

Stenographic Transcript  
Before the

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

## **UNITED STATES SENATE**

HEARING TO CONDUCT A CONFIRMATION HEARING ON THE  
EXPECTED NOMINATIONS OF: HONORABLE RYAN D.  
McCARTHY TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY; AND  
HONORABLE BARBARA M. BARRETT TO BE SECRETARY OF  
THE AIR FORCE

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Washington, D.C.

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1 HEARING TO CONDUCT A CONFIRMATION HEARING  
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7

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10 U.S. Senate  
11 Committee on Armed Services  
12 Washington, D.C.

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14 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:31 a.m.  
15 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James  
16 Inhofe, chairman of the committee, presiding.

17 Committee Members Present: Senators Inhofe  
18 [presiding], Wicker, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst,  
19 Sullivan, Perdue, Cramer, McSally, Scott, Blackburn,  
20 Reed, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine,  
21 Heinrich, Peters, Duckworth, and Jones.

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1           OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES M. INHOFE, U.S.  
2 SENATOR FROM OKLAHOMA

3           Chairman Inhofe: I guess we are 1 minute late.  
4 morning.

5           The committee meets today to consider the nomination  
6 Mrs. Barbara Barrett to be Secretary of the Air Force and  
7 Mr. Ryan D. McCarthy to be Secretary of the Army. Thank  
8 for being here today. We look forward to it.

9           We have the standard questions that, whether you  
10 it or not, you got to answer, but if you would answer  
11 audibly so it can be heard, we would appreciate it very  
12 much.

13           Have you adhered to the applicable laws and  
14 governing conflicts of interest?

15           Mr. McCarthy: Yes.

16           Ambassador Barrett: Yes, sir.

17           Chairman Inhofe: Will you ensure that your staff  
18 complies with deadlines established for requested  
19 communications, including questions for the record in  
20 hearings?

21           Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator.

22           Ambassador Barrett: Yes.

23           Chairman Inhofe: Will you cooperate in providing  
24 witnesses and briefers in response to congressional  
25 requests?

1 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator.

2 Ambassador Barrett: Yes, Senator.

3 Chairman Inhofe: Will those witnesses be protected  
4 from reprisal for their testimony and briefings?

5 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator.

6 Ambassador Barrett: Yes, Senator.

7 Chairman Inhofe: Do you agree, if confirmed, to  
8 and testify upon request before this committee?

9 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator.

10 Ambassador Barrett: Yes, Senator.

11 Chairman Inhofe: And do you agree to provide  
12 documents, including copies of electronic forms of  
13 communication, in a timely manner when requested by a  
14 constituted committee or to consult with the committee  
15 regarding the basis for any good faith delay or denial in  
16 providing such documents?

17 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator.

18 Ambassador Barrett: Yes, Senator.

19 Chairman Inhofe: And lastly, have you assumed any  
20 duties or undertaken any actions which would appear to  
21 presume the outcome of the confirmation process?

22 Mr. McCarthy: No, Senator.

23 Ambassador Barrett: No, Senator.

24 Chairman Inhofe: As we have often said, I really  
25 believe we are in the most dangerous situation we have

1 in in this world in my lifetime. If I ever thought that  
2 would say I look back wistfully at the days of the Cold  
3 I would have thought things are going to have to be real  
4 bad. So we do have serious problems that are

5 We have the National Defense Strategy. We do not  
6 our NDS book. But this is kind of unique because it is  
7 something where the Democrats and Republicans got  
8 and it was total agreement on the strategy that we would  
9 use. So we are locked in pretty much to that.

10 China and Russia have passed us in key areas and are  
11 catching up in others. There was a time when we had our  
12 launch superiority that we do not have anymore, and we do  
13 not know how that is changing. It is a moving target.

14 When President Trump assumed office, America's main  
15 focus was counterterrorism, but today the United States  
16 properly focused on the security challenges that we face.  
17 Years of budget cuts under the Obama administration left  
18 military in a readiness crisis. The last administration  
19 even thought that we could cut our defense budget by  
20 hundreds of billions of dollars while fighting two wars  
21 everything would turn out. However, that is not the

22 This is kind of a surprising thing. And I see that  
23 Senator Wicker is not here yet. But he came up with a  
24 document that after I checked it out, I believe it to be  
25 true that during the time that we were cutting our budget

1 that would be between fiscal years 2010 and 2015 -- by  
2 25 percent, China was increasing during that time period  
3 theirs by 83 percent. People are not aware of this.  
4 do not know that that is going on.

5 But these cuts left our military in a predicament  
6 would take years to fix. Fortunately, we have a good  
7 We actually did in fiscal year 2018. In fiscal year  
8 we made some great advances, and we want to continue  
9 advances. So we are looking forward to today's hearing.  
10 And the two of you, if confirmed, will be playing a major  
11 role in fixing something that is broken right now.

12 Senator Reed?

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

3           Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr.  
4 I join you in welcoming Secretary McCarthy and Ambassador  
5 Barrett to this morning's hearing. I would also like to  
6 welcome Secretary McCarthy's family: his wife Jennifer;  
7 parents, David and Kathleen; his sister Shannon; and his  
8 brother-in-law Chase. Likewise, Ambassador Barrett's  
9 is also in attendance: her husband Craig; her sisters,  
10 Patricia and Jill; and her sister-in-law Lori. We are  
11 pleased that you could be here this morning.

12           Secretary McCarthy, as we consider your nomination  
13 morning, I note that you have a wealth of experience in  
14 defense policy and you have served admirably as the Under  
15 Secretary of the Army. If confirmed as the next  
16 of the Army, you will be responsible for ensuring that  
17 Army continues to modernize and innovate in order to  
18 the National Defense Strategy. As the Under Secretary of  
19 the Army, you worked closely with Secretary Esper and  
20 the Army's senior military leadership to establish eight  
21 cross-functional teams focused on the Army's major  
22 modernization priorities, as well as establishing the  
23 Futures Command as a single command for all modernization  
24 efforts. Secretary McCarthy, I would ask that you share  
25 with the committee this morning what you have learned to

1 date from these efforts.

2 Delivering cutting-edge capabilities to the  
3 is critical for our country to compete with a near-peer  
4 threat. However, modernized military platforms and  
5 equipment for our soldiers will be pointless if they do  
6 have the training necessary to prevail on the  
7 As such, readiness remains the Army's highest priority.

8 Secretary McCarthy, I hope you will share with the  
9 members this morning what you will do to ensure that the  
10 Army remains focused on unit readiness if you are  
11 by the Senate.

12 Finally, hand in hand with readiness, the Army's  
13 success is dependent upon the men and women who serve in  
14 uniform, as well as the civilians working in the  
15 of the Army. Recently the Army has had challenges in  
16 meeting the recruitment goals, and as the Army grows, it  
17 should remain focused on the quality of our soldiers  
18 than quantity. Secretary McCarthy, if you are confirmed,  
19 trust that you will closely monitor this situation.

20 Ambassador Barrett, if confirmed, you will face a  
21 number of critical issues confronting the Department of  
22 Air Force. You will be leading the Air Force during a  
23 transition as the Air Force implements guidance  
24 a Space Force. Doing this correctly will have great  
25 influence on our ability to challenge near-peer



1           The Air Force has been heavily involved overseas  
2 9/11 and has been laboring under the day-to-day strains  
3 deployments and high operating tempo. Given the concerns  
4 about supporting the readiness of our deployed and our  
5 deployed forces, the next Secretary's efforts in managing  
6 improvements in the force and its supporting structure  
7 be critical. As a first priority, it seems to me that  
8 Secretary of the Air Force should be focusing on  
9 readiness of the existing forces.

10           In addition to improving readiness, the next  
11 must also focus on modernization. Over a number of  
12 many senior leaders have expressed concern about the size  
13 and relative modernization of the Air Force. However, as  
14 complicated as it is to increase the number of aircraft  
15 are buying, buying more aircraft is not enough. The Air  
16 Force must also buy the right types of aircraft.  
17 the Air Force is on the threshold of modernizing several  
18 capabilities, including the bomber force, the ground-  
19 intercontinental ballistic missile force, and the  
20 battle management system program, which will replace  
21 ground surveillance planes with a network of existing and  
22 new air and space-based sensors.

23           Finally, the service Secretary is not in the direct  
24 chain of command for major defense acquisition programs,  
25 the service Secretary plays a critical role in the budget

1 and requirements decisions that drive acquisition  
2 Therefore, this committee will look to you for your  
3 contributions in balancing Air Force resources against  
4 Force needs and ensuring that you have the acquisition  
5 workforce the Department needs to get the job done.

6 Again, let me thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding  
7 hearing, and I look forward to hearing from the nominees.

8 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Reed.

9 Secretary McCarthy, an introduction of you is not  
10 really necessary. You have worked for what? 2 years as  
11 Under Secretary in the same position. You certainly know  
12 well. However, Senator McSally has requested to  
13 Ms. Barrett, and I know you do not object to that.  
14 McSally?

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1           STATEMENT OF HON. MARTHA McSALLY, U.S. SENATOR FROM  
2 ARIZONA

3           Senator McSally: Well, thank you, Chairman Inhofe,  
4 Ranking Member Reed.

5           It is with great pride that I sit before you this  
6 morning to introduce fellow Arizonan and my personal  
7 Ambassador Barbara Barrett, as the nominee to be the next  
8 Secretary of our Air Force.

9           Many of us already know Barbara for her outstanding  
10 accomplishments and leadership spanning from the business  
11 world to academia to international diplomacy. A few of  
12 these include the Deputy Federal Aviation Administrator,  
13 serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Finland, her time with  
14 U.S. mission at the United Nations. These positions make  
15 her a phenomenal choice to lead a military service  
16 But her unique experiences are what make her the best  
17 to lead our Air Force at this important time in history.

18           First and foremost, she is a pilot herself. So she  
19 thinks in three dimensions. She always looks up and  
20 the passion for flying with the airmen she will lead.

21           Next, Ambassador Barrett has vast management  
22 experience, including leading teams through change. In  
23 fact, as the interim President of the Thunderbird School  
24 Global Management, she was responsible for producing the  
25 next generation of global thinkers and leaders. This

1 outlook will be vital for our Air Force as we adapt to  
2 the resurgence of great power competition and the threats  
3 they pose to the world.

4         Barbara has been a key member of the aerospace  
5 community for years, giving her a firsthand understanding  
6 how to navigate commercial partnerships in order to get  
7 airmen the quality equipment, technology, and best  
8 they need when they need it and where they need it. She  
9 worked at several organizations the Air Force looks to  
10 analysis, like serving as the CEO of the Aerospace  
11 Corporation, a nonprofit corporation based in California  
12 that operates a federally funded research and development  
13 center for the space enterprise. She also served on the  
14 board of RAND, which is on of the most influential think  
15 tanks for military studies.

16         When asked by the Secretary of Defense to serve on  
17 Defense Business Board, Barbara tackled the tough task of  
18 improving business practices in the DOD as a whole. This  
19 kind of macro level analysis experience will enable her  
20 ensure our Air Force can meet and defeat any threat  
21 anytime.

22         Ambassador Barrett has also been involved in many  
23 institutions focused on advocacy and education for air  
24 space, serving on the boards of the National Air and  
25 Museum, Sally Ride Science, and the Space Foundation.

1           Nearest and dearest to my heart, of course, is that  
2   Ambassador Barrett played an important role in one of the  
3   biggest paradigm shifts the military has experienced in  
4   last few decades, expanding air combat roles for women.  
5   the only female pilot serving on the Defense Advisory  
6   Committee on Women in the Services, or DACOWITS, she was  
7   instrumental in recommending that women be allowed to  
8   compete for and fly in combat. In fact, the leadership  
9   this very committee opposed the DACOWITS recommendations  
10  the time. Do not worry. The full Senate overruled the  
11  opposition, and I do not take that personally. But  
12  the way for thousands of women like me to serve our  
13  with distinction in our combat. We now know the wisdom  
14  these decisions. In part, because of these changes, our  
15  military is more effective and more lethal than ever  
16  picking the best man for the cockpit even if she is a

17           It is because of individuals like Ambassador Barrett  
18  that I was able to attend the Air Force Academy and be  
19  first to fly in combat and later command a fighter  
20  And this led to other airmen being able to meet their  
21  potential. None of these firsts would have been possible  
22  had it not been for the experience, advocacy, and the  
23  of women like Ambassador Barbara Barrett proposing new  
24  solutions to an outdated way of thinking. I am grateful  
25  Barbara for her work to allow women like me to step up

1 serve our country.

2 I am also honored to have continued the proud  
3 of Arizona women in aerospace. Today as we sit in this  
4 that makes these types of decisions, I continue to be  
5 inspired by Barbara's example who is not afraid to  
6 the status quo, always look for improvements, think  
7 strategically, and acknowledge that sometimes doing  
8 the way they have always been done in the past may not be  
9 good enough anymore.

10 It is this personal understanding of what our airmen  
11 need, her intimate knowledge of the aerospace industry  
12 supports them, her competence and her passion for the air  
13 and space domains, and a consistent search for new,  
14 more innovative solutions that make Ambassador Barrett  
15 best candidate to lead our Air Force today and tomorrow.

16 Finally, I have been blessed to get to know Barbara  
17 a friend, and I believe she is the perfect fit for this  
18 And I advocated to President Trump for that nomination,  
19 I am grateful that he has nominated her. From our years  
20 friendship, I can tell you that she is a woman of  
21 vision, smarts, and a true leader who cares deeply about  
22 country, our military, and our Air Force.

23 With all she has accomplished, she did not have to  
24 answer this call. She was not seeking this call. Yet,  
25 was willing to give these years of her life to share her

1 immense experience and lead our Air Force into the  
2 Barbara truly embodies the Air Force's core values of  
3 integrity first, service before self, and excellence in  
4 we do, and will inspire our airmen as they train and  
5 to keep us safe.

6 I wholeheartedly support her nomination. I hope  
7 member of this committee will join me.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Ranking Member Reed, for  
9 opportunity to make the introduction. And with that, it  
10 my pleasure to introduce my friend, Ambassador Barbara  
11 Barrett.

12 Chairman Inhofe: Well, that is great. Thank you,  
13 Senator McSally. A beautiful introduction.

14 We will now have opening statements from our  
15 And keep in mind that your entire statement will be made  
16 part of the record. So you do not need to go through the  
17 whole thing. Just abbreviate it as best you can. And I  
18 invite you to introduce any of your friends or family who  
19 have come to support you this morning.

20 Secretary McCarthy?

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1           STATEMENT OF HON. RYAN D. MCCARTHY, TO BE SECRETARY  
2 THE ARMY

3           Mr. McCarthy: Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed,  
4 members of the committee, it is an honor to come before  
5 today as the President's nominee for Secretary of the  
6 I have testified previously in front of this committee  
7 hold it in the highest regard. I want to thank Secretary  
8 Esper for his confidence and the President for nominating  
9 me.

10           Yesterday, as we do every year, we paused in  
11 remembrance of the 9/11 attacks to honor the souls lost  
12 that day and the subsequent 18 years of war. Just as the  
13 Pentagon building still bears the physical scars of the  
14 attack, we will never forget. 18 years ago today, I was  
15 beginning my preparation to deploy for the Afghanistan  
16 invasion. That day fundamentally changed my life and has  
17 brought me to this moment. The troops deployed in combat  
18 operations will remain my primary focus.

19           I would like to begin by recognizing my wife  
20 who joins me here today. She, along with our daughter  
21 Aleksandra, and the rest of my family serve as the  
22 to who I am as a person. They provide me with strength  
23 motivation to be the best husband, father, and man that I  
24 can be. To my parents, David and Kathleen, I want to  
25 publicly thank them for their love, support, and enduring



1 guidance my entire life. To my sister Shannon and my  
2 brother-in-law Chase, thank you for being confidantes and  
3 friends who were always there for me.

4 Finally, I want to thank the committee for the  
5 confidence and bipartisan support they have shown the  
6 and the Department of Defense with the committee's top  
7 mark, which will provide the foundation for a budget deal  
8 that provides fiscal certainty in fiscal year 2020 and  
9 fiscal year 2021. We will work to maximize the utility  
10 every dollar with ruthless prioritization and safeguard  
11 most treasured national resource, the men and women  
12 in the Army, DA civilians, and their families.

13 I am an avid supporter of the National Defense  
14 and will continue the prioritization necessary for it to  
15 realized. The NDS serves as our blueprint, minimizing  
16 potential turbulence as a result of the transition of  
17 leaders. This strategy allows for a laser-like focus  
18 against great power competition while institutionalizing  
19 hard lessons learned in counterinsurgency and the violent  
20 extremist organization fight. If confirmed as Secretary  
21 the Army, I will continue to champion the Army strategy  
22 vision with an emphasis on readiness, modernization, and  
23 reform.

24 It is only through the care of our people that these  
25 priorities will be achieved. I am encouraged by their

1 retention numbers as a measure of performance. In fiscal  
2 year 2019, the Army met over 100 percent of our retention  
3 goals without waivers, and we are on track to achieve our  
4 revised accession goal without dilution in quality.

5 If confirmed, I intend to ensure our soldiers and  
6 families have the resources to thrive. This includes  
7 quality and safe housing, reliable health care, and  
8 to child care. Taking care of the force leads to a  
9 quality of life, retention of world-class soldiers, and  
10 ultimately improved readiness.

11 I am equally committed to the prevention of sexual  
12 assault and harassment in our formations, which tears at  
13 very fabric of our institution. Leadership at every  
14 must build a team of teams, protecting our brothers and  
15 sisters to our left and right, reinforcing there is no  
16 for suicide and sexual assault and harassment in our

17 If confirmed, the Army leadership will continue to  
18 build upon the reform agenda we have established over the  
19 last 24 months. Significant work remains to solidify the  
20 modernization enterprise and finish what we collectively  
21 started.

22 Congressional support has immeasurably helped the  
23 and I look forward to working with this committee and  
24 Congress to fulfilling the responsibility of providing  
25 best manned, equipped, and trained force our nation needs

1 meet its objectives.

2 I am grateful for your consideration of my  
3 and I look forward to your questions. Thank you.

4 [The prepared statement of Mr. McCarthy follows:]

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1 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

2 And Ms. Barrett.

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1           STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA M. BARRETT, TO BE  
2   OF THE AIR FORCE

3           Ambassador Barrett: Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member  
4   Reed, distinguished members of this important committee,  
5   thank you for the opportunity to appear before you with  
6   Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy. I appreciate  
7   your fast attention to our nominations. I hope to build  
8   relationship with each of you, should I be confirmed.

9           I would like to thank the President for his  
10   and the Secretary of Defense for the possible privilege  
11   again serve our great nation.

12          I would like to recognize my family who are here  
13   me today: my husband Craig, the love of my life and the  
14   kind of guy you would want your son to grow up to be;  
15   my sisters, Jill and Patty, and sister-in-law Lori, who  
16   traveled from western Pennsylvania.

17          Senator McSally, thank you for your kind  
18   As the first woman to fly an aircraft engaged in combat  
19   also the first woman to lead a squadron in combat, you  
20   firsthand what is required of our airmen. I am grateful  
21   your confidence and your friendship.

22          This committee profoundly understands the threats  
23   power competition presents to our national interests, as  
24   properly prioritized in the National Defense Strategy.  
25   China and Russia continually challenge free and open

1 international order, impose their authoritarian model  
2 their borders, and attempt to undermine longstanding  
3 alliances.

4 A recent independent, bipartisan strategy commission  
5 appointed by Congress concluded that the Air Force will  
6 at the forefront of any future conflict. We cannot  
7 to lose our competitive edge.

8 If confirmed, I would work with Congress and the  
9 administration to build upon our manpower resources to  
10 our national defense needs. The Air Force must not only  
11 retain its technical edge over potential adversaries, but  
12 must expand it. If confirmed, I will continue  
13 in modernization and advanced capabilities to better  
14 our airmen to prevail in the high-end fight.

15 While attending to readiness, modernization, and  
16 reform, I will also work closely with our allies and  
17 global partnerships.

18 If confirmed, standing up a Space Force would be a  
19 imperative. I believe we need a Space Force. In fact,  
20 my opinion, a domain-specific service to organize, train,  
21 and equip space forces is overdue.

22 Most Americans use space before their first cup of  
23 coffee in the morning. Space controls our electricity,  
24 water, our financial transactions, and of course,  
25 navigation, information, and communication. While space

1 ubiquitous, it is also invisible and often under-  
2 appreciated. American national power depends upon space  
3 our potential adversaries know it. We must be prepared  
4 defend critical space assets, increase the resilience of  
5 space enterprise, and be prepared to fight and win should  
6 deterrence fail.

7 Finally, as we focus on organizing, training, and  
8 equipping for combat, we cannot ignore the readiness  
9 challenges close to home. We must support our airmen by  
10 addressing suicides, sexual assault, housing, and the  
11 quality of life. Much work has been done to address  
12 serious issues, and if confirmed, I would support and  
13 fortify those efforts.

14 Most Americans tuck their kids in bed at night  
15 a thought about foreign threat because brave men and  
16 in uniform stand ready. It is because of their  
17 that we all sleep well.

18 As an aviator, I have a deep love and respect for  
19 Air Force and the men and women, uniformed and civilian,  
20 serve and their families.

21 Our dad, Robert Harvey McConnell, was a cowboy when  
22 enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War  
23 Long ago, he instilled the importance of public service  
24 us. As a result, I have always felt a duty to serve when  
25 called. I would consider it a supreme privilege and a

1 pivotal responsibility to lead our airmen and serve as  
2 25th Secretary of the Air Force.

3 I look forward to your questions.

4 [The prepared statement of Ambassador Barrett

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1 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Ms. Barrett.

2 During my opening comments, I talked a little bit  
3 our launch capabilities, and I regret that while we were  
4 light years ahead, through the previous administration we  
5 lost that edge. And we now have China. I am very much  
6 concerned about what they are doing. I mean, they just  
7 rolling on, keep rolling on. They are developing  
8 that takes us a lot longer. We have a different system.  
9 They give them a gun. Go kill somebody. But that is not  
10 our system.

11 So I would, first of all, ask you if you agree with  
12 most recent national security space launch acquisition  
13 efforts within the Air Force and the Senate focus on  
14 the course on the launch services procurement as it is  
15 aligned today.

16 Ambassador Barrett: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 We do not get to space without effective space  
18 Fortunately, in the recent past, we have developed not  
19 a military and government capability but commercial  
20 capability as well. We still need to have government  
21 capability, and I am fully supportive of continuation of  
22 that capability through the military.

23 Chairman Inhofe: And also the fact that we stay on  
24 course in terms of our timing because any delay is going  
25 put them that much further ahead. Do you agree with

1 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, Senator.

2 Chairman Inhofe: That is one of your top

3 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, Senator.

4 Chairman Inhofe: Okay, that is good.

5 I want to mention one other thing too because there  
6 a misunderstanding. We know that the Air Force has  
7 about needing 72 fighter aircraft. But when it came out  
8 with the 60 F-35's and then, of course, F-15's, the main  
9 problem we had at that time was the contractor did not  
10 the capacity to get up any higher than that. That is kind  
11 a moving target right now. We are not sure where that

12 But we have another situation and that is on the F-  
13 that are out there. Any that we would get right now  
14 be block 3, and yet block 4 would be coming next year.  
15 is your feeling on the situation today as to where we  
16 And what are some of these problems that affect our  
17 acquisition?

18 Ambassador Barrett: Well, Senator, while I am on  
19 outside and do not have inside knowledge about it, from  
20 briefings I have received, the F-35 is our future and we  
21 need it. We need it and we need it sustainably. So  
22 more of the F-35's has been something that the Air Force  
23 been working hard to do. And if confirmed, I would look  
24 continue that push to enhance the F-35 --

25 Chairman Inhofe: Ms. Barrett, I remember because I

1 here at the time when we had the F-22 debate and the  
2 that we were supposed to have. And they dropped down. I  
3 not want that to happen again. We certainly should have  
4 learned that by that time.

5 Secretary McCarthy, you know the job. You have been  
6 the Under Secretary for how long?

7 Mr. McCarthy: 25 months, sir.

8 Chairman Inhofe: 25 months. So you know some of  
9 problems that are out there.

10 We were not able to meet our recruitment goals this  
11 last time. One of the problems we have, right now we  
12 the best economy arguably in my lifetime. So that is  
13 competition out there. How do you overcome that? And are  
14 you going to be able to meet your goals? And if not,  
15 is the fallback position?

16 Mr. McCarthy: So to your point, Chairman, we missed  
17 the active goal by 6,500 in fiscal year 2018. So  
18 Esper and General Milley -- we kind of sat down as a  
19 and said we had to make a change. So we changed the  
20 strategy to focus on 22 cities across the continental  
21 States because we needed a larger sample size. We needed  
22 get greater penetration into demographics where we  
23 to trail. And to your point, with 3.6 percent  
24 there has never been a benchmark like that for us to face  
25 since 1969, and that was an all-draftee military. So a

1 unique setting. And we are competing, quite frankly,  
2 the Air Force, Navy, and the Marine Corps too. They are  
3 competitors, friends, if you will, but we all are  
4 against essentially the same pool.

5 We have gotten out on the road. Army leadership is  
6 meeting with mayors and superintendents of schools, our  
7 parks and recreation directors, getting civic leaders to  
8 help us. We changed our marketing strategy, and we are  
9 putting more funding and effort into digital marketing.  
10 we have made a dramatic change and also looking at our  
11 voice. With over 150 different operational specialties,  
12 there is vast opportunity for Americans to get an  
13 opportunity to get technical skills, money for education,  
14 and truly get out into an environment where they can  
15 the middle class, which we often say in the Army it is  
16 escalator of the middle class. So changing the message  
17 the key in communicating with the country.

18 Chairman Inhofe: And I would anticipate that back  
19 you were initially trying to meet those goals, we did not  
20 anticipate having the economy that we have today.

21 Mr. McCarthy: We make those targets well over a  
22 in advance, Chairman. So we had to make the adjustment.  
23 is hard because if you still need to grow with 60 percent  
24 combatant commanders' requirements are the Army  
25 but we have to continue to grow while demand remains so

1 high.

2 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you.

3 Senator Kaine?

4 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 And congratulations to the nominees. I enjoyed our  
6 visits yesterday.

7 Ambassador Barrett, you and I talked about a concern  
8 mine in the space area, which is the lack of rules. As  
9 point out, it is sort of invisible, and the challenges of  
10 rule-less environment are going to get more and more  
11 significant the more investments we and other countries  
12 make.

13 There was an example in the last year where an  
14 company was denied an FCC license to launch satellites in  
15 the United States, but then they circumvented the FCC's  
16 ruling by going to India and launching satellites. And  
17 there was a monetary penalty that was assessed against  
18 company for doing that.

19 We talked about issues of debris in space created by  
20 either accidents or efforts to use missiles to knock down  
21 defunct satellites that create debris that threaten  
22 investments.

23 As you contemplate, should you be confirmed, the  
24 of Secretary, what are your thoughts about what the  
25 States should do to try to work with other nations to

1 a set of international rules that can be enforced to try  
2 protect the investments that we would make?

3 Ambassador Barrett: Thank you, Senator. I think  
4 will be one of the important things that lies in the  
5 The Air Force would certainly want to be a big part of  
6 If confirmed, I would participate in the leadership.

7 Senator Kaine: You indicated that you strongly  
8 the Space Force. We did a good bit of work on that in  
9 NDAA, and I think that that will likely survive  
10 intact from the conference from everything I am hearing.  
11 You have many priorities as you would take the position.  
12 Talk a little bit about how you would approach the  
13 implementation of the provisions that will be included in  
14 the NDAA on this.

15 Ambassador Barrett: I look forward to seeing the  
16 outcome of those negotiations in Congress, and building  
17 what Congress directs. I would look forward to  
18 participating, if confirmed, in developing an agency that  
19 focused on capability in space, not on building  
20 bureaucracy, but instead building the capability for the  
21 warfighter and for the American public.

22 Senator Kaine: And just back to my first question,  
23 would agree with me, would you not, that it would be very  
24 difficult for us to protect our investments in space  
25 some kind of a rule-based order that other nations are

1 agreeing with? It is hard to either have bilateral or  
2 unilateral rules in space because activities of other  
3 nations could jeopardize our investments, just as our  
4 activities could jeopardize theirs unless there is an  
5 international set of rules.

6 Ambassador Barrett: Senator Kaine, I agree  
7 Yes, we are vulnerable to the actions of others in that  
8 territory.

9 Senator Kaine: Thank you for that.

10 Secretary McCarthy, I have been impressed with  
11 the -- well, first depressed with the challenges  
12 military housing, but I have been impressed with the  
13 candor about acknowledging them. Secretary Esper, as  
14 Secretary -- I worked with him on that, and one of the  
15 reasons I was happy to introduce him to the committee for  
16 his hearing for the SecDef nomination was because of the  
17 work that has been done.

18 It strikes me, as I think about the work over the  
19 few months, including visits that I have made to bases in  
20 Virginia, including Army bases, because I have looked at  
21 lot of military family housing, but I have not looked at  
22 barracks for the E-4's and below -- and I guess if we are  
23 really going to be serious about the housing issues, we  
24 to make sure that single individuals, men and women, who  
25 in barracks in the lower ranks, who are some of the lower

1 paid and in many instances most vulnerable, they also  
2 acceptable housing. You and I talked a little bit about  
3 some of the military family housing issues.

4 As the Army is grappling with those, what are you  
5 doing to take a look at housing conditions for all of the  
6 troops, including the E-4's and below who live as single  
7 members in barracks?

8 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, we had to conduct a very  
9 thorough baseline to truly make sure we understood the  
10 problem. This has been bubbling since back in the fall  
11 2018. Secretary Esper initiated an IG investigation back  
12 February of this year. We just recently released the  
13 results to the entire Congress. There were a series of  
14 recommendations, about 90 percent of which we are  
15 going to implement.

16 We had to get a better understanding of how were  
17 managing the problem, and that is really what has gone on  
18 over the last couple months. We have now begun to move  
19 resources and get better data and understanding of the  
20 health of all of the assets in the entire portfolio.

21 Senator Kaine: And that would include the barracks  
22 single members.

23 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir.

24 Senator Kaine: You and I talked briefly  
25 yesterday -- just a final question. The recent study by



1 CDC indicates DOD spends nearly \$1.5 billion a year in  
2 obesity-related health care costs. This is a national,  
3 just a military issue. The health of the DOD force study  
4 puts the obesity rate within the Army at about 17  
5 The Army is now implementing new fitness standards across  
6 the force, but talk a little bit about how you would help  
7 implement those, should you be confirmed.

8 Mr. McCarthy: Sir, it really starts on the front  
9 We have extended the length of accessions that one  
10 unit training, basic training, to get more repetitions,  
11 time for soldiers to get fit before they arrive to a  
12 FORCECOM unit.

13 Senator Kaine: And that is the 16 to 22.

14 Mr. McCarthy: 16 to 22, yes, sir.

15 And then from there, we are working with the  
16 contractors that run our dining facilities to change the  
17 menus. So we are working across that resiliency  
18 from fitness to how they eat, and quite frankly, they  
19 got to get more sleep at night. So going across the  
20 health continuum, we are looking at how we can improve  
21 of those variables. But it is a challenge for the  
22 with over half the country's youth with an obesity range.  
23 We have just got to get healthier.

24 Senator Kaine: And the military can set a good  
25 as in other areas.

1           Anyway, thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I yield

2           Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Kaine.

3           Senator Fischer?

4           Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5           Ambassador Barrett, when you and I spoke in my  
6 I thought we had a very good conversation about the  
7 importance of the 55th Wing, which is stationed at Offutt  
8 Air Force Base, and really the Air Force's ISR mission  
9 that wing helps to perform. That being said, the ISR  
10 mission being performed by the Air Force is evolving, and  
11 is evolving with the changing pace of technology and also  
12 with the threats that we face as a country.

13           Given the importance of the information gained from  
14 ISR systems, how do you see the Air Force growing and  
15 evolving this mission over time? And would you agree  
16 future technologies such as network systems and the  
17 vehicles could work to enhance the proven platforms that  
18 already have like the RC-135 and other very high-powered  
19 assets?

20           Ambassador Barrett: Thank you, Senator.

21           From your position in Nebraska, we see it is a  
22 to the ISR mission of the United States Air Force, and  
23 is a mission that is only going to grow and modernize and  
24 incorporate more technology. So that is something that  
25 seems to lie very much in the future of the United States

1 Air Force, and if confirmed, I would hope to work with  
2 in continuing that modernization.

3 Senator Fischer: As we discussed at our private  
4 meeting that we had, every combatant commander needs that  
5 information that is provided. Every combatant commander  
6 that has testified before this committee -- they mention  
7 need for more ISR. So would you commit to working with  
8 and my colleagues to expand that ISR infrastructure that  
9 have so that we can put more of those assets into the

10 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, as are needed by  
11 Air Force.

12 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

13 I think you and I both agree also on the importance  
14 modernizing the Air Force's nuclear forces and the  
15 command and control infrastructure on which they rely. I  
16 ask you if you would give me a commitment that you will  
17 that nuclear modernization a top priority if you are  
18 confirmed.

19 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, I can make that  
20 commitment to you.

21 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

22 In your response to the committee's advance policy  
23 questions, you note that most of the systems in the  
24 triad have, quote, exceeded their original designed lives  
25 and they must all be modernized. This includes the

1 based strategic deterrent. And I know that the GBSD is  
2 area that, if confirmed, you are going to be thoroughly  
3 reviewing. We are seeing calls for changes to the  
4 acquisition strategy, but I would encourage you to please  
5 keep in mind the lack of margin in the current schedule  
6 you acquaint yourself with the program.

7 Do you agree that the highest priority needs to be  
8 moving forward to ensure that this program delivers on  
9 and that we also meet the warfighter requirements?

10 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, timeliness and moving  
11 forward on modernization of our nuclear capability is  
12 the highest priorities.

13 Senator Fischer: I would say it is the highest.  
14 nuclear triad, the deterrent it provides is the bedrock  
15 the security of this country.

16 Ambassador Barrett: We understand that importance.  
17 Thank you, Senator.

18 Senator Fischer: One of the fundamental issues that  
19 the Air Force will need to address is the question of  
20 is the force structure and the force size that is going  
21 be necessary in order to meet those goals from our  
22 Defense Strategy. And put simply, we cannot afford to  
23 maintain an outdated Air Force, one that is shaped by a  
24 end conflict when we are looking at great power  
25 now and into the foreseeable future.

1           I have been a vocal proponent of the "Air Force We  
2 Need," that plan that is there, to grow the size of the  
3 Force and rethink the mix of the aircraft that we have.  
4 I am concerned that without resourcing and also without  
5 implementation, plans like this end up on the shelf.  
6 just go by the wayside. And I do not believe we can  
7 to see that happen.

8           What is your vision for the future force size and  
9 the future mix that is in the Air Force?

10          Ambassador Barrett: Senator, a great deal of effort  
11 was put into an analysis of what is the Air Force we need  
12 my predecessor. I would think that is not something that  
13 destined for the shelf but instead destined for  
14 implementation. Whether it is exactly 386 squadrons, I  
15 not know, but it would be something that, if confirmed, I  
16 would be paying a great deal of attention to so that we  
17 have the force structure that we need to pursue and  
18 the mission.

19          Senator Fischer: Thank you, Ambassador, and thank  
20 Mr. Secretary, for your willingness to continue to serve  
21 this country. Thank you.

22          Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Fischer.

23          Senator Heinrich?

24          Senator Heinrich: Thank you, Chairman.

25          Ambassador Barrett, I appreciate you meeting with me

1 yesterday, and I think I want to plow some of that same  
2 ground. And I want to focus specifically, in this case,  
3 some New Mexico projects, but I am sure you are going to  
4 hear about projects all over the country from my

5 My State was one of the hardest hit by the  
6 recent end run around the congressional defense  
7 appropriations process, and specifically the  
8 administration's plan would cut about \$85 million from an  
9 MQ-9 formal training unit facility at Holloman Air Force  
10 Base, a new building that is desperately needed to  
11 effectively train all of our MQ-9 operators.

12 Were you aware that we train 100 percent -- 100  
13 -- of the active, reserve, and international MQ-9  
14 at the Holloman facility?

15 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, I was not aware of  
16 no.

17 Senator Heinrich: Are you aware of the fact that  
18 current trainees are resorting to using duct tape to  
19 holes in the walls and ceilings of their training

20 Ambassador Barrett: No, Senator.

21 Senator Heinrich: Because I think we can do better  
22 than that.

23 Did you know that because of these conditions, these  
24 operators are actually the only combat aircrews in the  
25 entire Air Force that are forced to train in an

1 unclassified, unsecured environment?

2 Ambassador Barrett: No, Senator.

3 Senator Heinrich: If this project does not receive  
4 that funding, what would be your approach to make sure it  
5 receives the funding it needs?

6 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, I understand that the  
7 funding has been deferred, and I would hope that  
8 funding is achieved. And if confirmed, I would be  
9 -

10 Senator Heinrich: "Deferred" is not a word we  
11 use around here. It is either appropriated or it is not  
12 appropriated. And when it is reprogrammed, it is no  
13 appropriated for the use that Congress wrote into the  
14 appropriations bill. So I am just trying to get a sense  
15 from you how we are going to get these kinds of projects  
16 back on track.

17 Ambassador Barrett: The priority remains very high  
18 that project, as I understand it. You know, I have been  
19 the outside, so it is not something that I was a  
20 in. But I do believe that the priorities have not  
21 and that that would be something that would be looked to  
22 funding and appropriate action. And I would be attentive  
23 that as Secretary, if confirmed.

24 Senator Heinrich: Acting Secretary McCarthy,  
25 it was not just our Air Force bases that were affected by

1 these transfers of funds, these cuts. The administration  
2 also cut an information systems facility at White Sands  
3 Missile Range. If this cut is enacted, if that funding  
4 not received, what would be the impact on White Sands  
5 Missile Range and our global information operations?

6 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, as we discussed in the  
7 call, we are making investments in White Sands to support  
8 some efforts in our modernization priorities with  
9 hypersonics and directed energy. The project  
10 - it was to be awarded in the fiscal year 2020 time  
11 So what we are going to do is look at options. Can we  
12 it in the 2021 fiscal year to make the adjustments to try  
13 and do what we can to recover schedule and work with the  
14 contractors, if possible.

15 Senator Heinrich: For both of you, needless to say  
16 was more than disappointed by these actions. It makes it  
17 very hard. Well, it makes it obvious that Mexico is not  
18 paying for this stuff. Mexico is not paying for the  
19 And instead, we have real cuts that have a very real  
20 to be paid in our military's readiness even if it only  
21 us a single year, which is at best, and real impacts on  
22 backs of our men and women in uniform and their families.

23 So I would love to know from both of you if you  
24 understand just how caustic ignoring congressional intent  
25 can be to the kind of relationship that should exist



1 the administration and the Congress.

2 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, I would look to build  
3 relationship with Congress that would be such that we  
4 work carefully and closely despite adversarial issues and  
5 conditions, scarcity of resources and important national  
6 strategic assets, if confirmed.

7 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, I have worked very hard to  
8 to earn a bipartisan relationship with this committee and  
9 for that of the entire body of Congress and will continue  
10 do so, sir.

11 Senator Heinrich: Thank you, Chairman.

12 Chairman Inhofe: Senator Cotton?

13 Senator Cotton: Congratulations, Secretary McCarthy  
14 and Mrs. Barrett, on your nominations, and thank you,  
15 Secretary McCarthy for your current service and, Mrs.  
16 Barrett, for your past service. And I look forward to  
17 working with you both in the years ahead.

18 Mrs. Barrett, earlier this week, just a few days  
19 number of F-15's and F-35's bombed an ISIS stronghold  
20 of Baghdad. Operation Inherent Resolve task force said  
21 were used to disrupt ISIS' ability to hide in thick  
22 vegetation.

23 I have real concerns about using a fifth generation  
24 aircraft to strike a bunch of terrorists hiding in the  
25 bushes. It feels to me like we should be using aircraft

1 that are suitable in an environment where we have total  
2 dominance and our F-35's and their pilots should be  
3 for high-end conflict against adversaries like China,  
4 especially when the GAO has published a study that says,  
5 quote, the F-35 supply chain does not have enough spare  
6 parts available to keep aircraft flying enough of the  
7 necessary to meet warfighter requirements. End quote.

8 This Congress has repeatedly authorized and  
9 appropriated money for a light attack aircraft that would  
10 be able to conduct such missions against low intensity  
11 threats in the Middle East at a fraction of the cost  
12 freeing up the F-35 and all of those people who support  
13 to train for those high-end kinds of conflicts.

14 Do you share my concerns about using this kind of  
15 end aircraft for a very low-end fight, especially given  
16 strain that the F-35 has on it right now?

17 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, I cannot identify what  
18 went into the decision for that --

19 Senator Cotton: I do not mean that particular  
20 operation. Just as a common sense conceptual matter when  
21 could be using low-end aircraft to conduct these missions  
22 places like Iraq or Afghanistan and getting our F-35  
23 ready for a fight against a peer competitor, does it seem  
24 you like we should be exploring that option more  
25 aggressively than we have in the past?

1           Ambassador Barrett: I think so.

2           Senator Cotton: And the Congress has said that we  
3 to see initial operating capability for this kind of  
4 attack aircraft by 2023. And I hope that, upon  
5 confirmation, you can make that a priority for happening  
6 since the Air Force has moved somewhat slowly on it to

7           Ambassador Barrett: I would look forward to taking  
8 leadership and looking to move that along more quickly  
9 to training and operational missions that fit the  
10 if confirmed.

11          Senator Cotton: Thanks, Mrs. Barrett.

12          Secretary McCarthy, when you were in the Army and  
13 so many other people were in the Army back in the 2000s,  
14 they saw a lot of artillerymen conducting operations as  
15 dismounted infantrymen. That was a reflection of the  
16 on the force in part, but it has had lasting  
17 as our artillery units now have colonels who, as  
18 and captains, were again driving around in Humvees  
19 conducting dismounted infantry operations.

20          Can you talk to us a little bit about the Army's  
21 for both getting our service members ready to conduct the  
22 same kind of high-end fight against a major land power  
23 also the new systems that are going to be coming in place  
24 for them to operate in light of Russia's decision to kill  
25 the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the

1 successful ground-based Tomahawk missile tests that  
2 just a few weeks ago?

3 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir. I really attribute a lot  
4 this to General Milley's leadership over the last 2 years  
5 particular where we changed all the scenarios at home  
6 station, as well as our training centers worldwide, to  
7 with near-peer threats scenarios that we would see  
8 near-peer competitors. We changed our investment  
9 obviously making long-range precision fires the number  
10 priority with almost \$9 billion across the FYDP, to  
11 north of a billion dollars in hypersonic glide body  
12 missiles. So a vast investment from our time and energy  
13 training, as well as the investment in materiel to bring  
14 tactical operational strategic fires back into the  
15 formations.

16 We are also looking very hard at changing within MOS  
17 end strength to fill out more fires units, so a  
18 effort moving forward on the long-range precision fire  
19 portfolio.

20 The same regard is with missile defense. It has  
21 atrophied a great deal with 18 years of a  
22 fight. A lot of investments there. We are looking at  
23 shore end batteries coming on line in fiscal year 2022.  
24 there is improvement and it is on the way, but we are  
25 short if we had to go to wartime.

1           Senator Cotton: Yes, we are. So I am glad to hear  
2 that. And I am glad that the INF Treaty is now a dead  
3 letter and we can start providing our soldiers with the  
4 long-range fires they need to counteract the threat from  
5 Russia in Europe, but also the threat from China in East  
6 Asia as well, since they were never a part of that

7           Thank you both.

8           Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Cotton.

9           Senator Reed?

10          Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr.  
11 I apologize. There was a simultaneous Appropriations  
12 Committee hearing and I had to attend.

13          But, Secretary McCarthy, let me raise an issue which  
14 not exclusive, unfortunately, to the Army. It applies to  
15 the Air Force and every service. That is sexual assault  
16 misconduct. I believe several years ago General Odierno  
17 Chief of Staff and Secretary McHugh took a step forward  
18 terms of requiring on the efficiency report an actual  
19 affirmative evaluation of the individual soldier's  
20 to policies and also training. But I think what has  
21 happened in the interim is it becomes more literally  
22 the box. And the training, particularly computer  
23 what I have heard is it is someone sitting at their desk  
24 again checking X's and Y's while they are probably  
25 FreeCell on another device.

1           This has to be squad leader to squad, company  
2   to company face to face. It is very important. And it is  
3   not an issue of political correctness. This is at the  
4   and the ethos of the military. Soldiers do not exploit  
5   other soldiers. They protect them.

6           Can you comment about what you can do and hopefully  
7   inspire other services to do?

8           Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir. As discussed in our office  
9   call -- and this is a lot of where General McConville and  
10   Sergeant Major Grinston really want to look at changing  
11   way we are training because clearly the trend is going in  
12   the wrong direction.

13           I am very encouraged by the feedback that we  
14   General Daryl Williams did an event up at West Point a  
15   weeks ago. He brought in outside experts, and they  
16   it and they did scenario-based training in front of rooms  
17   filled with people. So we are getting away from the  
18   compliance on an iPad or PowerPoint and making it much  
19   interactive because clearly the methods we have been  
20   are not working.

21           Senator Reed: Thank you.

22           Ambassador, again I think this is an issue that you  
23   will have to attend to in the Air Force. But I want to  
24   focus on another issue and that is one that we spoke  
25   at our meeting: sustainment. It is becoming a more

1 critical aspect. In fact, there are a number of  
2 that 60 to 80 percent of the lifecycle cost of a platform  
3 sustainment cost, not the production cost, but  
4 cost. And this has put huge pressure on the F-35. I  
5 Senator Cotton's comments are very, very insightful about  
6 how we are using this aircraft since I am told \$35,000 an  
7 hour to keep an F-35 in the air. And if we are going  
8 some folks in the bush with \$35,000 an hour, that is

9 But it comes down to an issue of numbers. The Air  
10 Force would like to see 1,763 F-35 aircraft, but if it  
11 \$35,000 an hour, how can we afford that going forward?

12 Do you have any ideas about reducing the lifecycle  
13 of the F-35, the sustainment cost?

14 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, as we talked in the  
15 office, that would be getting those flight-hour costs  
16 would be one of the things that I would give a high  
17 to. The F-35 is an important element of the arsenal, and  
18 need the capability. But the cost for flight hours seems  
19 extremely high. I would use the background that I have  
20 work to get that -- to negotiate and build the  
21 so that the aircraft would be flown with less expense.

22 Senator Reed: One of the cost factors is that there  
23 the logistical support for the F-35. It is the automatic  
24 logistics information system, and of course, it has an  
25 acronym, ALIS. Are you familiar with the ALIS program?

1 Ambassador Barrett: Only loosely.

2 Senator Reed: So at this point, it would be very  
3 difficult for you to talk about any specific changes that  
4 you would direct in terms of total overall sustainment,  
5 well as specific relation to the ALIS program.

6 Ambassador Barrett: From the outside, details of  
7 sort -- I am not privy to them. But that is exactly the  
8 kind of thing that we should be paying attention to, if I  
9 confirmed.

10 Senator Reed: Thank you.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Reed.

13 Senator Ernst?

14 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 And thank you both for being here today. Mr.  
16 Secretary, I appreciate your prior service and your  
17 willingness to continue in yet a different role for our  
18 United States Army. Thank you very much for that. And,  
19 Ambassador, thank you very much for being willing to step  
20 forward and fill in at a very exciting time for our Air  
21 Force as we advance on Space Force. So thank you very  
22 for that and for your wonderful families. Thank you for  
23 accompanying today as well. We appreciate that.

24 I want to continue down the road that Ranking Member  
25 Reed was on in discussing sexual assault within our



1 military, and this is a scourge that we absolutely must  
2 against and bring to an end. The shift that we have seen  
3 our military culture is difficult to stomach. And I  
4 those that are in positions of leadership and  
5 really need to see this through. They need to make sure  
6 that we are addressing the situation with the seriousness  
7 that it requires.

8 Mr. Secretary, you spoke of West Point and the event  
9 that General Williams held there, and I was able to  
10 participate in that event on this last Monday. They had  
11 honorable living stand-down day, and it was an entire day  
12 dedicated at West Point to addressing this issue of  
13 harassment and sexual assault. And it addressed the  
14 attitudes and behaviors that are inconsistent with our  
15 values that are degrading readiness. We see that across  
16 force not just at West Point.

17 But you are right in that they had role players and  
18 ways of challenging the cadets in their thinking. And I  
19 think that this event was very, very effective to see the  
20 looks on the faces of the some of the cadets as they had  
21 respond to different scenarios. It was engaging their  
22 brains, which is not what we have seen in the past with  
23 clicking through a bunch of PowerPoint slides. So I am  
24 excited to see the results as we move through this grand  
25 experiment and see if it works and shows a change in

1 attitude.

2 But for both of you, if you are confirmed, what else  
3 would you like to see that would change the culture that  
4 see existing in our military today? What else can we be  
5 doing to effect that change?

6 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, when teams have more time to  
7 train together, when they are with each other, they are  
8 chow hall where they are training together, they get to  
9 each other better. And much of the challenges that I  
10 seen in the last 25 months as the chief management  
11 is just too much reporting, too much compliance, and we  
12 them away from doing the core elements of the job. The  
13 things that I remember as a junior officer in a unit was  
14 ate breakfast and lunch and dinner with my teammates. I  
15 with them all the time. They knew my family. They knew  
16 friends. We do that in the Pentagon. General  
17 General Milley, Dr. Esper, and I -- we eat breakfast, we  
18 lunch, we go to the gym. The know when I am tired and I  
19 need a cup of coffee. And so that is really what it  
20 down to.

21 Dr. Esper and General Milley started this about a  
22 ago taking requirements away brigade and below to  
23 more cohesive teams to be built. And that is where the  
24 trust, the foundation of great units is where it is  
25 codified. So we need to do more of that.

1           And the type of interactive training you described,  
2   that is what we do for anything in our business.

3           Senator Ernst: Thank you. Know your soldiers.  
4   Ambassador?

5           Ambassador Barrett: Senator, thanks.

6           The scourge, as you described it, the sexual  
7   cannot be tolerated in an environment where we entrust  
8   military soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with  
9   extraordinary power. Senator, I have taken action. I  
10   investigated a sexual assault claim in a previous role,  
11   I fired a top leader for that action. It is a zero  
12   matter in my view, and it is something that, if  
13   would take very seriously. I believe there is a value of  
14   having women in leadership roles where women then feel  
15   comfortable to step forward if there are problems of that  
16   sort.

17          Senator Ernst: Well, I do appreciate it. I think  
18   of you have hit on some key components there. One, we  
19   to know our teams. We need to know our soldiers,  
20   airmen, and marines and spending that quality time and  
21   exhibiting the necessary leadership to make sure that we  
22   identifying those issues and then bringing solutions to  
23   table for those issues.

24          Thank you both very much. I look forward to your  
25   confirmations.

1 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Ernst.

2 Senator Jones?

3 Senator Jones: Thank you, Mr. Chairman

4 And thank you, both of our nominees, for being here  
5 thank you for your service and your willing to serve.

6 I think Senator Kaine alluded to this a minute ago,  
7 I want to kind of go back to it a little bit.

8 We have had multiple hearings here this year to  
9 and address persistent and unacceptable problems our  
10 members and their families have experienced in privatized  
11 housing on military bases. We have seen that in Alabama.  
12 We have seen it across the country. The root causes of  
13 these problems seem to continue to be uncovered as the  
14 respective services you hope to lead provide reports and  
15 briefings to Members of Congress and my staff.

16 My takeaway from these reports is that we are  
17 applying some really needed focus to get this right, but  
18 still have a long, long way to go. We are trying to  
19 this in our NDAA and hopefully that language will stay in  
20 there.

21 But I would like to ask each of you, can we get a  
22 commitment from each of you that, if confirmed, you will  
23 continue the service for each of your services focused on  
24 addressing these issues, ensuring our military members  
25 families are provided the housing that they deserve, the

1 transparency, the responsiveness that we believe -- and I  
2 think all members of this committee believe -- are  
3 to our family members and the wellbeing in the military,  
4 addition to our modernization? Secretary McCarthy?

5 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator. I tried to exhibit  
6 very type of behavior just about a week ago when we  
7 the IG investigation to the entire Congress. We have a  
8 series of recommendations from the IG that are in the  
9 spirit as the legislation that you just referred to. The  
10 appropriate actions now are starting to fall into place.

11 As I mentioned earlier, we have baselined ourselves  
12 against the problem because, quite frankly, it is not  
13 the Army, the entire Department. We were not managing  
14 contractor as well as we should have with the level of  
15 diligence that we should. Years ago, we took out the  
16 of command from the process, and you cannot empower  
17 if you take away their authorities and take away their  
18 ability to measure the problem set.

19 So we have to do better. This is a quality of life  
20 issue and retention for our soldiers. This will be top  
21 mind every day for the rest of my tenure, if confirmed.

22 Senator Jones: Thank you.

23 Ambassador Barrett?

24 Ambassador Barrett: Yes, Senator. Much like the  
25 I understand the United States Air Force has been doing a

1 significant effort and corrective action to the  
2 conditions that our families have been subjected to. If  
3 confirmed, I would continue that and possibly accelerate  
4 rate, if possible.

5 Senator Jones: All right. Thank you both.

6 I guess, Secretary McCarthy, I will ask you first,  
7 it is probably appropriate for Ambassador Barrett as

8 Going back to a question that Senator Heinrich asked  
9 about specific programs that are being deferred out of  
10 Mexico, we have only had one, it seems like, in Anniston,  
11 the Anniston Army Depot, when there deference to defer  
12 and push money over to the southern border. It was a  
13 critical maintenance project in Anniston. And I know  
14 there is a lot of these projects, and it is a lot of

15 I would like to ask Secretary McCarthy -- I am sure  
16 are familiar with it -- how that might affect Anniston.  
17 in a broader view, I would like for each of you to  
18 little bit of your view on how the deferral of all of  
19 projects as a whole and the possibility of future  
20 might affect the military. Let us take it away from the  
21 congressional appropriations process, but how a deferral  
22 money that has been appropriated, billions of dollars  
23 to a project, more of a political project, and away from  
24 military -- how would that affect Anniston, as well as a  
25 whole?

1           Mr. McCarthy: Senator, the deferral with respect to  
2 Anniston -- we were going to award that project I believe  
3 fiscal year 2020. It could potentially threaten the  
4 schedule depending on whether or not we could find  
5 funding mechanism and then recover the schedule over  
6 It has presented some turbulence. We are trying to  
7 our way through this, and we will look at various funding  
8 vehicles that we have and repropose those projects  
9 accordingly. They are all very important, and we intend  
10 continue to work this and find solutions.

11           Ambassador Barrett: Exactly the same with the Air  
12 Force, Senator. We would be looking to find funding to  
13 those priority issues go forward.

14           Senator Jones: Well, thank you both. And again,  
15 you for your service and willingness to serve.

16           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17           Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Jones.

18           Senator Tillis?

19           Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20           Ms. Barrett, you and I talked a little bit about  
21 when you were in my office. Thank you for your time.

22           First off, I do not know you as well as Senator  
23 McSally, but I am fully confident that you are going to  
24 great job.

25           One of the areas we talked about in the committee

1 about something that started in the Air Force almost 11  
2 years ago now. It was this document, a 680-page  
3 to define the next generation handgun for the Department  
4 Defense. The Army says they finally had to take it over  
5 get the job done, by the way. But it then went through a  
6 process of procurement and acquisition that took about 10  
7 years. It was finally selected, and now it is going to  
8 about 10 years to get it fully deployed when we will need  
9 the next generation handgun.

10 Now, when I first started I had taken this document,  
11 680 pages, and bringing it before the committee, I had  
12 folks in acquisition over in DOD say, but it is only 40  
13 pages of specifications. So my question to them was, are  
14 all the other pages intentionally left blank? Do they  
15 requirements that the suppliers can just dismiss and only  
16 focus on those 40 pages? And we all know the answer to  
17 that.

18 I want to make sure that we figure out a way to  
19 acquire, appropriate to the risk or the sophistication of  
20 whatever it is we are acquiring. I fully expect we  
21 had an RFP that was 300 pages long for the next  
22 paperclip. I am not going to look for that, but I could  
23 that.

24 Tell me what you think we are already doing to  
25 this. We discussed this in the office. And give me your



1 assurance that these sorts of things and these wastes  
2 could be put to more capabilities and better preparing  
3 men and women in uniform -- tell me a little bit about

4 And then, Secretary McCarthy, I am going to touch on  
5 housing with you.

6 Ambassador Barrett: Thank you, Senator.

7 I think most would agree that the acquisition system  
8 has been broken. I credit my predecessor as Secretary of  
9 the Air Force for having really tackled that problem, and  
10 what you evidence there from 10 years ago -- let us hope  
11 is better now. And it would be something we would look  
12 get better, if I am confirmed, during my tenure.

13 Wilson I understand took the acquisition approval process  
14 with the leadership of Dr. Will Roper from 14 approval  
15 levels to four. That cuts out who knows how much paper,  
16 a lot of hands moving through it and adds to the  
17 responsibility that each of those four have for getting  
18 right.

19 Senator Tillis: Once you are confirmed, I would  
20 to come over and visit with you, as I mentioned in my  
21 office, so that we can sit down and look at the specific  
22 things around the business of the DOD that we not only  
23 to fix and not once and done but the continuous  
24 initiatives that can convince me that we do not get it  
25 at a point in time and then 10 years from now we are back

1 this unacceptable process.

2 Secretary McCarthy, you and I had a great discussion  
3 the office. It has been great working with you over the  
4 past couple of years, and I am going to support your  
5 nomination.

6 Tell me a little bit about what you experienced down  
7 Fort Bragg and the progress that we are making on

8 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, I was disappointed. I went  
9 the Pope housing project in particular where there were  
10 of the families that experienced some carbon monoxide  
11 I went to one of the homes in particular. The solutions  
12 were not adequate. So the progress is not moving fast  
13 enough.

14 Senator Tillis: I told you I am back down there. I  
15 just did a town hall with a couple hundred people down at  
16 Camp Lejeune about a month ago. We had this remarkable  
17 phenomenon. Every time I go down there, in the 3 or 4  
18 before I get there, we see a lot of service requests for  
19 men and women in housing go down.

20 But we have got to continue to work on the  
21 changes. And Congress, through sequestration, the  
22 Department by taking its eye off the ball -- everybody --  
23 there is no one person to blame here, but we have got to  
24 continue to measure the progress -- and I spoke with  
25 Kaine earlier about the bill of rights that I look

1 to us getting into place -- and just continuing to pound  
2 this and just let the families know that at Fort Bragg  
3 that I plan on doing a town hall down there again in  
4 month. And I hope they are working on those service  
5 requests now. And I look forward to working with both of  
6 you on addressing what I consider to be unacceptable  
7 housing. And I have full confidence in you all that we  
8 get it right.

9 Thank you.

10 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Tillis.

11 Senator King?

12 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 First, I want to acknowledge the service of both of  
14 to our country and welcome you to this committee and am  
15 delighted with your qualifications and look forward to  
16 supporting both of you.

17 With that said, I have a question. And, Secretary  
18 McCarthy, you may be better because you are in the  
19 now. Has a legal opinion been prepared by the general  
20 counsel of any of the military services or the Defense  
21 Department on the legality of the use of these military  
22 construction funds for the border wall construction?

23 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir.

24 Senator King: And could you make that available to  
25 committee?

1 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir.

2 Senator King: Thank you.

3 I believe you have been given an illegal order. I  
4 think that what is being done here is a gross violation  
5 the Constitution and the fundamental principles of the  
6 Constitution which is the separation of powers and the  
7 bestowing of the appropriation and spending power on the  
8 Congress. Article 1, section 9 could not be more clear.  
9 money shall be drawn from the treasury. No money shall  
10 drawn from the treasury but in consequence of  
11 made by law. That could not be more clear.

12 Now, the fig leaf that the administration is using  
13 Title 10, section 2808 which talks about troops being  
14 deployed in a national emergency. But even that does not  
15 fit because it says any expenditures and the taking out  
16 military construction of funds may be used for projects  
17 undertaken to support the troops. And this project has  
18 nothing to do with supporting the troops where they are  
19 talking about roads or barracks or defensive positions to  
20 actually support the troops.

21 I want to see that legal opinion because I just  
22 believe it holds any water. And what shocks me is the  
23 failure of this Congress to stand up for its  
24 If this goes through, it establishes a precedent that  
25 essentially transfers a significant portion of the power

1 the purse to the administration, not just this  
2 administration but any administration. We are  
3 a precedent here that will haunt this institution I  
4 for many years.

5 I appreciate that neither of you have a role in  
6 You are doing what the chain of command reports. But I  
7 believe it is an illegal order, and therefore I would  
8 to see that legal opinion that justifies what is going on  
9 here.

10 One comment to Senator Heinrich's question. Maybe  
11 President misstated. He meant New Mexico is going to pay  
12 for the wall, not Mexico because that is what is  
13 here. And it is not right and it is not in accordance  
14 the provisions of the Constitution.

15 Secretary McCarthy, the Army has been going through  
16 substantial period of modernization for the past 2 years.  
17 lot has been accomplished, standing up of the Army  
18 Command. What has gone right and what has gone wrong?  
19 do you feel are the things that have worked the best, and  
20 where do we still have gaps?

21 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, we believe we have the  
22 organizational construct right. The three pillars of the  
23 command, futures and concepts, combat systems where the  
24 acquisition officials are aligned. This cross-functional  
25 design brings the stakeholders together so you can get

1 of effort, unity of command.

2 Senator King: And that is actually working.

3 Mr. McCarthy: So we stood up the cross-functional  
4 teams in the fall of 2017, and we have prototypes  
5 in 18 months that we are testing. I fired the next gen  
6 squad weapon at Fort Bragg last July. We were testing  
7 end loads. We have tested the extended range cannon,  
8 a wraparound from 39 kilometers to 70. The prototypes  
9 delivering and we are starting to yield results. So that  
10 reducing the span time is everything.

11 Senator King: Are there elements that we could be  
12 doing better?

13 Mr. McCarthy: Of course, Senator. Much of what we  
14 going to see -- the true litmus test is if the prototypes  
15 actually are the ones we want and we want to scale them  
16 we buy LRIP tranches -- is how the decisions will be made  
17 from the Futures Command at the senior most level when we  
18 slap the table on a next gen combat vehicle or the lift  
19 platform, making those hard trades up top when you start  
20 buy LRIPs. So we are not out of the woods yet, but there  
21 great progress in the way we have gone about the  
22 requirements process, which is what Senator McCain really  
23 pushed on --

24 Senator King: And I am sure you are going to stay  
25 it.

1           Ms. Barrett, just a couple of comments. You and I  
2 talked yesterday about the importance of maintenance.  
3 think we should be doing a much better job of readiness  
4 terms of fleet of airplanes, getting them, maintaining  
5 having maintainers. We not only have a pilot shortage,  
6 have a maintainer shortage.

7           And also I would hope when you do the acquisition  
8 process -- and this really goes for both services -- that  
9 this day and age, we should be buying, along with the  
10 platform, the intellectual property rights to all the  
11 of that platform so that we can 3D print our own parts  
12 rather than having to go back to the manufacturer or go  
13 to a supply chain that could be slow, expensive, and  
14 inefficient. So I hope that that will be part of your  
15 acquisition strategy.

16           Mr. McCarthy: Senator, we are investing in additive  
17 manufacturing where our Center of Excellence is up in  
18 Island, Illinois at the arsenal. The challenge we are  
19 to have going forward is the intellectual property  
20 as we work through that with major defense contractors,  
21 example. So it may require some support from the  
22 of jurisdiction in particular.

23           Senator King: You will certainly have it from this  
24 Senator.

25           Mr. McCarthy: Thank you, sir.

1           Senator King: Ms. Barrett, you are going to do the  
2 same?

3           Ambassador Barrett: Similarly. Thank you very  
4 Senator. Yes. So the intellectual property is an  
5 part of what our acquisitions need to have in order to  
6 operability.

7           Senator King: Thank you both very much. I  
8 it and look forward to working with you.

9           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10          Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator King.

11          Senator McSally?

12          Senator McSally: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13          Ambassador Barrett, thanks for answering the call.

14          Arizona is the home to many important Air Force

15          As you know, the Air Force has been a proactive  
16 to identify bases of active and Air National Guard for  
17 higher than normal PFAS levels of contamination.

18          Ambassador Barrett: Yes.

19          Senator McSally: Some of these higher than normal  
20 sites are in Arizona, most notably just north of Tucson  
21 International Airport where the 162nd Air National Guard  
22 flies F-16's.

23          Can I get your commitment, if confirmed, that you  
24 continue to partner with these local communities like  
25 to address this PFAS issue?



1           Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, Senator. It is  
2 important. The relationship between our military  
3 and the communities is vitally important, and this  
4 contamination is a problem that is not unique to Arizona  
5 is something that would be, if confirmed, carefully  
6 attended.

7           Senator McSally: Great. Thank you.

8           Also, as you well know, I am a strong advocate of  
9 F-35 and the A-10. We need both in order to make sure  
10 we have air dominance and air superiority and that we  
11 protect our troops on the ground who are in fire fights.

12           Can I also get your commitment -- or how do you feel  
13 about that? And do you agree that we need both these  
14 important capabilities for our warfighters?

15           Ambassador Barrett: Our current force structure,  
16 Senator, requires both of those pieces of equipment and  
17 those weapon systems. Until there is a replacement to do  
18 that job that the A-10 does and the F-35, those would be  
19 core to the Air Force, Senator, and if confirmed, I would  
20 commit to.

21           Senator McSally: Great. And I would love to host  
22 out at Davis Monthan and Luke Air Force Base as well so  
23 can get an update first hand.

24           One thing they are doing at Luke actually is really  
25 innovative. So as you are looking at bringing down cost

1 maintenance and sustainment, they are doing what is  
2 lightning integrated teams where they are training people  
3 be more cross-trained in different functions and kind of  
4 the aircraft. And it has really cut down on the number  
5 people involved, the cost, the time. And so I brought  
6 up to Secretary Wilson and also Secretary Esper, and they  
7 are very interested in it. So I want to ask if I can  
8 continue to have your commitment to assess that and see  
9 that could be used at other bases because it really is an  
10 amazing initiative.

11 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, Senator.

12 Senator McSally: All right. Great. We will show  
13 firsthand when you come out to Luke.

14 Secretary McCarthy, it is good to see you again.  
15 we visited in my office a little while ago, we talked  
16 a number of different issues, but one being the  
17 of Fort Huachuca where it has got some unique  
18 for being our Center of Excellence for intelligence  
19 training, for UAS training, for the electronic proving  
20 grounds, again unique attributes down there for  
21 capabilities that are going to be so important for our  
22 warfighters in the future.

23 So we talked about the commitment you have for those  
24 important missions. So I just want to ask you, are you  
25 continuing to be committed to the importance of Fort

1 Huachuca and those unique missions that they have there?  
2 will you come visit and see them firsthand?

3 Mr. McCarthy: I will definitely come visit,  
4 The unique characteristics really also of the processing  
5 exploitation and dissemination of data -- that is the  
6 foundation element of what our MI folks do for targeting  
7 moving information around the battlefield. So it is a  
8 jewel for us in the Army.

9 Senator McSally: Well, exactly. But as you know,  
10 there are also unique elements there in the airspace that  
11 have and the weather for the UAS mission and then the  
12 electronic proving grounds is absolutely critical and  
13 electronic warfare range. So I look forward to hosting  
14 down there so you can see that firsthand. And I just  
15 to, again, highlight, we had a long conversation about  
16 those missions, but not just intel. Right? Also, there  
17 other missions. Great, thanks.

18 And one thing we have talked about also is our range  
19 modernization and the importance with long-range strike.  
20 This applies to both of you. Modernizing the Barry  
21 Goldwater ranges and then also for the long-range strike  
22 missions that we have at Yuma Proving Grounds. So I just  
23 want to give you guys in the little time I have left an  
24 opportunity to speak to those issues and the importance  
25 modernizing our testing and training ranges.

1           Mr. McCarthy: Yuma in particular for us, Senator,  
2 mentioned in my comments before, is where we are testing  
3 extended range cannon artillery, part of the number one  
4 portfolio for long-range precision fires. These  
5 capabilities are going to have greater ranges and  
6 than we have had historically. So the investments into  
7 Yuma ranges will be very important to us.

8           Senator McSally: Great.

9           And Secretary Barrett, the Barry Goldwater Range is  
10 where I trained and trained my squadron. They just have  
11 really kept up now with the capabilities we have with the  
12 35. So we really do need to modernize them. I just want  
13 get your thoughts on modernization of our testing and  
14 training ranges.

15           Ambassador Barrett: The Goldwater Range is a  
16 jewel. I have been there to watch A-10 performance, and  
17 is something that is rarely replicable because of the  
18 airspace. And from my tenure as number two at the FAA  
19 looking at the use of airspace is a really important  
20 That block of air set-aside is really of benefit to  
21 for the United States Air Force.

22           Senator McSally: Great. Thanks.

23           I want to thank you both for your service and your  
24 willingness to serve our country at this really important  
25 time. I look forward to supporting your nominations and

1 confirmation. I hope we do that swiftly and look forward  
2 continuing to partnering with you. Thanks.

3 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator McSally.

4 Senator Duckworth?

5 Senator Duckworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 And I would like to thank both of you for being  
7 Ms. Barrett, continuing on the subject of logistics  
8 from our conversation a couple of days ago, I want to get  
9 further into the details with you. We talked about great  
10 power competition and the vast distances that we would  
11 to position our forces across those distances. You know,  
12 this highlights some serious logistical challenges that I  
13 brought up to you, and I think we spoke specifically on  
14 Indo-Pacific region. Our needs today are significant.  
15 Within a contested environment, they would grow even more  
16 dire.

17 For example, as I said, I recently traveled to the  
18 Pacific and I had to chance to talk with several  
19 of Pacific air forces. We discussed dispersing U.S. air  
20 assets in the region to counter Chinese ballistic missile  
21 attacks, which would require massive intra-theater lift  
22 capabilities.

23 As Secretary, what specific logistics capabilities  
24 would you prioritize to make sure we can support our  
25 operational commanders' adaptive needs in the short term

1 situations like this, and can you please give me specific  
2 examples?

3 Ambassador Barrett: Thank you, Senator.

4 The vast reaches of the Pacific present a  
5 logistics challenge. It cannot be met with ease. And we  
6 have bases that have been helpful. But I have taken a  
7 special interest in that region. Many of us know the  
8 European theater from World War II, but two American  
9 Presidents almost died in the Pacific theater. I have  
10 a point of going to those points in the Pacific. The  
11 Guadalcanal --

12 Senator Duckworth: I am sorry to interrupt you. I  
13 only have 3 minutes. Can you give me specific examples  
14 logistical initiatives that you will take to address  
15 issues in the Pacific?

16 Ambassador Barrett: The Air Force has been building  
17 the KC-46 to do mid-air refueling so that we expand our  
18 reach. We need greater reach by our fighters and bombers  
19 be able to have access in that area.

20 In addition, a lot of what we will have to do in the  
21 Pacific, especially with the vast expanses, is to work  
22 our allies and build greater partnerships in that region  
23 that we also have reach.

24 Senator Duckworth: Specifically how?

25 Ambassador Barrett: Building partnerships --

1           Senator Duckworth: In what? Refueling, basing?  
2 are you talking about specifically?

3           Ambassador Barrett: Both of those. And recently  
4 Chief of Staff of the Air Force visited the Philippines  
5 Japan and Vietnam and other areas in the Pacific to build  
6 greater friendships. I think that is a part of my  
7 background in diplomatic work, and it would be the way  
8 we would work to have better cooperation. Them flying  
9 appropriate, having our allies and partners flying  
10 compatible equipment is a way that we expand our reach  
11 our capability in a vast region of that sort.

12          Senator Duckworth: So are you saying increasing  
13 foreign military sales of tankers and refuelers to our  
14 allies? Because when we talked, you actually said we  
15 not really need to worry too much about logistics in the  
16 area to support F-35's if we actually put platforms in  
17 or take over the role that the F-35 would play.

18          Ambassador Barrett: Senator, I am afraid you  
19 misunderstood. It really is important for us to have  
20 in the air-breathing region, as well as space. I mean,  
21 space offers great new opportunities, but it does not  
22 replace our air-breathing and surface capabilities.

23          Senator Duckworth: That is good to know. But I am  
24 still trying to get specifics from you. What platforms  
25 you talking about? What capabilities are you talking

1 beyond increasing diplomatic efforts?

2 Ambassador Barrett: Well, as I indicated, the KC-46  
3 will have a mid-air refueling capability.

4 Senator Duckworth: Do you think we have enough in  
5 pipeline now for the future needs?

6 Ambassador Barrett: In the pipeline, we have a lot  
7 more. At the moment, I think we have a great dearth of  
8 46's. And as I understand it -- and, again, I am not in  
9 building at this point. I am coming in from the outside.  
10 But from what I have seen and how I have been briefed, it  
11 seems that the intent is to get a great deal more of the  
12 46, the more modern mid-air refueling capability in the

13 Senator Duckworth: Could you speak to C-130 Juliet  
14 models and why we are abandoning that program and also in  
15 relation to the Air National Guard?

16 Ambassador Barrett: The C-130J, Juliet model, is  
17 especially important for its more modern capability and  
18 replacement for the H model. Again, it is an asset that  
19 are looking to acquire more of and field them.

20 Senator Duckworth: Actually I think you are ending  
21 program in the Air Force especially at a time when the  
22 is still on the H models.

23 Ambassador Barrett: The Guard has been flying the H  
24 models and Juliet. It is something that I will spend  
25 time and pay attention to if I can be confirmed.



1           Senator Duckworth: Please do because I think the  
2 definitely needs those Juliet models.

3           And I also just want to close. Mr. McCarthy, thank  
4 so much for meeting with me prior to the break, and I  
5 that you will continue to support the future vertical  
6 program.

7           Mr. McCarthy: It is our number three priority,  
8 Senator, fully funded.

9           Senator Duckworth: Thank you.

10          Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11          Chairman Inhofe: Thank you.

12          Senator Hawley: Mr. McCarthy, the fiscal year 2020  
13 budget calls for the elimination of 18,000 medical  
14 That is about 20 percent of the force, if I have got my  
15 facts right, which is a significant cut in the medical  
16 workforce and is likely to have a pretty significant  
17 on the quality of medical care provided. The hospital at  
18 Fort Leonard Wood, as you know, is already under pretty  
19 significant strain from the lack of assigned medical  
20 personnel.

21          Can you assure me that if you are confirmed, that  
22 will work with me to address this problem?

23          Mr. McCarthy: Senator, I actually would like to go  
24 down and visit the Leonard Wood facility with you.

25          As we work our way through the DHA merger is what we

1 like to refer to in the Department, there are locations  
2 around the country where there is great health care  
3 the gate, and there are other more remote places where we  
4 are challenged with the distance from the installation to  
5 the health care facility and then the size and scale of  
6 those facilities. So as we make this transition, some of  
7 our more remote installations will have challenges, and  
8 is a place where we are putting a tremendous amount of  
9 attention to ensure we get the appropriate health care  
10 they need. But absolutely, sir.

11 Senator Hawley: Great. Thank you. I look forward  
12 that.

13 Switching topics, how do you envision the Army  
14 to delay, degrade, and deny a Chinese fait accompli  
15 Taiwan? And I am thinking in particular here of long-  
16 precision fires.

17 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, our number one investment  
18 priority of long-range precision fires from the tactical  
19 extended range cannon artillery to the precision strike  
20 missiles, which is an ATACMS' replacement, which outside  
21 the INF Treaty those munitions can have a range in the  
22 upwards of 600 kilometers, hypersonic glide body missiles  
23 so we have an array of -- within the suite an array of  
24 capabilities that will change the geometry within  
25 Asia. And if we can get the appropriate partnerships,

1 expeditionary basing rights with partners in the region,  
2 can change the geometry and basically have the effects to  
3 reverse anti-access/area denial capabilities that have  
4 invested by near-peer competitors.

5       Senator Hawley: Let me thank you for that. Just to  
6 make sure that I understand it, I hear you saying that  
7 conventional INF range missiles would significantly  
8 the Army's ability to perform that mission of blunting a  
9 potential Chinese fait accompli. Is that right? I mean,  
10 have I heard you correctly?

11       Let me ask you this on the same topic. How do you  
12 the Army working with other services? And I am thinking  
13 particularly of the Marine Corps to ensure that these  
14 range precision fires and associated capabilities are  
15 integrated with the rest of the joint force.

16       Mr. McCarthy: On the hypersonic effort in  
17 we signed a joint memorandum of agreement, and this is a  
18 joint interest program, not a joint program, where we are  
19 all sharing data, synchronizing the buys of materiel and  
20 sharing the data within the test regime, so how many  
21 we are going to take over the course of the next 24 to 36  
22 months. So a great partnership of working together, but  
23 are not looking at changing the fundamental requirements  
24 how this weapon system will be employed in combat  
25 operations. So we do not want to slow it down, but where

1 there are synergies, we are going to lock arms and go  
2 it. So that in particular, we view the hypersonic effort  
3 similar to the Pershing capability in the 1980s. This  
4 fundamentally change the posture for us in various  
5 commands, and it is a number one investment priority for  
6 It is something that really started with Secretary Mattis  
7 and we have just had our foot on the gas here, sir.

8 Senator Hawley: Thank you.

9 Ms. Barrett, let me ask you a question about Air  
10 priorities. The Air Force's own analysis I understand --  
11 shows the divestments in C4ISR, munitions, air base  
12 resilience are critical to ensuring that you are able to  
13 contribute fully to deterring or defeating China and  
14 secondarily Russia.

15 Can you give me a sense of how the Air Force is  
16 with the other services to ensure resilient C4ISR in  
17 contested environments in particularly the Indo-Pacific  
18 theater?

19 Ambassador Barrett: Well, again, I think the Indo-  
20 Pacific is such a vast area. In many instances, it is  
21 to get surface access to some of those areas. So  
22 basing site opportunities -- C4ISR is especially  
23 upon space, and that is where the importance of defending  
24 and protecting our space assets really rises to the fore.

25 Senator Hawley: Let me just ask you this finally.

1 you are confirmed, how do you plan to balance the tension  
2 between the need to invest enough in C4ISR, munitions,  
3 airbase resilience, other critical enablers while  
4 simultaneously increasing the number of operational  
5 squadrons to 386?

6 Ambassador Barrett: So the balance is really the  
7 issue, Senator. It is a resource-constrained time, and  
8 is just where we just have to establish priorities and  
9 sure that we minimize the vulnerability in any of those  
10 areas.

11 Senator Hawley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Hawley.

13 Senator Blumenthal?

14 Senator Blumenthal: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

15 Thank you both for your service and thank you for  
16 visiting with me earlier in the week.

17 Secretary McCarthy, you and I talked about military  
18 housing, and I have no doubt about your very good  
19 and you, Ambassador Barrett, as well to make sure that  
20 quality of housing is improved.

21 Is the best way not to terminate the contractors?  
22 Should they not be held accountable? And should the Army  
23 not be taking some action -- and the Air Force -- against  
24 them, including potential criminal referrals as I have  
25 raised previously with General Milley? Do you know

1 there are steps to hold those private contractors  
2 accountable for their clear violations of contractual  
3 obligations and possible fraud?

4 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, so from the range of what  
5 discussed, just recently I delegated the authority for  
6 incentive fee withholds to the AMC Commander with maximum  
7 latitude to do what was needed to improve performance.  
8 respect to criminal activity or potential fraud  
9 clearly it is something we would investigate and pursue  
10 vigor.

11 Senator Blumenthal: The Inspector General of the  
12 recently completed a report showing that the residents,  
13 1,180 of them, who participated, as you well know -- two-  
14 thirds of them in that survey said they were  
15 48 of the 49 Army locations with privatized housing had  
16 residents who expressed concern with safety and  
17 environmental issues. And the inspectors found that  
18 health, and safety items are not part of the current Army  
19 housing inspection requirement. They found a 2013 Army  
20 policy that specifically prohibited health and welfare  
21 inspections of privatized housing. Have you reversed  
22 policy?

23 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir.

24 Senator Blumenthal: Well, I would like a report  
25 if possible, as soon as possible on what is being done to

1 hold those private contractors accountable both civilly  
2 criminally.

3 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir. 30 days, 45 days, as soon  
4 you want it, sir.

5 Senator Blumenthal: 45 days if necessary. 30 days  
6 preferable. And I know that you are focused on this  
7 and you will be, Ambassador Barrett, so far as the Air  
8 is concerned.

9 Ambassador Barrett, you and I discussed when you  
10 visited with me the issue of stays by Air Force personnel  
11 Trump branded properties. This issue is far from new or  
12 novel. In fact, I raised it with Secretary Esper when I  
13 found that in the first 6 months of this administration,  
14 \$140,000 had been spent -- almost \$140,000 -- at Trump  
15 branded properties. As you are aware, the Air Force  
16 recently ordered a global review as to how the service  
17 selects overnight accommodations for service members.  
18 appreciate your commitment made to me -- I hope you will  
19 restate it here -- to provide this committee with the Air  
20 Force investigation once it is complete.

21 Secretary Esper committed to me to providing  
22 information about expenditures made by civilian and  
23 uniformed DOD employees at Trump properties. He has not  
24 provided that information. I am going to renew my  
25 to him.

1 Will you, on behalf of the Air Force, provide a  
2 complete accounting to me and this committee about  
3 expenditures at Trump branded properties?

4 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, Senator.

5 Senator Blumenthal: Do you agree that no taxpayer  
6 funds should be going to the President or his business as  
7 result of stays by Department of Defense personnel at  
8 branded properties?

9 Ambassador Barrett: It seems that we should have  
10 generic rules and regulations that look to the best value  
11 and best acquisition, and those rules should be enforced  
12 enforced equally.

13 Senator Blumenthal: Well, will you commit to  
14 service-wide policy to prohibit all Air Force personnel  
15 using Trump properties for military travel whenever  
16 operationally feasible? As you and I discussed, the  
17 appearance, wholly apart from the reality of the  
18 profiting from Department of Defense expenditures at  
19 properties he owns, is absolutely unacceptable.

20 Ambassador Barrett: What we need to do is have  
21 and regulations that are applied evenly and that are  
22 thoughtful and do include appearances in those rules and  
23 regulations. But again, they should not be specific to  
24 particular owner.

25 Senator Blumenthal: Would a clear policy, as you



1 suggested against violations of both the domestic and the  
2 foreign emoluments clause, not prevent the commander-in-  
3 chief from profiting from Department of Defense  
4 expenditures?

5 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, I understand the  
6 and I understand the concern. But if there were a  
7 shareholder in a company that owns hotels, should that be  
8 excluded from military housing or military involvement?

9 Senator Blumenthal: I am asking you about the  
10 President of the United States who owns properties where  
11 Department of Defense has spent hundreds of thousands of  
12 dollars to the profit of the President of the United  
13 in violation of the United States Constitution. Will you  
14 issue a clear service-wide policy prohibiting that

15 Ambassador Barrett: I will take a look at the rules  
16 and regulations on that and evaluate what policy should  
17 issued.

18 Senator Blumenthal: Well, before your confirmation,  
19 hope you will provide a clear answer to this committee.

20 Ambassador Barrett: Thank you, Senator.

21 Chairman Inhofe: Senator Sullivan?

22 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 And I want to thank the nominees and their families  
24 their service to our country, previous service,  
25 service. I have enjoyed meeting with both of you and I

1 forward to confirming you. We need senior leadership.  
2 Senate-confirmed leadership in the Pentagon I think is  
3 important.

4 Let me start with a question on a region of the  
5 that I am sure you are not going to be surprised, given  
6 previous discussions, I want to talk about, and that is  
7 Arctic.

8 You know, America is an Arctic nation because of  
9 Alaska. And I have some handouts. I can provide them to  
10 colleagues as well, but I think they were provided to  
11 Hopefully they were. There is a very significant Russian  
12 buildup in the Arctic. You can take a look at the  
13 Were you provided handouts? Why do you not take a look  
14 these? Almost daily, if you look at the other handout,  
15 there are articles literally almost daily about what is  
16 happening in the Arctic in terms of a Russia/China  
17 great power rivalry.

18 Just in the last couple days, in addition to what  
19 have there as a handout, an article in the "Washington  
20 said forget Greenland. A far more dangerous game is  
21 played in the Arctic. An article in "The National  
22 Interest," all within the last week, what does China want  
23 with the Arctic given its new strategy. And then the  
24 newspaper just said an article that started by saying the  
25 next Cold War with Russia may be a literal vice

1 one. So before we dismiss President Trump's interests in  
2 Greenland, we should consider that our great power  
3 China and Russia, aggressively seek Arctic influence.  
4 is daily.

5 Ambassador Barrett, you have extensive experience in  
6 the Arctic, particularly given your tenure as Ambassador  
7 Finland. Given that the National Defense Strategy  
8 on great power competition, Secretary Pompeo recently  
9 very, what I thought, well thought out speech on the  
10 I would like to get your views on what we should be doing  
11 there to protect our national interests. And Secretary  
12 McCarthy, I would like yours as well.

13 Ambassador Barrett: Senator, Mercator did not do us  
14 any favors by flattening the globe. People lose track of  
15 how small the northern hemisphere is and how close those  
16 properties are and how close Alaska is to going over the  
17 into the Siberian area.

18 That is now both available in shipping, as well as  
19 persistent space access to those areas, and that is an  
20 where threats would potentially drive --

21 Senator Sullivan: Let me just say real quick. You  
22 know, I mentioned the Secretary of State. This committee  
23 certainly starting to raise awareness on this. I do  
24 the biggest agency in Washington that has not gotten the  
25 message on our strategic competition in the Arctic is the

1 Pentagon. Some are getting it. The big blob of a  
2 bureaucracy there is not yet.

3 So can I get both of your commitments to come to  
4 with me, see the Arctic firsthand in America, and get  
5 commitment to work with me and this committee, which is  
6 interested, by the way, in a bipartisan way on these  
7 -- to work with this committee to make sure we are  
8 protecting America's strategic interests in this next  
9 power rivalry arena? Ambassador, can I get your  
10 on that?

11 Ambassador Barrett: Certainly.

12 Senator Sullivan: Mr. Secretary?

13 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir.

14 Senator Sullivan: Senator Duckworth raised a very  
15 question with regard to logistics in the Asia-Pacific.  
16 Ambassador Barrett, the Air Force is looking to make its  
17 OCONUS decisions here on basing of the KC-46. Alaska is  
18 going to have over 100 fifth generation fighters, F-35's,  
19 22's, within the next couple years. No place on the  
20 earth will have that many combat-coded fifth gen

21 When Secretary Esper went through his confirmation  
22 hearing, he mentioned that pairing 100 fifth gen fighters  
23 with KC-46's that can reach three combatant command areas  
24 within hours would give the United States extreme  
25 reach.

1 Will you commit to working with me on that OCONUS  
2 decision which, again, this committee has laid out  
3 guidelines for the Air Force in terms of its OCONUS  
4 of KC-46's?

5 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, Senator.

6 Senator Sullivan: Let me ask a final question that  
7 relates to readiness. Mr. Secretary, the chairman, to  
8 credit, has raised this readiness issue quite a lot in  
9 committee. I chair the Readiness Subcommittee. From  
10 to 2015, the Department of Defense budget was cut by 25  
11 percent. In my first 3 months in the Senate in 2015, the  
12 Obama administration was still cutting 50,000 additional  
13 active duty Army troops, which in retrospect looks like a  
14 strategically idiotic decision, but they did it anyway.

15 Have you read this book, "This Kind of War" by T.R.  
16 Fehrenbach, which the Army and Marine Corps gives to all  
17 infantry officers?

18 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir, twice.

19 Senator Sullivan: Twice, good. I appreciate that.

20 Can you talk a little bit about readiness and Task  
21 Force Smith and what happened in America when in 1945 we  
22 the most feared military in the history of the world, and  
23 years later, we could not stop a third world peasant army  
24 from invading the South?

25 Mr. McCarthy: Readiness is a constant state --

1 Chairman Inhofe: Try to expedite your answer as  
2 quickly as you can.

3 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir.

4 Senator, readiness is a constant state of vigilance.  
5 You cannot ever take your foot off the gas. Every day we  
6 have to get as many repetitions as we can physically,  
7 individual training, collective training. It is  
8 that is one of the greatest determinants we have in the  
9 military is having as many formations at the highest  
10 of readiness capable to meet national objectives.

11 Senator Sullivan: Thank you.

12 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you.

13 Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Secretary McCarthy, as we discussed in my office  
15 earlier, I have a very significant PFAS contamination  
16 problem in my State, and there seems to be some  
17 miscommunication going on between the Department of the  
18 Army, the National Guard Bureau, and the Michigan  
19 Guard, as well as the local community, which is very  
20 problematic to have level of miscommunication.

21 To give some background, the Michigan National Guard  
22 submitted a time-critical response action request to the  
23 National Guard Bureau in response to PFAS and PFOA  
24 contamination. There are homes in Grayling Township that  
25 have tested positive for very high levels of PFAS and

1 due to contamination from the Camp Grayling Army  
2 It is my understanding that a request was made by the  
3 Michigan National Guard through the National Guard Bureau  
4 and the Department of the Army requesting funds to  
5 for a new water system to the residents that were

6 They held a town meeting with the residents in late  
7 July, and they made an announcement to the town that they  
8 would receive a new water system, which was obviously  
9 received very positively.

10 However, following the meeting, my office was  
11 by the Department of the Army and was told that the Army  
12 Office of Legal Counsel determined funding could not be  
13 legally provided to build this new water system.

14 This is obviously very problematic and I would hope  
15 that you would work with me on this. And if confirmed,  
16 specifically how will you work with the local community  
17 ensure that this issue is resolved?

18 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, as we discussed, we sent a  
19 of experts forward to make the assessment. It is clear  
20 the mess was made by us, so we have to clean this up. We  
21 worked out an initial potential solution that did not  
22 our mechanically. And I vow to you and to all your  
23 constituents we will work together to get this fixed.

24 Senator Peters: We will get a fix. Well, I  
25 that commitment, and we need to do it expeditiously as

1 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, sir.

2 Senator Peters: I appreciate that.

3 There is also a provision in the House-passed NDAA  
4 grants the National Guard access to defense environmental  
5 restoration program funding to support PFAS and PFOA  
6 that is current controlled by the Department of the Army.  
7 If confirmed, would you support giving the National Guard  
8 access to some of these accounts?

9 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator.

10 Senator Peters: Thank you.

11 Ambassador Barrett, I appreciated Assistant  
12 John Henderson's visit to Michigan at my request in April  
13 meet with residents also facing a PFAS contamination  
14 in and around the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base. I am  
15 sure both of you have faced similar concerns in these  
16 communities. You are well aware of what goes on.

17 I have sought to ensure that the Air Force  
18 budgets for projected PFAS contamination-related needs.  
19 I was disappointed, to say the least, that the Air Force  
20 recently diverted more than \$4.5 million intended for  
21 cleanup at Wurtsmith to cover needs at another site  
22 elsewhere in the nation.

23 My question to you, Ambassador, will you commit to  
24 with Congress to secure the resources we need to fully  
25 address this PFAS contamination problem that exists not



1 in Michigan but all across the country? And how will you  
2 that?

3 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, Senator, I would  
4 commit to working with the Senate, if confirmed. It is  
5 important for the Air Force to work well with the  
6 communities, and this is a contaminant that was used in  
7 faith not knowing of the injury that it could cause. And  
8 there is not a health standard established, but it is  
9 that this contamination is a result of Air Force  
10 And I would be, if confirmed, happy to work with Congress  
11 resolve it.

12 Senator Peters: Ambassador, I am glad you brought  
13 the health standard because it is an important issue, and  
14 Michigan and other States are now taking steps to  
15 enforceable drinking water and various cleanup standards  
16 PFAS in the absence of federal standards. We need  
17 standards.

18 But I would like to better understand the  
19 in which the Air Force will recognize and meet  
20 standards that are established by the individual State  
21 you are operating. The Air Force has, thus far,  
22 to considering whether State laws will qualify as an  
23 applicable or relevant or appropriate requirement -- I  
24 believe is the way it is worded -- in the CRCLA cleanup  
25 process. But respectfully, for communities that feel

1 they have been waiting way too long -- and they certainly  
2 have been doing that around Wurtsmith Air Force Base --  
3 is frustrating to say the least.

4 So to improve transparency, will you commit, if  
5 confirmed, to work with me to understand when and why in  
6 past the Air Force willingly met a State standard through  
7 the CRCLA process and how the Air Force will approach  
8 moving forward?

9 Ambassador Barrett: I will be happy to work with  
10 Senator, if confirmed.

11 Senator Peters: Great. Thank you.

12 Senator Reed [presiding]: On behalf of the  
13 let me recognize Senator Blackburn.

14 Senator Blackburn: Thank you.

15 And I appreciate each of you being here and the time  
16 that you have spent visiting with us about what is in  
17 of you. So thank you.

18 Ms. Barrett, I want to come to you and continue the  
19 discussion that we had a little bit about next gen  
20 and technologies in 5G and its placement with the Air  
21 and the difference this is going to make for our  
22 and also for some of the R&D that is being done. And we  
23 delighted to know that Arnold Air in Tennessee is going  
24 be one of the first to be completed.

25 So what I would like for you to do is just give us

1 overview of the rollout for 5G capabilities and  
2 throughout the Air Force system-wide.

3           Ambassador Barrett: Senator, the Air Force is based  
4 technology, and the Air Force engages technology and  
5 provides technology, provides warfighting capabilities  
6 through technology. G5 is clearly the technology of the  
7 future. It is a very important part of what the Air  
8 is building into the new generations of capabilities.

9           Senator Blackburn: And then how are you going to  
10 approach the integration with existing technologies and  
11 looking at artificial intelligence and data flows?

12           Ambassador Barrett: These are all very important to  
13 the new capabilities and how, as we are modernizing our  
14 platforms and resources, next gen platforms are engaging  
15 and artificial intelligence and augmented intelligence.  
16 are seeing a lot of capability through the hypersonics  
17 additional technologies that make our reach greater.

18           Senator Blackburn: Great.

19           Mr. McCarthy, I have been concerned and we have  
20 previously about some of the gaps, the really critical  
21 in Army cyber defense. And this is all going to be  
22 important, as we look at 21st century warfare, as we look  
23 interoperability and integration and working across  
24 platform, the readiness that you are going fund the  
25 multifaceted utilizations in AI with AVs, the way you are

1 going to have disparate platforms that you are going to  
2 working from in multi locations.

3 So why do you not talk a little bit about how you  
4 envision the Army pursuing SIGINT and EW and cyber and  
5 you see the Army network fitting into or shaping this  
6 strategy?

7 Mr. McCarthy: Senator, first it is people. We have  
8 recruit more cyber experts. It is a very difficult skill  
9 set to recruit and even harder to retain. We have used  
10 total force solutions across the Guard and Reserve, and  
11 have found a lot of success there of trying to retain men  
12 and women at this day in the Army as they make the move  
13 the private sector because they are clearly very

14 We have established some unique relationships with  
15 academia like at Carnegie Mellon, which is where we have  
16 established our artificial intelligence task force. This  
17 as much a cultural indoctrination to the force, as well  
18 finding the best and brightest in -- be the hub of us to  
19 work with academia to find the best and brightest to help  
20 look at how do we apply these algorithms into our weapon  
21 systems. But that really is foundationally the cloud  
22 architecture. If we cannot get the Army to the cloud,  
23 standards and formats of the data will not move  
24 from system to system. So this has become a big effort  
25 us and the leadership team to make sure we have the

1 appropriate resources, focus, and attention to move

2 The network is on our top six investment portfolios.  
3 That is as much of the types of the telecommunications  
4 systems we have, as well as within the space domain. The  
5 Army is investing in low earth orbit satellites. So from  
6 people to materiel, it has been a monumental effort for  
7 Army over the last about 3 years.

8 Senator Blackburn: Well, we see it as having to be  
9 monumental effort for DOD in total, as well as for the  
10 Force and the Army. And we see building these systems as  
11 being a priority and the interoperability and the network  
12 capacity in those systems as being vital to 21st century  
13 warfare.

14 I will just make one comment. You mentioned  
15 and retention. And, yes, we are quite concerned about  
16 human capital or lack thereof when it comes to  
17 and whether it is hypersonics or artificial intelligence  
18 the work with AVs or supercomputing, quantum computing.  
19 we do share the concerns that are there.

20 Also, we share the concerns on pilots. And I know  
21 each of you have a pilot shortage. And we will continue  
22 raise that issue with you.

23 I yield back.

24 Chairman Inhofe [presiding]: Thank you.

25 Senator Hirono?

1           Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2           I ask all nominees before any of the committees on  
3 which I sit the following two questions. I will start  
4 you, Mr. Secretary.

5           Since you became a legal adult, have you ever made  
6 unwanted requests for sexual favors or committed any  
7 or physical harassment or assault of a sexual nature?

8           Mr. McCarthy: No, Senator.

9           Senator Hirono: Madam Ambassador?

10          Ambassador Barrett: No, Senator.

11          Senator Hirono: Have you ever faced discipline or  
12 entered into a settlement related to this kind of

13          Mr. McCarthy: No, Senator.

14          Ambassador Barrett: No, Senator.

15          Senator Hirono: Mr. Secretary, in response to  
16 questions from Senator King regarding the legality of  
17 MILCON funds for the border wall, you referred to a legal  
18 opinion. Who issued that legal opinion?

19          Mr. McCarthy: The DOD General Counsel, Senator.

20          Senator Hirono: And is that the highest level for  
21 legal opinion on whether or not this is okay, or does the  
22 Attorney General weigh in on the legality?

23          Mr. McCarthy: Senator, I used the Department of  
24 Defense legal counsel and the advice of making this  
25 decision.

1           Senator Hirono: And I take it that the legal  
2 is that this is okay for the President to have done.

3           Mr. McCarthy: For the 11 projects that we are  
4 yes.

5           Senator Hirono: Yes. So if this is okay, then I  
6 we can expect more of this kind of what some of us would  
7 call the raiding of military funds for various purposes  
8 the President has in mind.

9           So if confirmed, what would you do to prevent the  
10 President from continuing to do this, continuing to raid  
11 military funds?

12          Mr. McCarthy: Senator, when the request came down  
13 support this effort, Chairman Dunford conducted a  
14 assessment to the value of the projects, and that is  
15 we ultimately determined the 11 had the security value.  
16 that is where we worked --

17          Senator Hirono: So in other words, your effort was  
18 comply with what the President wanted to do. That is how  
19 you see your role.

20          Mr. McCarthy: This was a lawful order, and we will  
21 intend to follow it.

22          Senator Hirono: And so if the President wants to do  
23 this further, you will continue to support making  
24 in duly funded projects by this Congress, that you will  
25 comply. That is what you are telling me.

1           Mr. McCarthy: On lawful orders, Senator, we will  
2 comply with the President's intent. We will provide the  
3 appropriate military advice about these projects and the  
4 offsets associated with the choices being made.

5           Senator Hirono: What about you, Ambassador Barrett?  
6 What would you to do to prevent the President from  
7 continuing to raid military funds for whatever projects  
8 sees fit?

9           Ambassador Barrett: Senator, if confirmed by the  
10 Senate, I would look to work cooperatively with the  
11 but I would look also to conduct every action in  
12 with the law and the Constitution. My commitment would  
13 to the Constitution, and that would be my guiding

14          Senator Hirono: I think that a lot of us would want  
15 our military leaders to speak up against this kind of  
16 by the President, legal or not, because these are all  
17 funded. We can argue about, you know, at some point,  
18 whether these kinds of reallocation, if you want to call  
19 that -- what impact it has on readiness and national  
20 security. We can talk about that. But one hopes that  
21 of the funds and projects are very necessary and relate  
22 readiness and national security.

23          You have been asked a number of questions about  
24 military housing, and we all share the concerns regarding  
25 the lack of oversight that was done by the military with



1 regard to private housing.

2           So, Secretary McCarthy, you referred to the IG  
3 and there were some 20 recommendations in this IG report.  
4 How many have been addressed at this time?

5           Mr. McCarthy: I think we are going to execute just  
6 about all, about 90 percent of them. I cannot remember  
7 exactly the couple that we are working back and forth on,  
8 but the preponderance of the recommendations will be  
9 executed.

10           Senator Hirono: Can you provide to this committee a  
11 list of the 20 recommendations and what the timeline is  
12 what you have been doing with regard to all of those?

13           Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator.

14           Senator Hirono: Thank you.

15           And I did hear a commitment from you, Ambassador  
16 Barrett, to fast track some of the things that you need  
17 do from the Air Force side.

18           I want to turn very quickly to the matter of suicide  
19 prevention in the military. The quarterly suicide report  
20 the Department of Defense released says last month 139  
21 active duty soldiers, 68 sailors, 60 airmen, and 58  
22 died by suicide last year. And this is 40 more service  
23 members than the previous year. So for the Navy, Marine  
24 Corps, and Army, this represents an increase over the  
25 previous year.

1           And I would just like to ask -- I am running out of  
2 time -- but what you all are doing very specifically to  
3 prevent these suicides from happening. So without  
4 into it right now, this is a matter that we will follow  
5 with both of you on. Thank you.

6           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7           Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Hirono.

8           Senator Gillibrand?

9           Senator Gillibrand: Mr. McCarthy, yesterday marked  
10 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, one that New  
11 will never forget. We went into Afghanistan and  
12 accomplished our mission, eliminating al Qaeda leadership  
13 and decimating its command structure. But the war has  
14 on for almost 20 years and continues to claim the lives  
15 service members with no clear end in site. This is no  
16 longer the right strategy for our country, and it has not  
17 been for many years now.

18           During recent peace talks with the Taliban, there  
19 been a surge in violence and an increase in combat  
20 operations in which our soldiers have lost their lives.  
21 This week, the White House brought these talks to an  
22 end without stating any changes in policies or goals.

23           Has the administration policy of conducting  
24 through Twitter caused significant challenges for the  
25 in Afghanistan?

1           Mr. McCarthy: Senator, with respect to the talks  
2           ceased, I think it was clear that the national command  
3           authority felt that they did not have the conditions  
4           appropriate to enter the next phase of negotiations. So  
5           think that it was the right decision to step back from  
6           table and try to look at how do you get to a framework to  
7           bring a political end state to the conflict.

8           Senator Gillibrand: Once the Army draws down our  
9           forces in Afghanistan, I believe that there are tactics  
10          we can employ to ensure Afghanistan does not slide into,  
11          once again, becoming a host to terrorists with the intent  
12          and capability of harming the U.S. To what extent can  
13          in open session provide insights on your thinking on  
14          withdrawal?

15          Mr. McCarthy: Senator, I worked this problem set  
16          serving in all three of the last administrations. It is  
17          clear that we are going to have to have an advise and  
18          capability, as well as counterterrorism strike  
19          to be there to help the Afghan Government continue to  
20          and mature. You have roughly two or three of the most  
21          sophisticated terrorist organizations on the earth along  
22          Hindu Kush mountains. So we cannot take our eye off the  
23          ball there until a time when there is a much greater  
24          maturity and the strength within the Afghan Government.

25          Senator Gillibrand: I would like to change issues

1 West Point. The United States Military Academy at West  
2 Point has played a central role in providing the Army  
3 its next generation of officers. West Point cadets serve  
4 a wide variety of roles in the Army. So the quality of  
5 their training can have far-reaching implications for the  
6 Army moving forward.

7 Are you confident that West Point is providing the  
8 of advanced training to meet the future threats that  
9 officers will face?

10 Mr. McCarthy: It is remarkable how the West Point  
11 education for our officers and the experiences that they  
12 up in their 4 years on the Hudson.

13 I think that one of the things that Secretary Esper  
14 General Milley worked really hard on was the summer  
15 experience where we are working hard on the fundamentals  
16 troop leading at the platoon level. So we made some  
17 there.

18 We are also looking at how we are integrating them  
19 our ROTC. So we sent 40 cadets from West Point down to  
20 Knox last summer. We are going to scale that over the  
21 2 years to where we can get upwards -- you know, have  
22 600 cadets to go down over the course of a summer and  
23 integrate the officer corps.

24 The STEM education is very strong at the academy,  
25 in particular cyber has become a much sought-after MOS.

1           So we are making some adjustments to increase  
2           sophistication in the classroom but also really drill  
3           into the fundamentals of troop leading so they become  
4           good platoon leaders.

5           Senator Gillibrand:   Recently the Secretary of  
6           diverted \$3.6 million in funding for military  
7           including for the academy's new engineering center, to  
8           for the administration's wall.

9           Does this disruption in funding and resulting delays  
10          not undermine our ability to prepare our Army leaders for  
11          the future?

12          Mr. McCarthy:   The engineering department and the  
13          parking garage behind it specifically -- it would improve  
14          the existing infrastructure.   It is something that I  
15          personally got involved with assessing and working it in  
16          budget when I went up there in the fall of 2017.   The  
17          deferral will put us in a potentially new schedule to  
18          improving the facilities over time.

19          Senator Gillibrand:   Ms. Barrett, our military and  
20          defense industrial base remain under siege for cyber  
21          threats, most notably from China, and by estimates, has  
22          us over a trillion dollars in losses.   In response to  
23          major data losses, the Navy conducted a comprehensive  
24          cybersecurity review and related an urgent need to modify  
25          its processes.

1           What is your level of confidence that the Air Force  
2           doing its best to prevent foreign exfiltration? And if  
3           do not have time to answer, she can submit it, unless you  
4           would like her to answer, Mr. Chairman.

5           Chairman Inhofe: Thank you.

6           Senator Shaheen?

7           Senator Gillibrand: So could you either answer it  
8           writing or --

9           Ambassador Barrett: I would be happy -- with the  
10          chairman's indulgence, I would just say that the Air  
11          would be happy to take a look at doing a similar cyber  
12          review as what the Navy did and establish a report on

13          Senator Gillibrand: And please submit a letter to  
14          office. Thank you, Ms. Barrett.

15          Chairman Inhofe: Senator Shaheen?

16          Senator Shaheen: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17          And congratulations, Acting Secretary McCarthy and  
18          Ambassador Barrett, for your nominations to these very  
19          important roles and for both your past service and your  
20          willingness to continue to serve this country.

21          I want to start with a question about PFAS. I know  
22          that this has come up in the hearing, but as I am sure  
23          are aware, on his first day as Defense Secretary,  
24          Esper announced the creation of a PFAS task force. And I  
25          wanted to ask both of you if you are willing to commit to

1 working to ensure that we address PFAS contamination on  
2 of our military facilities. Secretary McCarthy?

3 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator. Either myself or Mr.  
4 James McPherson attend those meetings. We are taking a  
5 senior leadership role in this.

6 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

7 Ambassador Barrett?

8 Ambassador Barrett: Absolutely, and the United  
9 Air Force has, as I understand it, been working to clean  
10 those contaminations.

11 Senator Shaheen: That is right. And as we  
12 yesterday -- and I appreciated the time that both of you  
13 gave me yesterday -- the Air Force has been very  
14 to the issues that we have had at the former Pease Air  
15 Base and the City of Portsmouth in New Hampshire. We  
16 you will continue that cooperation and that you will  
17 the health study that is currently underway by the agency  
18 for toxic substances and disease registry where Pease is  
19 model site for that.

20 Ambassador Barrett: I look forward to it, if  
21 confirmed.

22 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

23 And also, I hope you will both commit to urging the  
24 Department of Defense to come up with an alternative to  
25 firing fighting foam that has had these PFAS chemicals

1 have done so much to contaminate military sites.

2 Ambassador Barrett: I would do that, Senator.

3 Mr. McCarthy: Yes, Senator. We are trying to find  
4 commercial solution to replace the existing capability.  
5 are having a hard time meeting the military spec.

6 Senator Shaheen: Yes. No, I understand that. But  
7 you are aware, I am sure the defense bill that we hope  
8 pass this year includes some directives to get that done  
9 the next year.

10 Ambassador Barrett, I also wanted to call your  
11 attention to a request from the New Hampshire National  
12 to the Air Force Medical Support Agency to conduct a  
13 health study for individuals who have lived and worked on  
14 Pease to determine if there is higher than expected rates  
15 morbidity and mortality, cancer deaths, other health  
16 because of work that was done at Pease. I know the study  
17 currently in development. I call it to your attention.  
18 do not expect you to have an answer on where we are today  
19 since you are not on the job yet. But I hope you will  
20 that a priority as you go forward, assuming you get  
21 confirmed.

22 Ambassador Barrett: If confirmed, I would be happy  
23 do that.

24 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

25 And finally, as we discussed yesterday, we are very



1 excited to be the first Guard base to receive the KC-46,  
2 new aerial refueling tanker. We have our first two, and  
3 are looking forward to the remaining 10 that we will get  
4 with the first group. And certainly we will do  
5 we can to urge Boeing to make that a priority to get  
6 out on time and without the challenges that they have

7 One of the issues is that many of the people who we  
8 expect to staff those tankers have been transferred to  
9 bases to continue to deal with our legacy tankers. And I  
10 hope that you will commit to ensuring that they get  
11 transferred back to Pease so we make sure we have the  
12 force we need in order to continue to maintain the  
13 record that the 157th refueling wing has had.

14 Ambassador Barrett: We appreciate the great  
15 performance of that refueling wing. Of course, we would  
16 apply our personnel where best needed, but the  
17 there is some indication that it is a high priority.

18 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

19 I also understand, Ambassador Barrett, that you have  
20 worked with the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council on Project  
21 Artemis, and I know that you have supported making sure  
22 Afghan women can go back to their home country and be  
23 successful in business and in other areas. I wonder if  
24 could talk about, given that work, how important you  
25 it is for Afghan women to be at the table in any peace

1 negotiations that are ongoing.

2 Ambassador Barrett: Thank you, Senator. I  
3 your question.

4 If you eliminate 50 percent of the talent from any  
5 environment, you are not going to have as good a product.  
6 The women in Afghanistan have been really under-  
7 and completely abused in the past. With the U.S.-Afghan  
8 Women's Council, we have worked with both the health,  
9 education, what my generation called civics, and economic  
10 empowerment of those women so that they could play a full  
11 roll in their society. That is really important, and I  
12 would hope to continue that.

13 Senator Shaheen: Well, thank you very much. I am  
14 both of you are aware that we have passed a law called  
15 Women, Peace, and Security Act that guarantees that women  
16 are supposed to be at the table in any conflict  
17 that we participate in. So I would hope that you both  
18 do everything you can to ensure that happens in  
19 and other places around the world.

20 Secretary McCarthy?

21 Mr. McCarthy: I will, Senator.

22 Ambassador Barrett: Yes, ma'am.

23 Senator Shaheen: And just for the record, Secretary  
24 McCarthy, I agree with you. I think we need a  
25 counterterrorism group to continue in Afghanistan,

1 regardless of what happens with all of the troops,  
2 of the threat from ISIS and continued terrorist groups  
3 there.

4 So thank you both very much.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

7 Let me take the chairman's prerogative a little bit  
8 here. A lot of comments were made by different members  
9 concerning the wall, concerning the activity and the  
10 characterization of raiding our training. I have been  
11 there and observed that more than any other Member of  
12 Congress. I worked down there for 20 years as a  
13 on the border. I know what is going on down there. I  
14 also been, as recently as 2 weeks ago, the only Member of  
15 our Congress to be with the Mexicans themselves, the  
16 generals in charge of the 2,000-foot border. So I know  
17 is going on and I know what they are doing down there.

18 If all you have to do is talk to our Guard and  
19 and others who are down there with the military to find  
20 that the training that they are getting there is training  
21 that is on-the-job training, it is better training than  
22 would get at their home base. Now, that is what all of  
23 said at that time. So I think to characterize that as  
24 raiding our training is totally inaccurate, and I wanted  
25 that to be included in the record.

1           We have a request from Senator King for a further  
2 question.

3           Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4           A very quick question. Proposed Secretary Barrett,  
5 F-35 started construction before the level of competition  
6 with China has reached the level that it has now and  
7 our knowledge of their cyber intrusions. I do not know  
8 this has already happened, but I would urge you to order  
9 survey of every single part of the F-35 to determine  
10 if any, of those parts are made in China and particularly  
11 with reference to software and electronics. I think that  
12 a national security imperative that we not have our most  
13 advanced airplane in a position where it could be  
14 compromised by some intrusion into the supply chain  
15 from China.

16           Will you take a look at that?

17           Ambassador Barrett: Yes, Senator. I would be happy  
18 take a look.

19           Senator King: Thank you very much.

20           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21           Chairman Inhofe: A further question from Senator  
22 Shaheen.

23           Senator Shaheen: Just to piggyback on that a little  
24 bit, I have had several conversations with folks who are  
25 working on the F-35 who are concerned about what the next

1 steps are with respect to Turkey being removed from that  
2 program and where some of those parts that we have been  
3 relying on Turkey for are going to be made and how that  
4 going to happen.

5 I am not asking you for a response today, but I  
6 urge you to try and provide some direction for our other  
7 players in the F-35 program so that they understand what  
8 supposed to happen next with respect to Turkey and our  
9 throwing them out of that coalition. Thank you.

10 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

11 Senator Reed, do you have any further comments?

12 Senator Reed: No, sir. Thank you very much for  
13 holding this hearing.

14 Chairman Inhofe: Good.

15 And let me say to our two witnesses, our two  
16 you did a great job. I am looking forward to working  
17 you.

18 And we are now adjourned.

19 [Whereupon, at 11:47 a.m., the hearing was  
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