
14 provide a competitive and modern compensation package that
15 provides the right retention incentives. No matter how many
16 dollars we spend, we won't be able to provide our military
17 the equipment they need with a broken defense acquisition
18 system that takes too long and costs too much. With this
19 year's National Defense Authorization Act, this committee
20 has embarked on a major effort to reform this system,
21 including ways to empower our service leaders to manage
22 their own programs and take on greater accountability.

23 Admiral Richardson, we are interested to hear your
24 views on improving defense acquisition based on your many
25 years of service. Thank you. We look forward to your

1 testimony.

2 Senator Reed.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. JACK REED, U.S. SENATOR FROM RHODE
2 ISLAND

3 Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

4 Let me join you in welcome Admiral Richardson and his
5 family -- his father, his wife, his daughter. Thank you all
6 very much. We all understand that no one serves alone in
7 the Navy or elsewhere, so thank you very much.

8 You have an extraordinary record of service to the
9 Nation in the Navy, and we thank you for that. You have a
10 remarkable record as the Director of Navy Nuclear Propulsion
11 Program, your current assignment. And, in that assignment,
12 you are familiar with many of the issues Senator McCain
13 raised: acquisition. How do you design a program that's
14 not only effective but is affordable? And those are one of
15 the major issues you're going to confront as the CNO.

16 You'll be asked to ensure that we have a quality force
17 -- that's recruiting, training -- and, in this respect,
18 ensuring the highest ethics are employed in the service,
19 particularly when it comes to the issues of domestic
20 violence, which we've seen all too often in the military
21 services. That's another role we expect you to play.

22 We have a world that is full of crises, and the Navy is
23 one of the major ways that we project force and we deal with
24 uncertainty and changing conditions. And it remains that
25 way. But, as the Chairman has pointed out, one of the

1 issues you'll face is affordability. How do we afford all
2 the ships that we need? How do we bring on the next class
3 of ballistic missile submarine, the Ohio replacement class?
4 And then, these challenges are exacerbated by the prospect
5 of looming sequestration or temporary arrangements to get by
6 year to year rather than a long-range plan to fund the Navy
7 and the other services.

8 So, all of these challenges will be before you. I'm
9 confident that you will be able to face them, and look
10 forward to your testimony this morning.

11 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

12 The Chairman: Admiral, before we continue, let me ask
13 you the standard questions that we ask all of military
14 nominees.

15 In order to exercise its legislative and oversight
16 responsibilities, it is important that this committee and
17 other appropriate committees of the Congress be able to
18 receive testimony, briefings, and other communications of
19 information. Have you adhered to applicable laws and
20 regulations governing conflicts of interest?

21 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

22 The Chairman: Do you agree, when asked, to give your
23 personal views, even if those views differ from the
24 administration in power?

25 Admiral Richardson: I do.

1 The Chairman: Have you assumed any duties or undertaken
2 any actions which would appear to presume the outcome of the
3 confirmation process?

4 Admiral Richardson: No, sir.

5 The Chairman: Will you ensure your staff complies with
6 deadlines established for requested communications,
7 including questions for the record in hearings?

8 Admiral Richardson: I will.

9 The Chairman: Will you cooperate in providing witnesses
10 and briefers in response to congressional requests?

11 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

12 The Chairman: Will those witnesses be protected from
13 reprisals for their testimony or briefings?

14 Admiral Richardson: They will.

15 The Chairman: Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear and
16 testify, upon request, before this committee?

17 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

18 The Chairman: Do you agree to provide documents,
19 including copies of electronic forms of communications, in a
20 timely manner when requested by a duly-constituted
21 committee, or to consult with the committee regarding the
22 basis for any good-faith delay or denial in providing such
23 documents?

24 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

25 The Chairman: Welcome. And please proceed.

1 STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL JOHN M. RICHARDSON, USN, NOMINEE
2 TO BE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

3 Admiral Richardson: Thank you. Chairman McCain,
4 Senator Reed, and distinguished members of the committee, I
5 am honored and humbled to appear before you as the nominee
6 to be our next Chief of Naval Operations. I am grateful for
7 the confidence of President Obama, Secretary Carter, and
8 Secretary Mabus.

9 I'd like to begin by thanking Admiral John Greenert and
10 his wife, Darlene, for their magnificent service to our
11 country for over 40 years, and especially for their role in
12 leading our Navy these past 4 years. They have been
13 tireless and superb advocates for our sailors, their
14 families, our Navy, and our Nation.

15 I'm grateful to have my family here with me today,
16 Chairman, as you recognized, as they have been throughout my
17 entire career.

18 My dad is here with me today. My dad's a retired Navy
19 captain who served with distinction for 25 years through the
20 Cold War. And I remember, like it was yesterday, the nights
21 that my mom and we six kids would get together in our living
22 room, and my dad would come out in his service dress blues
23 and his seabag. We would say goodbye for 6 months, and then
24 we would carry on, supporting each other until my dad came
25 back home. I got my start in the Navy from my dad, and he

1 continues to advise me, sometimes vigorously, and make me
2 proud.

3 My wife, Dana, is here.

4 The Chairman: I had the same experience.

5 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

6 [Laughter.]

7 Admiral Richardson: My wife, Dana, is also here. Dana
8 and I met as classmates in York High School in southern
9 Maine, and we married just as soon as we could after I
10 graduated from the Naval Academy. And over the last 33
11 years, Dana has raised our five children while I was away at
12 sea, and has supported Navy families in every way possible.
13 She's always been there with me, challenging me and adding
14 perspective that I long ago grew to depend on.

15 Our daughter, Rachel, one of our five children, is here
16 representing the Richardson tribe. She's a student at the
17 University of Virginia and is a summer intern in the Amputee
18 Center at Walter Reed.

19 Our oldest son, Nathan, is a Navy lieutenant. He and
20 his wife are serving overseas in Naples, Italy. Our other
21 son, Daniel, is doing research for renewable fuels in
22 Hawaii. Our two youngest children, Matthew and Veronica,
23 are visiting family in Oregon before they return home to go
24 back to school.

25 If you ask Dana, she would say, "We're just a typical

1 Navy family." We have moved 20 times, our kids have
2 attended dozens of schools, we've lived all around the
3 country and overseas. Today, the Richardson family, like so
4 many other Navy families, is ready to continue to serve our
5 Nation.

6 I am also conscious that I am here before this
7 committee for the very first time, and I want to thank you
8 for your leadership in keeping our Nation secure and keeping
9 our Navy the strongest that has ever sailed the seas. And,
10 if confirmed, I very much look forward to working closely
11 with you to continue that important work.

12 I see the naval profession as a bond of trust and
13 confidence with the American people and with our sailors.
14 And I hold some core beliefs about our Navy that guide me.
15 The Navy must be at sea, underway. It must be present
16 around the world, protecting American interests, enabling
17 access to international markets and trade, responding to
18 crises, and providing security. We are at our best when we
19 operate with others, including our fellow services,
20 especially the Marine Corps, as well as with our partners
21 and allies.

22 The muscle and bones of the Navy are our ships,
23 submarines, and aircraft, highly capable, exercised
24 frequently, well equipped, and ready to operate from the sea
25 and far from home. But, the heart and soul of our Navy are

1 our sailors. Every day around the world, our sailors can be
2 found on, under, and over the sea. They are smart,
3 resourceful, committed Americans who want to be part of
4 something special, to serve their country by being part of a
5 high-performing team. They are rightly proud of what they
6 do. And they are a formidable force. Despite a growing set
7 of challenges and some significant strains, they continue to
8 go to sea to do what must be done today, and to adapt and
9 innovate in order to prevail tomorrow. It is a privilege to
10 work with, and especially to lead, such a capable and
11 resilient team.

12 America sends us their sons and daughters, their
13 brothers and sisters, their fathers and mothers to go to sea
14 with us, potentially into harm's way. In return for that
15 sacrifice, our Navy must provide them a positive and
16 respectful environment where they can thrive and achieve
17 their highest potential.

18 And finally, the American people demand, as they
19 should, that we execute our mission in a prudent and
20 responsible way, worthy of their confidence in us.

21 The bottom line is that, in any situation, in any
22 competition, and certainly in any fight, America expects
23 that their Navy will find a way to win. And we will.

24 Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, if
25 confirmed, I will give everything I have to honor and

1 strengthen the bonds of trust and confidence that your Navy
2 has with our Nation and its people.

3 Thank you. And I look forward to your questions.

4 [The prepared statement of Admiral Richardson follows:]

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1 The Chairman: Thank you, Admiral.

2 Admiral Richardson, General Dunford recently stated --
3 made a couple of statements in his appearance before this
4 committee. One was that he said we can't -- we cannot
5 execute the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review with the budget
6 cuts as a result of Budget Control Act, known as
7 sequestration. He continues stating that ongoing cuts will
8 threaten our ability to execute the current defense
9 strategy. Do you agree with that?

10 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I do.

11 The Chairman: Do you believe that, as other witnesses
12 have -- in uniform have stated, that continued adherence to
13 sequestration will put the lives of the men and women
14 serving in the Navy at greater risk?

15 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I do.

16 The Chairman: You do.

17 Are you seeing what I'm hearing, that there is becoming
18 a morale problem and possibly, over time, a retention
19 problem because of the effects of sequestration on ability
20 to plan, ability to train, readiness, long deployments, et
21 cetera?

22 Admiral Richardson: Senator, from my experience, when
23 I get around the fleet -- and I do a fair amount of that --
24 morale remains high, but there is a degree of unsettledness
25 and uncertainty that arises from uncertainty in the fiscal

1 environment. And so, as we manage our way through
2 continuing resolutions, the looming sequestration --
3 sequestration always looming over us, and manage our way
4 through these times of reduced resources, there is an
5 unsettled feeling in the force as this uncertainty clouds
6 the air. They remain committed, as I said in my statement,
7 to doing the job that they have been given. They want to be
8 trained properly to execute the mission. And so, that's the
9 way I see it right now.

10 The Chairman: Which sequestration is a hindrance to.

11 Admiral Richardson: It is, yes, sir.

12 The Chairman: Department of Defense has announced a 2-
13 month gap of aircraft carrier presence in the Middle East
14 later this fall while we are conducting air operations from
15 the carrier there. Will -- does that concern you?

16 Admiral Richardson: Sir, that does concern me, but I
17 would say that the overriding message that I hope is clear
18 is our firm commitment to a naval presence in that region.
19 We've been there for decades. We've --

20 The Chairman: And the absence of the carrier doesn't
21 really authenticate a commitment.

22 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I think the commitment does
23 remain strong, and we'll work to mitigate --

24 The Chairman: So, does this impair our ability to carry
25 out operations, the absence of the carrier?

1 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I think we will mitigate the
2 absence -- any absence of the carrier through other
3 capabilities, using the entire --

4 The Chairman: Tell me one other -- tell me what
5 replaces an aircraft carrier, Admiral.

6 Admiral Richardson: Well, sir, you could use other air
7 assets, strike assets to mitigate that gap.

8 The Chairman: For example.

9 Admiral Richardson: Land-based air or --

10 The Chairman: So, now you're -- believe that land-based
11 air can replace the presence of the carrier?

12 Admiral Richardson: Sir, there's no question about the
13 value of an aircraft carrier in the region, sir.

14 The Chairman: Well, then that doesn't comport with what
15 you just said.

16 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I was trying to make the
17 point that -- about our long-term commitment in the region.

18 The Chairman: I'm talking about a 2-month gap in the
19 short term.

20 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir. That gap is a
21 reflection of the earlier strains on the force, long-term
22 commitments --

23 The Chairman: Yeah, but my question was, Is that going
24 to hinder our ability to carry out the needed operations in
25 the region, where obviously there's conflict taking place?

1 Admiral Richardson: Without that carrier, there will
2 be a decrement in our capability there, yes, sir.

3 The Chairman: After more than 2 million -- billion
4 dollars in cost growth of the first three Ford-class
5 carriers, what -- it's an example, and a glaring example, of
6 cost overruns and schedules delays. What extent would
7 giving the Chief of Naval Operations greater responsibility
8 for acquisition programs help reduce cost overruns, schedule
9 delay, and fix this problem, which, at least in the view of
10 many of us, have difficulty justifying to our taxpayers?

11 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I share your concern about
12 the cost overruns of the carrier, and I agree with you that
13 they are unacceptable. From my experience, controlling cost
14 and schedule while delivering capability really resides from
15 adhering to a few fundamental principles. One is clear
16 command and control that is lean and agile. We've got to
17 have a definition of requirements that is informed by
18 available technology and available resources. You've got to
19 have a stable design and a build plan before you begin
20 production. And finally, you have to have informed and
21 close oversight. I think that the Chief of Naval Operations
22 is involved in every step -- every one of those four steps.
23 And, if confirmed, I look towards -- forward to being very
24 involved in acquisition.

25 The Chairman: Well, unfortunately, the last Chief of

1 Naval Operations testified before this committee that he
2 didn't know who was responsible for it. I hope you're aware
3 of the changes that we're trying to make in the NDAA which
4 would make the Chief of Naval Operations more involved.

5 And finally, do you believe that it's appropriate, or
6 would you be supportive of, a provision in the NDAA which
7 calls for examinations of alternative platforms for
8 aviation, as opposed to what is basically, right now, the
9 only game in town?

10 Admiral Richardson: Mr. Chairman, I look very much
11 forward to supporting that study completely and seeing what
12 information it produces.

13 The Chairman: Thank you.

14 Senator Reed.

15 Senator Reed: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Admiral
16 Richardson.

17 Following on the Chairman's questioning, the biggest
18 program -- new program coming online is the Ohio-class
19 replacement. And you talked about sort of getting it right,
20 from the beginning, which is requirements. And you're in a
21 very significant position right now with your participation
22 on the nuclear reactor program. Are you satisfied with the
23 requirements, as they exist today, of 16 missile tubes on
24 the Ohio class, one of the most significant aspects?

25 Admiral Richardson: Senator, the current requirements

1 for the Ohio replacement program are exactly what we need to
2 continue to deliver that capability.

3 Senator Reed: And not only now, but if you're the CNO,
4 you'll continue to look closely at those requirements to
5 ensure that they're necessary and sufficient, though.

6 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

7 Senator Reed: The other -- what other requirements in
8 -- with respect to the Ohio-class replacement do you think
9 are critical, besides the two? Are there any other key,
10 sort of, game changers that you're looking at?

11 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir. Certainly, as I look at
12 the Ohio replacement program, a program that will be
13 defending the Nation well into the -- for 50 years -- well,
14 potentially into 2080s -- there are some things that you
15 must build into the ship that you must get right from the
16 very start, and then there are some things inside the ship
17 where you allow technology to mature and advance. I would
18 say that a critical component that must be addressed from
19 the start is -- in addition to the missile tubes -- is
20 stealth. And we've paid a great -- amount of time and
21 energy to make sure that we have the stealth requirements of
22 the submarine right.

23 Senator Reed: Very good.

24 One of the things that we have done in the last several
25 years in the National Defense Authorization Act is create a

1 sea-based deterrence fund to try to aid the construction and
2 deployment of this new class of submarines. And the Navy is
3 developing plans to use this sea-based deterrence fund. Do
4 you have any notion of when those plans will be forthcoming
5 and available to us?

6 Admiral Richardson: Sir, first, you know, the creation
7 of this fund, I think, highlights the existential importance
8 of this program to our Nation, and also that executing this
9 program will require a combination both of resources and
10 authorities. We're conducting a study right now to both
11 mature the design and mature the build plan. We should get
12 that completed by the fall timeframe, and I look forward to
13 collaborating when we have that more mature.

14 Senator Reed: And the essence underlying this national
15 sea-based deterrence fund, the same logic, I presume, will
16 apply -- this is maybe a comment more than a question -- to
17 the necessity as we go forward to replace the air- and land-
18 based legs of the triad, also. Because, a service --
19 exclusively service-funded program is very expensive, given
20 competing demand. So, is that your logic?

21 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I agree with that logic.
22 Sir, these are critical builds to reconstitute our strategic
23 triad. Yes, sir.

24 Senator Reed: Thank you.

25 One of the other areas which gives us an edge, and we

1 hope increasing edge, an increasing one, is the labs and the
2 test facilities and the intellectual infrastructure of the
3 Navy. And it's all over the country. We have the Naval
4 Under-Warfare Center in Newport, but there are so many
5 critical aspects of this. Particularly in these difficult
6 budgetary times, do you have any concerns about appropriate
7 funding for the laboratories? And will we lose out, in
8 terms of their contribution to national security?

9 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I think it's absolutely
10 critical that we maintain this intellectual capital to
11 inform our decisions, not only today, but even more so into
12 the future, addressing your concern that programs like Ohio
13 replacement remain attuned and relevant, going forward.
14 It's absolutely critical that we fund this so that we can
15 remain relevant. Also look forward to participating in
16 discussions that can make them more agile and competitive
17 with their private-sector counterparts, as well.

18 Senator Reed: Just a final point. I think your
19 comments are right on target. You need an infrastructure of
20 research centers, the Navy, other services, but they have to
21 be much more agile, much more connected to commercial
22 procurement, commercial enterprise, and that's a challenge
23 that you'll have to take on as you assume these duties.

24 Thank you very much.

25 Admiral Richardson: Thank you, sir.

1 The Chairman: Before I recognize Senator Ayotte, I'd
2 like you to affirm that the finest shipyard on earth is the
3 Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Is that correct?

4 [Laughter.]

5 The Chairman: Thank you.

6 Senator Ayotte.

7 Senator Ayotte: Well, thank you, Chairman. I
8 appreciate your confirming what we all know, and certainly
9 what Senator King agrees with me about, that the Portsmouth
10 Naval Shipyard is the finest naval shipyard on earth.

11 [Laughter.]

12 Senator Ayotte: We have a great partnership between
13 Maine and New Hampshire on this shipyard.

14 And I actually know that you have a history with the
15 shipyard. I certainly have been there before, and --

16 Admiral Richardson: Yes, ma'am, I sure do.

17 Senator Ayotte: -- we look --

18 Admiral Richardson: I -- well, that's where my wife
19 and I met, was up there, and we dated all around Portsmouth.
20 So, we go all the -- that's our --

21 The Chairman: See? Just as I --

22 [Laughter.]

23 Senator Ayotte: So, we will welcome you back to the
24 shipyard, and we'd enjoy that.

25 But, I thank -- I very much thank you and your family

1 for your service to the country and willingness to take on
2 this important leadership position during these challenging
3 times.

4 And yesterday, before the Committee on Readiness,
5 Senator Kaine and I hosted a hearing that was focused on
6 best practices at our Nation's public and private shipyards.
7 And I believe my staff provided that testimony to you.

8 Admiral Richardson: Yes, ma'am.

9 Senator Ayotte: And one of the things that came out
10 that is happening at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is a very
11 strong partnership between labor and management that has
12 driven performance significantly, where they are producing
13 -- producing the work they're doing on our attack submarine
14 fleet ahead of schedule, under budget. And a takeaway from
15 the hearing was that some of these best practices that are
16 being put in place, that we need a better mechanism to share
17 those among the shipyards before -- public shipyards -- to
18 ensure that we can learn from each other to make sure that
19 that strong partnership is there for excellent performance
20 between labor and management. And I know that the Naval Sea
21 Systems Command, NAVSEA, Labor-Management Partnership Forum
22 is an important start in that effort, but I think there can
23 be more done, based on the hearing we had yesterday.

24 So, I wanted to ask you about this issue, and your
25 commitment to ensuring that we institutionalize best

1 practices among our workforce and relationships between
2 labor and management among all the four shipyards.

3 Admiral Richardson: Yes, ma'am. First, I would say
4 that they just are a magnificent team up in Portsmouth. And
5 all of our public yards are absolutely strategic jewels in
6 our Nation's capability. Even in my current job as Director
7 of Naval Reactors, we are very involved with the shipyards.
8 And it has been a thrust of my time here as the director to
9 do exactly that, ma'am, is that we can share best practices,
10 and we can share lessons learned, as well, more effectively.
11 And so, that has been a -- an emphasis of my time here, and
12 will continue, if confirmed as CNO.

13 Senator Ayotte: I appreciate it.

14 As we look at the request for combatant commanders for
15 the support from our attack submarine fleet, and then we
16 look at -- we have -- currently, we have about 54 attack
17 submarines, and we're only meet of half of combatant
18 commanders' request for. And as we look at some of the
19 activity, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, we know
20 that there's -- this is very important, to have this
21 capacity. And yet, where we're headed is the number of
22 attack submarine fleet -- of subs is actually going down to
23 41 as we look forward to 2029. And so, one thing that this
24 committee has done is really focusing on having the Navy
25 procure at least two Virginia-class submarines per year.

1 What are your thought on this shortfall and how we
2 address it? Now, overriding everything, of course, is
3 sequester and our need to resolve that. But, going forward,
4 assuming we can work together to resolve that, which has got
5 to be top priority, what's your thought on making sure that
6 we have what we need?

7 Admiral Richardson: Ma'am, I think it's very clear,
8 and can show hard evidence that we currently enjoy
9 superiority in the undersea domain. But, that domain is
10 hotly contested, and we cannot rest for a minute and remain
11 confident. We have to continue to keep pressing.

12 To address your question, ma'am, exactly as you say,
13 we've got to continue to try and mitigate that dip in attack
14 submarine force level before the -- below the requirement of
15 48, and we are doing everything we can to mitigate that.
16 One is that the two Virginia-class submarines per year are a
17 critical part of that program, very highly successful,
18 continuing to deliver below budget and ahead of schedule.
19 That must continue, and we must continue to try and reduce
20 that construction time.

21 As well, we're looking to do what we can to extend the
22 life of our current Los Angeles-class attack submarines and
23 every other thing we can to mitigate that trough.

24 Senator Ayotte: I thank you.

25 And I know that my time is expired, but I know the

1 Chairman would share this concern, since we're in this
2 public forum, that we say something about what Russia did
3 yesterday in the United Nations, in terms of blocking the
4 request for an investigation into MH-17. And I think it
5 shows -- it's not related to this hearing, but it shows our
6 concerns that we've been trying to address in this committee
7 on Russia.

8 And I thank you for your willingness to serve in this
9 important position.

10 Admiral Richardson: Thank you, ma'am.

11 The Chairman: Senator Donnelly.

12 Senator Donnelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I was
13 hoping you would introduce me by saying I'm from the home of
14 the greatest Naval Surface Warfare Center in southern
15 Indiana, that naval bastion.

16 The Chairman: I'll try to do that in the future.

17 Senator Donnelly: Thank you, sir.

18 [Laughter.]

19 Senator Donnelly: Admiral, thank you. And, to your
20 family, thank you very, very much. Like the Chairman and
21 like you, Admiral, my dad was a Navy veteran. He was a
22 little bit below decks on the ship, but loved every minute
23 of having a chance to be part of it.

24 When we look foreign and we look at the challenges we
25 have in the nuclear area in regards to submarine warfare,

1 one of my greatest concerns is the efforts to attack us,
2 cyber-wise, to find out our technology, to find out our
3 plans, to find out how we plan to map it out, going forward.
4 And so, it's not only on the naval side, but on our
5 contractor side. And I was wondering what is being done to
6 make sure that there's no backdoors open with our
7 contractors that other countries can get into.

8 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I share your concern
9 about activity in the cyberdomain. As we speak today, that
10 is a hotly contested domain. And, just on our defense and
11 Navy networks, we are, you know, subject to tens of
12 thousands of attacks per day. Attribution is very
13 difficult, but, just like in other domains, success, I
14 think, revolves around being properly organized, trained,
15 and equipped. And Navy is moving out in that area with 10th
16 Fleet, the formation of cybermission teams that would
17 provide not only defensive and support capabilities, but
18 offensive tools that would be available, should our leaders
19 choose to use those.

20 With respect to protecting our networks, we use a
21 variety of tools. Some of those exact techniques, I'm
22 reluctant to talk about in an open forum.

23 Senator Donnelly: Right.

24 Admiral Richardson: But, we do maintain, both from a
25 physical security, a cybersecurity, and personnel,

1 appropriate measures to prevent those sorts of intrusions.

2 Senator Donnelly: And I know you're working hard on
3 it, and working in connection with our contractors to go
4 over best practices with them to ensure that every avenue to
5 the technology, to the intellectual capital, is cut off.

6 One of the things we do at Crane Naval Warfare Center
7 is, we collaborate a lot with the Air Force on systems and
8 how to save money and how to kind of be able to -- and I
9 know this is a subject dear to the Chairman's heart -- How
10 do we make every dollar go a little bit further? How do we
11 work in coordination to see if something can fit on -- in
12 both the Navy and in the Air Force? And I'm sure you would
13 want to continue that effort.

14 Admiral Richardson: Absolutely. Everywhere we can,
15 not only meet the requirements of the mission, but be more
16 efficient and effective, I'm very open to that. And
17 particularly with respect to the work there at Naval Surface
18 Warfare Center Crane, and their work in fighting the
19 proliferation of counterfeit parts and those sorts of things
20 is a big part of maintaining our security in the
21 cyberdomain.

22 Senator Donnelly: Thank you. And I had the privilege
23 of traveling with you to one of our facilities. And, during
24 that time, we had a discussion about the mental health of
25 our sailors. And I am sure that you will continue the

1 efforts of Admiral Greenert in making sure that -- the
2 mental health challenges our men and women face, that you're
3 there to make sure there's no stigma and that services and
4 assistance are available.

5 Admiral Richardson: Senator, absolutely will remain
6 fully committed to that, to help our sailors be fully part
7 of a connected team so that, when challenges come of any
8 sort, they can fall back and feel -- and get support.

9 Senator Donnelly: Let me ask you this. What keeps you
10 up at night? What is your greatest concern? Number one,
11 logistics-wise, what do you need the most? And, number two
12 is, what's the greatest danger you see out there, in your
13 job?

14 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I think the Chairman
15 mentioned it, and it's been discussed here already at the
16 hearing. The thing that has my attention is the growing
17 complexity and urgency of our security environment around
18 the world. Our Nation is pulled in so many different
19 directions, not only the Indo-Asia-Pacific, but also we
20 mentioned Russia and their activity in Europe, and certainly
21 the activity in the Middle East. Contrasting to that is --
22 sequestration, I think, is a symptom of sort of a level of
23 awareness that I look forward, if confirmed, to enhancing,
24 to make that message more vivid so that we can close the gap
25 between the growing requirements in the security

1 environment, and things like sequestration would -- which
2 would threaten the resources to address it.

3 Senator Donnelly: Admiral, thank you for your service
4 to the country.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 The Chairman: Senator Cotton.

7 Senator Cotton: Admiral, thank you very much for your
8 service. And thanks, to your family, for their service, as
9 well. The Navy is unique among our services, that, in
10 wartime or peacetime, the deployment pace does not really
11 change, and we know it puts strains on families. So, both
12 for what you represent for our sailors and what you
13 represent for all their families, we're grateful for all of
14 their service.

15 Admiral, is China an adversary?

16 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I think China is a
17 complex nation. They are clearly growing in every
18 dimension. Many of the things that they do sort of have an
19 adversarial nature to them. They -- they've got a vastly
20 growing nation. Their activity in the South China Sea in
21 land reclamation certainly has potential to destabilize that
22 region.

23 Senator Cotton: So, it doesn't sound like rosy
24 relationship right now with China, between the United States
25 and our allies, but various published reports have

1 speculated that civilian -- our Civilian Nuclear Cooperation
2 Agreement with China that the Obama administration has
3 submitted to Congress may facilitate the transfer of
4 sensitive nuclear equipment and technology to the People's
5 Liberation Army's Navy. This is very troubling to me. And,
6 given the trends you cite, I would imagine any increase in
7 the capability and lethality of the PLA navy would also
8 worry you. Do you believe that the United States Navy has a
9 appreciable military advantage over the PLA navy at this
10 point, especially regarding nuclear naval capabilities?

11 Admiral Richardson: Senator, this is something I
12 obviously watch extremely closely. The details of this are
13 very, very technical and difficult to discuss in an open
14 forum. I would look forward to discussing those in a
15 classified setting with you.

16 But, we have taken a look very closely at the successor
17 agreement to continuing to exchange nuclear technologies. I
18 believe that, in aggregate, we would be better with a
19 renewed successor agreement than without it.

20 Senator Cotton: Even if you suspected or knew that the
21 PLA navy was going to divert that civilian nuclear
22 technology towards nuclear naval systems?

23 Admiral Richardson: Senator, again, the details of
24 exactly that assessment are classified, but I can say, with
25 a fair degree of confidence, that we are better with this

1 agreement than we are without it.

2 Senator Cotton: Okay, thank you.

3 Right now, the Navy is on a budgetary path to 260 ships
4 or less. Do you agree with the findings of the 2014
5 National Defense Panel, which was a bipartisan and
6 congressionally mandated group of experts, that we should
7 have a target force of between 325-346 ships?

8 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I think that the strategic
9 environment -- you know, we could easily justify an appetite
10 for more ships, but another dimension of the strategic
11 environment is the resource part of that environment. Our
12 current plan for a 308-ship Navy represents, right now, the
13 very best balance to meet the demands, not only of the
14 security environment, but also to do that with available
15 resources.

16 Senator Cotton: Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus has
17 said that quantity has a quality of its own. Do you believe
18 that that is true? And, if so, is 308 ships going to be
19 enough of a quantity to give us that quality of its own
20 kind?

21 Admiral Richardson: I 100-percent agree with Secretary
22 Mabus about the quality of the number of ships. And the
23 current plan does allow us to meet our responsibilities in
24 the defense strategic guidance, albeit with some risk.

25 Senator Cotton: In the recently issued National

1 Military Strategy, General Dempsey, the Chairman of the
2 Joint Chief of Staff, describes the need to counter certain
3 revisionist states -- Russia, China, Iran, North Korea
4 principally among them. But, he also writes that the U.S.
5 military advantage has begun to erode. Are there areas in
6 which the U.S. Navy's military advantage has begun to erode,
7 relative to our adversaries?

8 Admiral Richardson: Senator, this is a very dynamic
9 environment, and the technological environment is changing
10 very rapidly. As the Chairman mentioned, we've got to
11 become more agile in our acquisition systems to stay
12 competitive in that realm. But, I'm confident that, with
13 the support of this committee and with Congress and the
14 innovation of the Navy, we will do that. But, as you said,
15 you know, some of our readiness is starting to -- we're
16 still recovering from the effects of the 2013 sequestration
17 as we continue to build our readiness back up so that we've
18 got appropriate responses forces for global contingencies.

19 Senator Cotton: So, the flip side of what you just
20 said is, without adequate support from this Congress, then
21 our military advantage, as it relates to our Navy, may, in
22 fact, begin to erode?

23 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

24 Senator Cotton: Well, I hope that we provide you and
25 all the sailors that you represent the adequate support you

1 need, both to modernize our fleet and to continue to be a
2 forward-deployed force to project American power.

3 Admiral Richardson: Thank you, Senator. I look
4 forward to working with you.

5 The Chairman: We might now hear from the Newport News
6 Naval Shipyard, Senator Kaine.

7 Senator Kaine: And Norfolk, as well, Mr. Chair.

8 The Chairman: Norfolk. Excuse me. Both.

9 [Laughter.]

10 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 And thanks, Admiral Richardson. And congrats to your
12 cavalier daughter, Rachel. We're glad to have her here, as
13 well, and your family.

14 You've got a big day Saturday. The launch of the
15 U.S.S. John Warner, a Virginia-class sub, at the Norfolk
16 base, a former chair of this committee, and wonderful
17 colleague. And that's a great program, actually, to
18 exemplify a couple of issues. The Chair asked questions
19 about acquisition reform. The Virginia-class program,
20 because of this kind of "coopetition" between the shipyard
21 at Newport News and Electric Boat in Connecticut, has been a
22 pretty solid program, in terms of delivering the subs, as
23 contracted, on time, on budget.

24 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

25 Senator Kaine: Are there lessons from that acquisition

1 strategy that, you know, we replicate on Ohio-class or other
2 platforms?

3 Admiral Richardson: Senator, we intend to leverage all
4 of those lessons to design and deliver the Ohio class, using
5 many of the same tools that have been successful in
6 Virginia. And we hope to bring to you a design that is very
7 mature. That was one of the key successes to the Virginia
8 program. We hope to provide you a stable build plan that,
9 if funded with predictable funds, will allow the team of
10 shipyards at Newport News and Electric Boat to allocate risk
11 and deliver those submarines, along with the Virginia class,
12 at the lowest possible price.

13 Senator Kaine: Another aspect of the U.S.S. John
14 Warner is -- it's obviously a nuclear sub, and you are the
15 -- currently the commander of Navy Nuclear Propulsion. When
16 we talk about sequester and the effects of sequester on the
17 defense mission, sometimes I think we ought to make sure
18 we're broadening our view. In your current role, you work
19 very closely with the Department of Energy around nuclear
20 reactor work, as well, don't you?

21 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

22 Senator Kaine: And sequester doesn't just affect
23 defense by affecting the Department of Defense. The
24 nondefense accounts, Department of Energy being one, that
25 are affected by sequester also have a significant effect on

1 our national security, isn't that correct?

2 Admiral Richardson: Senator, that's exactly right.
3 And Secretary Moniz has been very clear about the national
4 security mission that he has in the Department of Energy,
5 not only for naval reactors, which he fully supports, but
6 also in the nuclear weapons business.

7 Senator Kaine: So, if we were just to fix sequester in
8 the defense accounts, but not fix sequester in the
9 nondefense accounts, things like nuclear research through
10 the DOE that has a direct impact on national security would
11 still be compromised, correct?

12 Admiral Richardson: That's true, yes, sir.

13 Senator Kaine: I want to ask you about readiness and
14 the measures of readiness. Because Senator Ayotte and I are
15 on -- chair and ranking on the Readiness Subcommittee.
16 Let's get into the metrics a little bit.

17 My understanding is, normally you have about a third --
18 Navy would have about a third of its ships forward deployed
19 to support regional commanders, but then have an additional
20 component, usually three carrier strike groups and three
21 ARGs, in a surge status, so kind of trained up and ready to
22 deploy within 30 days. Talk to us about how sequestration
23 and budgetary uncertainty affects that surge capacity, the
24 readiness to respond to the unforeseen contingency.

25 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

1 Senator, certainly, our priority has been -- and
2 Admiral Greenert's made this clear -- that we will not
3 deploy forces unless they are fully ready. And so, those
4 forward-deployed strike groups and amphibious-ready groups
5 will be ready in every respect. But, to meet our
6 responsibilities in the Defense Strategic Guidance, we also
7 need that surge force to respond to contingencies once those
8 forward-deployed forces have done their mission. Currently,
9 you know, our requirements are that we have three carrier
10 strike groups and three amphibious-ready groups ready to
11 deploy in the event of a contingency. Right now, we are at
12 one of those three. We are on a path to recover so that
13 we've got full readiness in both of those areas by 2020, but
14 that also is contingent on stable and reliable funding to
15 get us there.

16 Senator Kaine: And so, from the earlier testimony,
17 even the forward-deployed -- when we end up with this 2-
18 month carrier gap, the forward-deployed is affected by
19 budgetary uncertainty, and then, up until 2020, our surge
20 capacity and readiness is -- has been significantly
21 affected, and we hope to get back to that surge capacity
22 that we think is optimal.

23 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

24 Senator Kaine: Just last item, quickly. Senator King
25 and I were in India in October and visited the shipbuilders

1 at the Magazon docks in Mumbai. And there was a great deal
2 of pride there, and a great deal of desire to partner with
3 the United States. I like the fact that you mentioned the
4 Indo-Asia-Pacific region. I view India and the Indian navy
5 as a partner of growing importance as we look at this pivot
6 to Asia. And I think there's a strong desire to partner
7 with the United States, participate in naval exercises.
8 They do more joint exercises with the U.S. than any other
9 nation, and I would just like your opinion about that as my
10 final question.

11 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I agree, there's
12 tremendous importance to that region, and also potential to
13 further those relationships. And, if confirmed, I look
14 forward to getting personally involved in making those ties
15 stronger.

16 Senator Kaine: Great. Thank you so much.

17 Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

18 The Chairman: Senator Ernst.

19 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 Thank you, Admiral, for being here today. And I do
21 want to take special time and thank your father, your wife,
22 Dana, and your daughter, Rachel, for accompanying you today.

23 And, Rachel, a special shout-out to you for serving at
24 Walter Reed right now. I have a dear friend that recently
25 went through the Amputee Center. So, thanks so much for all

1 your great service, as well.

2 Admiral, in reference to the Iran nuclear agreement,
3 the Obama administration has continuously said, over and
4 over again, that the alternative to the Iran nuclear
5 agreement is war. He -- the President has made it clear in
6 his statement, that the only alternative is war. So, as I'm
7 out visiting with other people, that's kind of the response.
8 It's picked up, and people are saying, "Oh, we have to go to
9 war if we don't sign this agreement."

10 In your best military judgment, do you believe that the
11 only alternative to this nuclear agreement is war?

12 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I think -- my way of
13 answering that would be that a major mission of our Armed
14 Forces, the Joint Force and certainly the Navy, is to use
15 all means necessary to deter that type of war, not only
16 through preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, but
17 also by deterring any kind of -- many of the other tools
18 that they use to disrupt activity in that region. So,
19 they've got considerable conventional forces, ballistic
20 missiles, surface forces, and they've talked about mining
21 the Straits of Hormuz, they support terrorist organizations
22 throughout the region. We need to use the full set of
23 capabilities that the Joint Force and the Navy can deliver
24 to deter that. And that military contribution is also just
25 a subset of a whole-of-government approach along with our

1 allies in the region.

2 Senator Ernst: So, a whole-of-government approach.
3 And I think that's extremely important, that we remember
4 that, that we do not have to sign this agreement, and that
5 does not necessarily mean that we will be going to war with
6 Iran. Is that your assessment?

7 Admiral Richardson: Ma'am, I do support a whole-of-
8 government approach and --

9 The Chairman: Admiral, you were just asked to give your
10 personal opinion, if asked for it. The Senator is asking
11 for your opinion as to whether there are other options
12 besides going to war with Iran.

13 Admiral Richardson: I think that there are other
14 options besides going to war.

15 The Chairman: Thank you.

16 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Admiral.

17 Thank you.

18 And Iran's -- since we're on that topic, Iran's
19 military budget is approximately \$11 billion per year on
20 defense. Its posture, however, is bolstered by a variety of
21 asymmetric and relatively low-cost capabilities and tactics,
22 including swarming at sea, artillery rockets, ballistic
23 missiles, and UAVs. And, as you know, through this
24 agreement, Iran will gain about \$150 billion, due to
25 sanctions relief, and the ability to purchase more advanced

1 weapons and equipment through the lifting of the U.N. arms
2 embargo. And even if a small portion of the sanctions
3 relief money is directed towards their military capabilities
4 in Iran, what types of weapons and equipment do you believe
5 that Iran would purchase to improve its ability to project
6 force within the Persian Gulf?

7 Admiral Richardson: Well, ma'am, I think that we
8 would, as we have been throughout, be sensitive to the
9 proliferation market in weapons. And so, I would be very
10 concerned about them increasing their ballistic missiles
11 fleet -- force, as well as their anti-ship cruise missiles,
12 the mines, and the surface combatants that you mentioned, as
13 well.

14 Senator Ernst: Okay. Well, I appreciate that.

15 And I do think it is something that we have to be ever
16 vigilant about. This is a very serious matter that we are
17 facing today with Iran and its potentially increased
18 military capabilities in that region. This is not an
19 American problem, this is not an Iranian problem, this is a
20 worldwide problem.

21 So, I appreciate your attention to the matter, and I do
22 look forward to supporting you in your confirmation.

23 Thank you, Admiral.

24 Admiral Richardson: Thank you, ma'am.

25 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 The Chairman: Senator King.

2 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 Admiral, in this day and age where people move around
4 so much, and particularly service families, it's hard to
5 determine where someone is from. My definition is, it's
6 where you went to high school, so I claim you as a proud son
7 of the State of Maine. Delighted to have you here today.

8 A second point. I spent some time, a year ago, on one
9 of your Virginia-class submarines under the ice in the
10 Arctic. When I came home, my wife said, "What most
11 impressed you?" And I think she expected to hear about the
12 marvelous technology and the amazing command center and all
13 of that. And I said, "No, what really impressed me was the
14 young people on that boat."

15 And you have extraordinary people. The officers, of
16 course, were excellent. But, what really I noticed was the
17 spirit and dedication and pride of the enlisted people, of
18 the sailors. It was their boat, and they were so engaged
19 and proud of the work that they were doing. I just want to
20 commend you and pass along the observation that you are
21 taking command of an extraordinary group of people. And, of
22 course, the technology, which we've talked a lot about
23 today, is important. But, ultimately, it seems to me it's
24 the people that are going to make the difference.

25 Admiral Richardson: Senator, thank you for that

1 recognition. And I could not agree with you more. And I am
2 so privileged for the opportunity presented here today.

3 Senator King: One of the questions that the Chairman
4 asked you at the beginning -- he goes through a set of
5 standard questions -- is, Will you give your personal
6 opinion when called upon in your position? I want to
7 emphasize that. You're going to be in the National Security
8 Council. You're going to be in the Oval Office. You're
9 going to be at the upper reaches of the decisionmaking
10 process at the Pentagon. You've got to speak up. If -- you
11 have extensive experience, wisdom, and background to --
12 judgment to be brought to bear on these questions. And I
13 hope there'll be that -- we all experience that moment in a
14 meeting where you say, "Should I say something, or not?" I
15 hope you'll remember this moment and, even if it's the
16 President of the United States, say, "Mr. President, I have
17 to respectfully disagree." We need that from you, and I
18 think that's one of the most important things that you bring
19 to this position.

20 Will you give me a commitment that you're going to be
21 just this side of obnoxious in making your case at the
22 highest levels of the United States Government?

23 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I specialize in going well
24 beyond obnoxious.

25 [Laughter.]

1 Admiral Richardson: And I look forward, if confirmed,
2 to participating in those discussions. And I will use --

3 The Chairman: If you need practice in that, Senator
4 King will help you out.

5 [Laughter.]

6 Admiral Richardson: Thank you, sir.

7 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your confidence
8 is overwhelming.

9 [Laughter.]

10 Senator King: I mentioned about the Arctic. I see the
11 Arctic as an area of tremendous both opportunity and
12 challenge. Characterize our force structure and
13 capabilities in the Arctic, vis-a-vis Russia, particularly
14 in the area of icebreakers.

15 Admiral Richardson: Senator, the United States is an
16 Arctic nation, and the security environment in the Arctic is
17 changing as navigation passages open and access to natural
18 resources, you know, opens up, as well. We must remain
19 engaged in the Arctic. The Navy is on a -- has developed a
20 roadmap to increase our capability in the Arctic to pace
21 this changing security environment. We are partnering
22 closely with the whole of government and other sister
23 services, particularly of the Coast Guard, in this area.

24 Senator King: But, isn't it true that, in terms of
25 icebreakers, which are the roadbuilders of the Arctic, we

1 have one little country road, and -- they have a bunch of
2 interstate highways, or something like 40 icebreakers, we
3 have one.

4 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir. Senator -- Admiral
5 Zukunft, from the Coast Guard, has testified, I think, in
6 very clear terms, that we need to address this icebreaker
7 situation.

8 Senator King: I think it's a serious problem that
9 we're going to have to really put some attention to. And I
10 understand it's in the Coast Guard's jurisdiction, but it's
11 -- it certainly affects your ability to operate in that
12 region.

13 Admiral Richardson: We're absolutely closely
14 partnered, no daylight between us on that.

15 Senator King: In your advance policy questions, you
16 mentioned that you believed it would be in the national
17 interests that we accede to the Law of the Sea Treaty.
18 Could you expand on that a bit?

19 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I do believe that. I
20 think that becoming part of that community would give us a
21 great deal of credibility. And, particularly as it pertains
22 to these unfolding opportunities in the Arctic, this
23 provides a framework to adjudicate disputes and participate
24 as everybody, you know, moves to, you know, improve their
25 capability and posture in the --

1 Senator King: Well, in fact, because we're not members
2 of that treaty, we are in -- we are literally losing ground
3 in the Arctic, isn't that correct?

4 Admiral Richardson: I think that becoming part of that
5 treaty is an important part of our movement into the Arctic,
6 yes, sir.

7 Senator King: Thank you, Admiral. Thank you for your
8 service.

9 Admiral Richardson: Thank you, Senator.

10 The Chairman: Thank you, Admiral, for that testimony on
11 the Arctic. I know that Senator Sullivan will have more on
12 that. But, we -- it seems to me that the -- just the
13 icebreaker situation is indicative of the difference in
14 emphasis that Russia and the United States seem to place.
15 Would you agree with that?

16 Admiral Richardson: Sir, if you just look at the
17 resources, they've been very focused in the Arctic for a
18 long time.

19 The Chairman: Senator Tillis.

20 Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21 Admiral Richardson, thank you for being here.
22 Congratulations to you and your family. And thank you all
23 for your years of service.

24 I also want to thank you for the time we spent in my
25 office answering a range of questions.

1 One general question that I would have here, and would
2 appreciate your personal opinion and your candor, is -- it
3 relates to the current advantage that we enjoy with our
4 adversaries, like Russia and China, and the specific threats
5 to those gaps being narrowed as a result of sequestration if
6 you have to deal with that in 2016.

7 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir. As I said, the pace of
8 technological change is just picking up. And so --

9 Senator Tillis: Can you talk to specific areas where
10 you -- that are your greatest concern?

11 Admiral Richardson: I would say that, in particular,
12 the ability to use a long-range precision-guided munition, a
13 weapon, to target with greater and greater precision at
14 longer and longer distances, this anti-access area denial
15 capabilities that we've talked about many times, are a
16 particular concern.

17 Senator Tillis: The -- what advice would you give us,
18 as we're sitting here and we're trying to conference the
19 defense authorization, and we're trying to get an
20 appropriations process going -- if you're kind of guiding us
21 through what we need to do to help you do your job, what do
22 you need to tell us? What do we need to stop doing, what do
23 we need to start doing?

24 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I think that we've
25 proposed a solid plan, and we've mentioned, already, the

1 effects of sequestration and uncertainty in the fiscal
2 environment, the budget environment. And perhaps the
3 greatest thing that we could do together is put in place a
4 long-term and predictable stream of funding.

5 Senator Tillis: Thank you for that.

6 I'm going to get a little bit more parochial now with
7 my marines down in North Carolina. And I know the
8 Commandant of the Marine Corps has frequently stated that
9 the combatant command requirement, I think, for amphibious
10 ships across a range of operations exceeds 50. I think the
11 minimum is 38. Yet, we're at 30 operating today, and it
12 doesn't look like we'll obtain a amphibious fleet of more
13 than 34 across 30 years of a shipbuilding plan. Are you
14 concerned with that? And what more do we need to do? What
15 can Congress do to help you overcome that ship shortfall?

16 Admiral Richardson: Senator, this is an area where
17 Navy and Marine Corps have been discussing and, again, have
18 realized together that, although the requirement -- the
19 military requirement is 38, the current fiscal environment
20 is going to drive us to 34. I appreciate the assistance of
21 Congress to getting us to 34. To address those -- that gap
22 between the requirement and what we can resource, we're
23 looking at augmenting our lift there with other platforms
24 besides gray hulls. Gray hulls are absolutely, you know,
25 the requirement that's needed for the high-end threat, but

1 there may be applications and opportunities to lift marines
2 using other platforms.

3 Senator Tillis: Thank you.

4 And again, I want to tell you I look forward to you --
5 your confirmation. I wholeheartedly support it.

6 I would ask some questions about concerns in the
7 Arctic, but I have a feeling that my colleague here is going
8 to do a better job of that than I can, because he's got
9 bird's-eye view. But, I think it is an area that we all
10 share a concern, and would appreciate your support in
11 addressing his and all of our concerns.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 The Chairman: Senator Gillibrand.

14 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
15 you, Mr. Ranking Member.

16 Thank you, Admiral, for being here. Thank you for your
17 service. I'm grateful for your family's service, as well.
18 We're very pleased to have you in front of this committee.

19 I want to talk a little bit about combat integration.
20 I strongly believe that we should have appropriate standards
21 that meet the needs of the positions and that allow anyone
22 who meets those standards to be able to do those jobs.
23 According to your advance policy questions, the Navy will
24 provide a written report to the Secretary of Defense in
25 September of 2015 with validation of standards as gender-

1 neutral. Ninety-five percent of Navy jobs are already open
2 to both men and women. And my understanding is that the
3 remaining positions are Special Operations positions. Can
4 you tell me how you will work with Special Operations
5 Command to assess if you will need to ask for an exception?
6 And what, if anything, would you -- would lead you to ask
7 for an exception, particularly with regard to the Navy
8 SEALs?

9 Admiral Richardson: Ma'am, it's true that, currently,
10 we have more than 95 percent of the jobs open, as you said,
11 to women already. I was privileged to be the commander of
12 the submarine force as we integrated women into the
13 submarine force, and that integration has gone
14 spectacularly. They've --

15 Senator Gillibrand: That's good news.

16 Admiral Richardson: -- really have done a terrific
17 job.

18 Those discussions, I think, must begin with mission
19 effectiveness. And I'm interested in any plan that would
20 improve our mission effectiveness in those areas. We have
21 really just the Special Operations Forces that remain to be
22 evaluated. I'm not familiar with the details of those
23 discussions at those time, but, if confirmed, looking
24 forward to getting very involved with Special Operations
25 Command to make sure that we give everybody a fair

1 opportunity.

2 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you.

3 And a related issue, prevalence of sexual assault in
4 the military still remains quite high. And one of the
5 biggest concerns this whole committee shares is the rate of
6 retaliation; that, in fact, of all those who reported, 62
7 percent were retaliated against. And that's the same rate
8 as it was 2 years ago. And retaliation takes many forms.
9 Fifty-three percent experienced social retaliation, peer-to-
10 peer. Thirty-five percent experienced adverse
11 administrative action. Thirty-two percent experienced
12 professional retaliation. And 11 percent received
13 punishment for an infraction. So, arguably, more than half
14 of that retaliation is coming from their chain of command or
15 from some command structure.

16 So, I would urge you to look very heavily at this issue
17 of retaliation, because, unfortunately, the effect of it is,
18 less survivors come forward. And if you have less survivors
19 coming forward, you have less cases to investigate, and you
20 will convict less rapists.

21 And I want to just give you a thumbnail sketch of data
22 that we got from one naval base. There were -- and this is
23 the -- for the year of 2013 at Camp Pendleton -- there were
24 15 cases considered, two court-martial charges preferred,
25 two proceeded to trial, two convicted of sexual assault.

1 So, two out of 15 went forward. What we know about the
2 crime of rape, it has very little false reporting. Some
3 estimate between 2 and 5 percent are false reports. So, in
4 those cases, you were only able to get about 10 percent
5 cases to move forward. So, I think we have to do better, in
6 terms of doing the investigations, assessing viability of
7 witnesses and credibility of witnesses, and bringing more
8 cases to trial, because two out of 15 is not a great rate.

9 So, those are challenges that you will have. This
10 committee is very interested in it. I hope you will make a
11 commitment that you will work with me and the rest of us on
12 trying to end the scourge of sexual violence, because it
13 does result, unfortunately, in a lot of people leaving the
14 military. And so, a lot of your women, a lot of your men,
15 are leaving because they are experiencing assault within
16 their own ranks.

17 Admiral Richardson: Ma'am, you have my full commitment
18 that I'll spare no effort to eliminate -- we can't be -- we
19 can't rest until sexual assault is eliminated from the
20 services. I can't think of anything more toxic to teamwork
21 than that insider threat that preys upon the confidence
22 between team members. I'm fully committed to eliminating
23 this.

24 Senator Gillibrand: And one of your challenges will be
25 in lower command structures, where, in the last survey,

1 women responded to experiencing some form of sexual
2 harassment and sexual discrimination. Sixty percent of that
3 harassment, they reported, was from their unit commander.
4 So, there's an issue with some commanders that they really
5 need to be trained better to eradicate sexual harassment and
6 sexual discrimination, because, again, it creates a negative
7 climate that perhaps is more permissive toward sexual
8 assault.

9 Admiral Richardson: Yes, ma'am, I think that is
10 absolutely the most productive battleground. If we're going
11 to solve this, we're going to solve it with the deck-plate
12 leaders, the chief petty officers, the officers who are in
13 the spaces and will eliminate not only sexual assault, but
14 those precursor behaviors that start us down the road.

15 Senator Gillibrand: Exactly.

16 For the record, I will submit a question about cyber.
17 I'm very grateful for your interest in cyber. And I -- my
18 question for the record will be, What career paths do you
19 see for members of the Navy who want to make cyber their
20 career?

21 Admiral Richardson: Yes, ma'am, I'll look forward to
22 that.

23 [The information referred to follows:]

24 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

25

1 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you.

2 Admiral Richardson: Yes, ma'am.

3 The Chairman: Senator Sullivan.

4 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 And, Admiral, good to see you again. Great to see your
6 family. My father was also a Navy officer, also a father of
7 six kids. When I joined the Marine Corps, he reminded me,
8 on a daily basis, that the Marine Corps was Department of
9 the Navy. Is that true?

10 Admiral Richardson: That is true, yes, sir.

11 Senator Sullivan: Oh, okay. I'll make sure he knows
12 that.

13 [Laughter.]

14 Senator Sullivan: I do want to touch on the Arctic.
15 The actual numbers are, as Senator King mentioned, one
16 icebreaker for the United States, about 40 for Russia.
17 They're building five to six new ones. Some of them are
18 nuclear-powered. I mean, we are completely just not even in
19 the game. And you know the importance.

20 I must admit, I was a little disappointed by your
21 answer to Senator King, because what's -- what I see is
22 happening is, the Arctic and icebreakers are becoming kind
23 of a bureaucratic football. So, for example, 4 months ago,
24 I asked Assistant Secretary of the Navy Stackley to just
25 give me a straight-up answer on the Arctic, on icebreakers.

1 He kind of did the same thing, "Well, it's a little bit in
2 the Coast Guard realm." Well, the question is, Is it in the
3 national interests of the United States to have more than
4 one icebreaker when the Russians are trying to own the
5 Arctic? What's your answer?

6 Admiral Richardson: I think the answer is clearly yes.

7 Senator Sullivan: Okay. So, I think what we need to
8 do is not keep talking about -- I've never gotten an answer
9 from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Four months ago.
10 I never got an answer. We just need to know, Do we need it?
11 How many? And then, How do we get there? No more, kind of,
12 "Well, it's the Coast Guard's problem, not really the
13 Navy's." In the '70s, the Navy was the service that
14 supplied icebreakers to the country, wasn't it?

15 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I believe so.

16 Senator Sullivan: Yeah. So, I think we need to just
17 get through the bureaucratic redtape. It's clearly in the
18 national interests. You just stated it, everybody states
19 that we need to move forward and quit kind of doing the
20 football back and forth between the Navy and the Coast
21 Guard. Would you agree with that?

22 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I am not interested in a
23 bureaucratic approach to this. We need to have a plan of
24 action. And I look forward, if confirmed, to working with
25 the -- our partners in the Coast Guard to address this in

1 real terms.

2 Senator Sullivan: Okay. And it would be good to hear
3 back from Assistant Secretary Stackley. I asked him a
4 question on this 4 months ago. He said he'd get back me.
5 He never has.

6 Just a real quick question, just a yes-or-no answer.
7 We had an amendment in the NDAA supporting the Pacific
8 rebalance that said it was the sense of the Congress that
9 the services should increase force posture to give
10 credibility to the rebalance. Is it -- should services be
11 free to ignore the defense guidance of the Congress -- just
12 yes or no -- in the NDAA?

13 Admiral Richardson: No.

14 Senator Sullivan: Okay.

15 Finally, I want to draw your attention to the chart and
16 some of the handouts we had here. This relates to China's
17 reclamation activities in the South China Sea. This is an
18 example. It's 18 months, before and after, of the Fiery
19 Cross Reef. I'm sure you're familiar with it, Admiral.
20 It's actually a 2.7 square -- 2.7 million square meters, 505
21 football fields, a 3,000-meter airstrip long enough for any
22 PRC military aircraft. It's just a huge -- one of their
23 large reclamation projects.

24 We were recently in Singapore, a number of us, at the
25 Shangri-La Dialogue, and Secretary Carter gave a speech,

1 that I thought was quite strong, on what our policy is.
2 But, there seems to be a confusion in the policy. So,
3 Secretary Carter stated, "We will continue to fly, sail, and
4 operate wherever international law allows." He then stated,
5 "After turning an under- -- after all, turning an underwater
6 rock into an airfield simply does not afford the rights of
7 sovereignty or permit restrictions on international air or
8 maritime transit."

9 However, PACOM Commander Harris, just 2 weeks ago at
10 the Aspen Security Forum, stated, "It is U.S. policy to
11 afford a 12-minute limit around all of the islands that are
12 in the South China Sea. And it's been a longstanding
13 policy, not because they're occupied by China or built up by
14 China, but just in general." He later clarified his
15 statement to include islands and formations.

16 Do you think -- first of all, to me, that's very
17 confusing policy -- do you think that we need to clarify
18 that? And do you think that Admiral Harris's statement is
19 just a de factor recognition of China's reclamation
20 strategy? And is it your -- in your best professional
21 judgment, should we be sailing within 12 nautical miles and
22 not allowing the facts-on-the-ground strategy to be changed
23 by China to essentially recognize Fiery Cross Reef and other
24 places?

25 It's a really important issue, and there's no

1 clarification from the White House, State Department, or
2 Department of the Navy. I think Secretary Carter and
3 Admiral Harris's statements are actually very contradictory.
4 That kind of uncertainty can create miscalculations.

5 Admiral Richardson: Senator, I think it's absolutely
6 important that the Navy continue to be present in that
7 region, for a number of reasons, to provide our continued
8 presence, that we are there as a matter of routine in
9 international waters. We do have to respect the
10 legitimately claimed territorial boundaries. I think that
11 Secretary Carter and Admiral Harris would agree with me
12 there. And so --

13 Senator Sullivan: But, does that mean respecting that,
14 in terms of a 12-nautical-mile radius?

15 Admiral Richardson: Sir, I'd have to look at exactly
16 which of those claims are legitimate. It's a dynamic
17 situation. There's competing claims down there. But, the
18 bottom line is, we need to get down there, understand the
19 truth, make that very clear, and be present in that area so
20 that we don't get shouldered out of the South China Sea.

21 Senator Sullivan: Mr. Chairman, I'll be submitting
22 questions for the record to make sure that the policy of the
23 United States is clarified on this important issue, because
24 right now it's very murky.

25 [The information referred to follows:]

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[COMMITTEE INSERT]

1 The Chairman: Good luck.

2 Senator Blumenthal.

3 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I join Senator Sullivan in hoping that this issue is
5 clarified, because I think it is so important to our
6 national security, and I'd like to work with him in seeking
7 additional answers.

8 And I recognize that those answers will involve more
9 than just your input and contribution. But, on your
10 contribution, thank you so much for the great work that
11 you've done throughout your career to assure that our
12 submarine force is unmatched in the world in its power,
13 stealth, and strength.

14 And I want to thank you and your family for your
15 service, and ask you, first of all, whether you can commit
16 to coming back to Connecticut to visit our sub base there as
17 one of your first official visits after you're confirmed, as
18 I expect you to will be.

19 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

20 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you.

21 On the subject of our submarine force, the Ohio
22 replacement program -- you probably know more about it than
23 most anyone else in the Navy and in our Department of
24 Defense. And I believe that you are committed to it,
25 personally and professionally. Is that correct?

1 Admiral Richardson: Absolutely, Senator. It's our
2 number-one modernization priority.

3 Senator Blumenthal: And in that regard, as the number-
4 one priority of modernization in the United States Navy, the
5 pricetag is likely to be in the range of \$100 billion, which
6 seems staggering and obviously has to be met, even though
7 the Navy has other programs, other modernization efforts,
8 and other shipbuilding projects. Have you given any thought
9 to how that will be possible to do?

10 Admiral Richardson: Senator, as a -- as you and I have
11 discussed, this is an absolutely critical program for the
12 country, and we are doing everything in the Navy to make
13 sure that we not only get the requirements right and stable,
14 but that we treat our cost targets like any other
15 performance parameter for that program. And we are driving
16 and on a good track to achieve all of those cost targets.

17 Having said that, as you said, it will be a significant
18 investment for the Nation, one that I believe must be done.
19 If we absorb that entire cost within the Navy, that will
20 come at a tremendous price, in terms of our other
21 responsibilities in ships and aircraft. I don't, either,
22 want to leverage that on our sister services, and so I look
23 forward to working closely together with the Department and
24 Congress to address this.

25 Senator Blumenthal: Really, it should be seen as a

1 challenge for our entire national defense, not just the
2 Navy, because its ramifications and contributions to our
3 defense range well beyond just seapower.

4 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I would agree.

5 Senator Blumenthal: Let me move to another aspect of
6 the Navy's combat capability, the F-35, which, according to
7 the analysis I've seen, will be six times more effective
8 than legacy fighters in air-to-air combat, five times more
9 effective in air-to-ground combat, six times more effective
10 in reconnaissance and suppression of air defenses. Again,
11 another investment -- a good word, an appropriate one, I
12 think -- to use in our national defense.

13 I noted that the FY-2016 budget request from the Navy
14 included 16 fewer F-35 aircraft in the last 3 years of the
15 Future Years Defense Plan than were anticipated just 1 year
16 before. Can you shed some light on that request? And also,
17 I'd appreciate your assurance that the F-35 is still a
18 priority for the Navy.

19 Admiral Richardson: Senator, the Navy remains
20 committed to the F-35 Lightning as an essential part of our
21 future air wing. It is the aircraft that is designed from
22 the ground up to address, you know, the fifth-generation
23 challenges in information warfare. So, we do remain
24 committed to that.

25 The adjustments in the President's budget request for

1 FY16, again, just reflect some of the extremely difficult
2 choices that we're making to balance the best way to address
3 the national security challenges within the resources
4 provided.

5 Senator Blumenthal: And the F-35, like the Ohio
6 replacement program, is really essential to all of our
7 national defense. Obviously, the other services share in
8 the costs and the benefits of it. And I'm hoping that the
9 strategy here will be a combined Department of Defense
10 commitment to the investment that's required.

11 Admiral Richardson: Senator, if confirmed, I look
12 forward to exploring all those options.

13 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you. I look forward to
14 seeing you in New London as the Chief of Naval Operations.
15 Thank you very much.

16 Admiral Richardson: Thank you, Senator.

17 Senator Blumenthal: And again, thank you to your
18 family, as well.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 The Chairman: Senator Sessions.

21 Senator Sessions: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 And, Admiral, we appreciate the opportunity to have you
23 with us. And I believe you have the background and the
24 dedication and the character to lead the Navy. And this
25 Congress, I believe and am confident, will support you. I

1 hope that you understand that you have to give us the
2 straight facts, tell us what you believe, and, if there are
3 problems, I'll -- bring them forward to us, and I believe
4 Congress will respond if in any way possible.

5 Will you, as you've committed, I think, in your written
6 answers, but will you give your best judgment to the
7 President of the United States and to Congress on all issues
8 of which you're inquired of?

9 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I will.

10 Senator Sessions: Thank you for that.

11 I see you've had background as a submarine development
12 squadron and other submarine effort -- other commands. Do
13 you feel that that will assist you as we deal with the Ohio-
14 class development?

15 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I do.

16 Senator Sessions: Give us some of the ideas that you
17 bring to bear on the development of the Ohio-class, which we
18 all know is important and essential, but also we know we've
19 got some budget constrictions out there that are going to
20 place that program in jeopardy if we don't watch it. And I
21 think, more than a lot of programs, failure on the beginning
22 to get it right in the procurement process could endanger
23 that program. So, give us your thoughts about what you
24 think needs to be done as we go forward.

25 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir. I think you've got it

1 exactly right, sir, that you've got to get that -- the
2 requirements set. And the Navy has done that. We are
3 working towards providing a mature design so you've got to
4 have a mature and stable design before you begin production
5 so that you're not dealing in managing costly change orders
6 after you've begun production. And then I hope to provide a
7 program -- a build plan that would allow for stable and
8 predictable funding. That allows us -- the Navy to work
9 very closely with the shipbuilders to provide a production
10 line that results in the lowest cost per unit.

11 Senator Sessions: I think most of us have come to
12 understand how unpredictability and uncertainty and
13 alterations of schedule can drive up cost. And sometimes
14 that's Congress, sometimes it's Department of Defense's
15 fault, other times the contractors have to be held to
16 account. But, are you -- will you help us remain committed
17 to maintaining the kind of schedule that keeps cost at the
18 lowest level?

19 Admiral Richardson: Absolutely, sir. And what we've
20 found is that we've got tremendous commitment on the part of
21 our shipbuilders. They are as committed to driving costs
22 down as we are. And there are ample opportunities to
23 deliver high-end warfighting capability at the appropriate
24 price, delivers the capability that's required for the
25 Nation, and provides businesses a chance to thrive, as well.

1 Senator Sessions: You made reference earlier to the
2 triad, our nuclear defense triad -- aircraft, submarines,
3 and land-based ICBMs. Do you believe that remains a
4 critical part of our defense structure?

5 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir, I do.

6 Senator Sessions: Some have questioned that. And I
7 guess you're familiar with those concerns. I believe you're
8 correct. I think Congress believes you're correct. But, I
9 hope you will keep us informed on that, because some would
10 suggest otherwise. I think that would be a big mistake at
11 this point in time.

12 You and I had the opportunity to discuss just
13 efficiencies. I serve on the Armed Services Committee and
14 the Budget Committee. I feel the tensions there very
15 intensely. It's been said in -- that the Defense Department
16 -- in and around the Defense Department, but each service is
17 committed to maintaining personnel levels. They fear that
18 if their personnel levels drive -- drop, they'll be
19 diminished in their influence and power. Tell me, Are you
20 committed to maintaining the defense -- the Navy fleet at
21 the level it needs to be, but, at the same time, maintaining
22 personnel levels, like private businesses have to do, lean
23 and productive?

24 Admiral Richardson: Senator, absolutely. And so, we
25 must maintain -- what we deliver is capability. And we want

1 to, particularly as the environment -- the technological
2 environment changes, there will be new opportunities that
3 open up for our people. We want to make sure that we keep
4 our people employed in the very best possible way doing
5 things that people do best. And so, I am committed to
6 making sure that we do that in as lean and agile a fashion
7 as possible.

8 Senator Sessions: And sometimes rules that we pass in
9 Congress make that difficult for you. I hope that you will
10 keep us informed on how we can help you achieve that goal.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 The Chairman: Well, Admiral, we thank you for your
13 testimony this morning, and we thank you for responding with
14 your personal opinion when it's requested. You're taking on
15 a very difficult task in very difficult times, and I'm sure
16 that you are well qualified, and we will attempt to make
17 sure that your nomination is confirmed before we depart for
18 our ill-deserved August recess.

19 This hearing is adjourned.

20 [Whereupon, at 11:00 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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