

**OPENING STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR JIM INHOFE
RANKING MEMBER, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**ROOM SD-G50
DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING**

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

*To conduct a hearing on the Army budget posture in review of the Defense
Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2022*

(As prepared for delivery)

Thank you, Chairman Reed.

*Ms. Wormuth, General McConville, thank you for being here today, and thank you
for your decades of distinguished service to our nation.*

*I also want to highlight that yesterday was the Army's birthday, honoring 246
years of unparalleled service and sacrifice to the nation by the senior military
service.*

*I imagine it would have been a happier birthday had the Army fared better in the
President's fiscal year 2022 budget request.*

*As I have often said, the world is more dangerous now than any other period of my
lifetime. Since we released the 2018 National Defense Strategy, the threats have
only gotten worse.*

*We face a wide range of adversaries, the most dangerous of which are an
increasingly aggressive China and belligerent Russia. At the same time, we must
contend with rogue nations like Iran and North Korea, as well as violent extremist
organizations.*

*Our strategic competitors have gone to school on the American way of war, and
they are rapidly modernizing their militaries to exploit our vulnerabilities.*

*China and Russia combined are spending more to modernize their militaries than
we are.*

*This request is a cut to defense, and the Army is bearing the brunt of it. This seems
to be the case every time an Administration tries to cut defense.*

And yet, every time we cut the Army, we end up reversing those cuts soon after. It's a shortsighted approach that fails to recognize the strategic value the Army provides.

With this budget, the Army's topline decreases by \$4 billion from the previous year, putting at risk the gains in readiness made after we hit rock bottom in 2017.

Procurement funding decreases \$4.2 billion—a debilitating 11 percent cut—and Military Construction is cut by 15 percent.

As we watch our strategic competitors make unprecedented investments in modernization, cuts like this just don't make sense.

I look forward to understanding from our witnesses the impact of these cuts on the readiness and modernization of the Army, and how it could risk the Army's ability to accomplish assigned tasks from the National Defense Strategy. Mr. Chairman.