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Before the

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

# **UNITED STATES SENATE**

NOMINATION HEARING

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Washington, D.C.

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NOMINATION HEARING

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

U.S. Senate

Committee on Armed Services

Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m. in Room SH-216, Hart Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Committee Members Present: Senators Reed [presiding], Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Peters, Duckworth, Rosen, Kelly, Wicker, Fischer, Cotton, Ernst, Sullivan, Cramer, Scott, Tuberville, Budd, and Schmitt.

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

3           Chairman Reed: Good morning. The committee meets  
4 today to consider the nomination of Lieutenant General  
5 Randall Reed, for promotion to General and to be Commander  
6 of U.S. Transportation Command, and Lieutenant General  
7 Xavier Brunson, for promotion to General and to be Commander  
8 of U.S. Forces-Korea, the United Nations Command and the  
9 Republic of Korea, United States Combined Forces Command.

10          General Reed, congratulations on your nomination. I  
11 would like to welcome your wife, Lynn, and son, Alexander.  
12 General Brunson, I understand that military service runs  
13 deep in your family. So, I'd like to first welcome your  
14 wife, retired Colonel Kirsten Brunson, Colonel; son, Josh;  
15 father, retired Command Sergeant Major Albert Brunson;  
16 mother, Delphine; brother, Colonel LaHavie Brunson; and  
17 sister-in-law, Karyn. And also, brother, Colonel Tavie  
18 Brunson, United States Army.

19          [Applause.]

20          Chairman Reed: That's remarkable dedication to the  
21 country and the U.S. Army by your family. Thank you. I  
22 also am delighted to welcome Congressman Marilyn Strickland  
23 from the great State of Washington, who will introduce  
24 General Brunson. The committee is grateful to both of your  
25 families for their support and service.

1           Let me also recognize the outgoing leaders at  
2 Transportation Command, or TRANSCOM, and U.S. Forces Command  
3 Korea. General Jacqueline Ovost has led TRANSCOM admirably  
4 through a historic set of challenges, particularly in  
5 coordinating the international logistics campaign to support  
6 Ukraine and Israel. I congratulate her on our well-deserved  
7 retirement after 36 years of service in the United States  
8 Air Force.

9           Similarly, General Paul LaCamera has led U.S. forces'  
10 career with distinction playing a key role in forging the  
11 new security PACS between the United States, South Korea,  
12 and Japan. The committee is grateful for his nearly four  
13 decades of service in the Army and congratulates him on his  
14 retirement.

15           General Reed, you currently serve as Deputy Commander  
16 of the Air Mobility Command, the largest component of  
17 TRANSCOM. You are a C-141 pilot by training, and have  
18 served in multiple transport and tanker units throughout  
19 your career. These experiences will serve you well as  
20 TRANSCOM Commander.

21           The men and women of TRANSCOM perform missions that  
22 sustain the entire Department of Defense. We have seen this  
23 clearly through the command's role in providing support to  
24 Ukraine and our operations in the Middle East. American  
25 troops continue to operate logistic lines and forward

1 operating centers to receive and transform enormous amounts  
2 of security aid from across the international community.  
3 TRANSCOM's ability to conduct support operations around the  
4 globe remains a clear competitive advantage for the United  
5 States.

6         However, the command faces a number of challenging  
7 tasks. Keeping an eye to the future and the pacing threat  
8 of China, we know that any potential adversary would attack  
9 our logistic network. This idea of "congested logistics"  
10 will include obvious threats to a forward bases as well as  
11 the aircraft and ships that supply those bases. But it  
12 could also include cyberattacks against the information  
13 technology system, government and commercial, and possible  
14 kinetic attacks against ports in airfields that support our  
15 deployments.

16         There is also the issue of Chinese investments in  
17 critical infrastructure like seaports and  
18 telecommunications, which may seem like standard commercial  
19 enterprises, but which could be leveraged to disrupt or deny  
20 access in a time of crisis.

21         General, given your experience with Air Mobility  
22 Command, I believe that these are not new issues for you. I  
23 would like to know how you would prepare TRANSCOM for such  
24 threats to our logistics, and how the military services can  
25 alter their acquisition programs to take these concerns into

1 account.

2 General Brunson, you are extremely well qualified to  
3 serve as Commander of U.S. Forces-Korea. You currently  
4 serve as the Commanding General of I Corps, and have served  
5 previously in top leadership positions with the 7th Infantry  
6 Division, the 10th Mountain Division, the 18th Airborne  
7 Corps. And especially, the 1st Battalion 504th Parachute  
8 Infantry Regiment, which you led into combat. If confirmed,  
9 you will face a challenging mission on the Korean Peninsula.

10 Earlier this month I traveled to a number of sites in  
11 the Indo-Pacific, including South Korea, Guam, and the  
12 Philippines to assess our military and diplomatic postures.  
13 There, the threats from China and North Korea are  
14 significant, but I was impressed with our capabilities and  
15 remain optimistic about the progress we are making for our  
16 long-term success against China.

17 It is fundamentally tied to the strength of our  
18 alliance with South Korea. The recent growth of this  
19 relationship as well as South Korea's remarkable new  
20 partnership with Japan can serve as a model for other  
21 relationships in the region.

22 We should redouble our efforts to build multilateral  
23 networks, including with the Philippines, the ASEAN  
24 countries, and the Pacific Islands into security cooperation  
25 efforts. General Brunson, I would ask for your views on the

1 partnership between the United States, Japan, South Korea,  
2 and other regional partners in addressing China and North  
3 Korea's destabilizing activities.

4 The threat from North Korea is real and is growing. To  
5 meet it, the United States must continue to invest in the  
6 "fight tonight" mentality alongside our South Korean allies.  
7 Indeed, North Korea's relationship with Russia continues to  
8 strengthen, and Kim Jong Un is likely receiving technical  
9 assistance and lessons learned from Putin's invasion of  
10 Ukraine, particularly for North Korean's missile and nuclear  
11 capabilities.

12 General, I would appreciate your view on the current  
13 threat from North Korea, and how your forces are maintaining  
14 readiness through training and exercises with their South  
15 Korean counterparts. I saw some of these efforts firsthand  
16 during my visit as the Combined Command was wrapping up its  
17 annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise.

18 Gentlemen, if confirmed, you'll lead TRANSCOM and U.S.  
19 Forces-Korea at a consequential time. We thank you, again,  
20 for your continued willingness to serve. I look forward to  
21 your testimonies.

22 Now, let me recognize the Ranking Member, Senator Roger  
23 Wicker.

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1           STATEMENT OF HON. ROGER F. WICKER, U.S. SENATOR FROM  
2           MISSISSIPPI

3           Senator Wicker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, the  
4           committee's considering nominees for two crucial commands.  
5           Lieutenant General Reed, you've been nominated to be  
6           Commander United States Transportation Command. If  
7           confirmed, you'll be responsible for executing TRANSCOM's  
8           mission of providing logistical support to combatant  
9           commanders around the globe. In your current role as Deputy  
10          Commander of Air Mobility Command, you have seen firsthand  
11          how logistics are often the determining factor in a fight.

12          We once considered logistics to be a minor factor in  
13          operational planning, but now we know better. We understand  
14          that logistics are essential to our ability to deter and  
15          defeat our adversaries. There is one way to ensure that  
16          those logistics capabilities are ready when needed, and that  
17          is by properly resourcing the department.

18          We need our senior military leaders to tell us the hard  
19          truths about what they need, even when doing so, contradicts  
20          the President's budget. And you and I spoke about this when  
21          we met person-to-person. That transparency is so important  
22          that we made the unfunded priority lists a statutory  
23          obligation. This will be your statutory obligation.

24          I'm very troubled, as I told you, that TRANSCOM has not  
25          requested a single unfunded requirement for the last three



1 fiscal years. To General Reed, if confirmed, I would look  
2 to you to begin performing that task, and I'm not asking you  
3 to make anything up. We're just asking you to tell us what  
4 we need on congest, on contested logistics, particularly in  
5 the Western Pacific. We need you to tell us what you need  
6 to get up to speed.

7 Now, Lieutenant General Brunson, you've been nominated  
8 to be commander of U.S. Forces-Korea. My uncle served in  
9 Korea. Two generations later, my son has served in Korea.  
10 Our alliance with the Republic of Korea dates back to the  
11 early days of the Cold War and the Korean War when the  
12 Communist threat from the Soviet Block and China turned into  
13 a hot war on the Korean Peninsula. Our bond with the  
14 Republic of Korea remains.

15 Even as the threat environment changes, the danger from  
16 North Korea continues to increase. With each passing day,  
17 Kim Jong Un has been developing and building more nuclear  
18 weapons, cruise missiles, and other capabilities, all of  
19 which pose an increasing threat to the United States and our  
20 allies. Moreover, we've seen troubling evidence that North  
21 Korean made weapons have been used against innocent  
22 Ukrainians and Israelis.

23 To ensure that we maintain stability on the Peninsula,  
24 we need to start thinking about what capabilities the United  
25 States and South Korea need. We should also explore ways to

1 reduce Kim Jong Un's ability to arm the axis of aggressors.  
2 General Brunson, I look forward to hearing your thoughts  
3 about these troubling trends and how we can mitigate them.  
4 Particularly, I look forward to hearing you discuss an issue  
5 that the chair raised a few moments ago about what lessons  
6 both our friends and our adversaries in the region are  
7 learning from what's going on in Ukraine.

8 So, to our nominees and their distinguished families,  
9 thank you for being here today and for their service to our  
10 country. And thank you Representative Strickland for being  
11 here also.

12 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Wickett.  
13 Now, I am pleased to introduce Congresswoman Marilyn  
14 Strickland of Washington's 10th District. Congresswoman  
15 Strickland is a member of the Home Service Committee, and  
16 represents Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

17 Congresswoman Strickland, please.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND, U.S.

2 CONGRESSWOMAN FROM WASHINGTON, 10TH DISTRICT

3 Ms. Strickland: Chair Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, it  
4 is my distinct honor today to introduce my friend,  
5 Lieutenant General Xavier Brunson, who has been nominated to  
6 the rank of General and Commander of U.S. Forces-Korea.  
7 Lieutenant General Brunson currently serves as a Commanding  
8 General of America's First Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McCord,  
9 also known as JBLM.

10 I'm currently in my second term in Congress  
11 representing the nearly 40,000 service members that call  
12 JBLM home, and General Brunson has been a key partner to  
13 improve the lives and livelihoods of service members and  
14 their families. General Brunson and I have worked hand-in-  
15 hand to increase the quantity and quality of housing at  
16 JBLM, including with the recent groundbreaking of the first  
17 of its kind barracks project. We've also worked to address  
18 childcare shortages, support military spouses in finding  
19 employment, ensuring the readiness of the soldiers and  
20 airmen at JBLM.

21 As one of the first Korean American women elected to  
22 Congress, I can think of no one better to take command of  
23 U.S. Forces-Korea as we continue to deepen and strengthen  
24 our partnership with the Korean Armed Forces and government.

25 I was born in Korea. My father served in the Army, and

1 my family ended up in Tacoma, Washington, at Fort Lewis at  
2 the time. So, I'm very deeply, deeply proud to be here  
3 today. I Corps is laser focused on the Indo-Pacific,  
4 participating in exercises and activities in 21 countries,  
5 including Australia, Japan, and Korea.

6 First Corps is a key component of the Army's and U.S.  
7 strategy to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific in  
8 coordination with our partners and allies. Prior to serving  
9 as Commanding General of First Corps, General Brunson was  
10 previously the Deputy Commanding General of First Corps,  
11 Commanding General of 7th Infantry Division at all JBLM.

12 A commissioned infantry officer, General Brunson has  
13 served several deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. General  
14 Brunson, as you mentioned, comes from an Army family. He  
15 and his family serve the country every single day. His  
16 father as a retired army sergeant major who served in the  
17 Vietnam War. His brothers became Army officers as well.  
18 His wife, Kirsten Brunson, is retired. Colonel General  
19 Brunson and his family are the best of us. They are the  
20 best of America.

21 General Brunson has been an exemplary partner to me, my  
22 staff, and the entire State of Washington, and I know he  
23 will represent the United States with distinction as  
24 Commander of U.S. Forces-Korea. I look forward to his swift  
25 confirmation.

1 Thank you, Senator.

2 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Representative  
3 Strickland.

4 General Reed, your opening statement please.

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1           STATEMENT OF RANDALL REED, LIEUTENANT GENERAL, UNITED  
2 STATES AIR FORCE

3           General Reed: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker,  
4 thank you for the opportunity to appear before this  
5 distinguished committee, and the American people. I am  
6 humbled to be the President's nominee to command United  
7 States Transportation Command, and equally grateful to both  
8 the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint  
9 Chiefs for their confidence and support. It is also a great  
10 opportunity to testify with my friend, Lieutenant General  
11 Xavier Brunson.

12           I also want to thank the current commander of U.S.  
13 Transportation Command General Jacqueline Van Ovost, and her  
14 spouse, Alan Frosch, for their celebrated leadership of U.S.  
15 TRANSCOM, and their friendship throughout the years.  
16 General Van Ovost has an envious relationship with this  
17 committee, and if confirmed, I will build upon that trust.

18           My joy stems from family here today, providing me  
19 strength. As my bride and best friend, Lynn, who  
20 successfully balanced a professional life with maintaining  
21 as much stability as possible for our three sons. I am  
22 grateful. Alexander, seated with us, was able to take a  
23 break from his passion as a flight instructor to support  
24 dad. My pride in my young men is directly related to Lynn's  
25 devotion, which extends far beyond the Reed home as

1 countless service members and families of every service  
2 continue to benefit from her care and advocacy.

3       Endless devotion also describes my parents, both who  
4 are watching this morning. Thank you both for the values  
5 I've used to inspire and support so many since the 1980s. I  
6 also benefit from a tradition of military service with  
7 family members surviving action in every major conflict  
8 since the Great War, raised the son of an active-duty airman  
9 and Vietnam veteran, as well as growing up in a joint  
10 community just south of here in Hampton Roads.

11       That early exposure to all military branches set an  
12 important foundation for my own military service, especially  
13 during assignments, supporting multiple combatant commands  
14 with national and international consequences. Foundational  
15 assignments include a tour as a joint logistician in the  
16 Pentagon, grappling global issues, as well as a senior  
17 defense official and defense attaché appointment resolving  
18 regional challenges at the nexus of multiple combatant  
19 commands and government agencies, allies, and partners.

20       If confirmed, I am committed to bringing that  
21 experience and more to bear, committed to empower the men  
22 and women of U.S. TRANSCOM in partnership with commercial  
23 industry allies and partners to remain the most responsive  
24 and strategic mobility capability the world has ever seen.  
25 The responsive and strategic nature of U.S. TRANSCOM, while

1 vital to our national security, faces increasingly capable  
2 contests and disruptions in the air, land, sea, space, and  
3 cyberspace domains despite contests and disruptions from  
4 determined and sophisticated adversaries.

5 If confirmed, I will ensure U.S. TRANSCOM's  
6 contribution to strengthen a lethal joint force. This will  
7 include, but is not limited to, continuing pursuit of an  
8 ever-ready modernized sealift, airlift, and air refueling  
9 fleet. If confirmed, I will also prioritize cyber  
10 resilience for both U.S. TRANSCOM and other members of the  
11 joint deployment and distribution enterprise.

12 Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Wicker, if confirmed,  
13 I cannot imagine a greater honor than to work with this  
14 committee, our like-minded allies and partners, our  
15 commercial industry professionals, our services, and our  
16 combatant commands to ensure that together we deliver.

17 Distinguished members, before we transition to  
18 questions, I would like to take this opportunity to wish my  
19 mom happy birthday. Thank you.

20 [The prepared statement of General Reed follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Very, very smart declaration here.

2 [Laughter.]

3 Chairman Reed: You know, you're in good shape with  
4 home.

5 So, General Brunson, your statement please.

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1           STATEMENT OF XAVIER T. BRUNSON, LIEUTENANT GENERAL,  
2           UNITED STATES ARMY

3           General Brunson: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker,  
4           and distinguished members of the committee. I'm honored to  
5           appear before you today. Thank you for the opportunity to  
6           testify, and more importantly, if confirmed, to continue  
7           leading our nation's men and women.

8           I would like to thank President Biden, Secretary  
9           Austin, and General Brown for their trust and confidence,  
10          and I'm honored to testify today alongside Lieutenant  
11          General Randall Reed, the nominee for the United States  
12          Transportation Command. TRANSCOM is a critical enabler in  
13          the Indo-Pacific, ensuring our armed forces have the  
14          resources they need when they need it.

15          I would like to thank my family for their love and  
16          support throughout my military career. My wife of 30 years,  
17          Kirsten, a retired Army colonel, Army judge, member of the  
18          Army Women's Hall of Fame, and tireless advocate for army  
19          families, is the best officer in our family. She saw me in  
20          this chair long before last week's call asking me how long  
21          it would take me to get to DC. She's my confidant, my  
22          loving critic, counselor, and heart. Our family is because  
23          of her.

24          To my children, Raechel, Rebekah, and Joshua, thank you  
25          for your continued support. Being your dad is the thing I'm

1 most proud of. Josh, you can tell me thank you later for  
2 pulling you out of school so that you can be here to support  
3 me today. I love you. I would like to thank my parents  
4 also with us today, retired Sergeant Major Albert Brunson,  
5 and my praying mother, Delphine Brunson. They raised three  
6 sons to understand the importance of God, family, and  
7 service.

8 My father served in the Army for 27 years, including  
9 two tours in Vietnam, and serviced an Operation Desert  
10 Storm. In 2018, I finally eclipsed my father's record of  
11 static line jumps. His service inspired me and my brothers  
12 to dedicate our lives and service to our nation. I'm  
13 pleased to have in attendance today my much shorter brother,  
14 Colonel LaHavie Brunson, who's currently serving on the Army  
15 staff, and his wife Karen. Equally as short as his twin,  
16 Colonel Tavi Brunson, who is also here with us today,  
17 currently serving at U.S. Army Central Command. His wife  
18 Cynthia, had to go back to Texas to care for her sick sister  
19 or she would be here today as well.

20 Our family carries a legacy of over 130 years of  
21 service, and I'm proud to be a part of it. There are a host  
22 of mentors, friends, and soldiers, far too many to mention  
23 here, to whom I sincerely say thanks.

24 Having spent the last five years focused on the Indo-  
25 Pacific, I can tell you that the environment is both complex

1 and dynamic. I'm aware of the threat South Korea faces and  
2 fully understand my role, if confirmed, is in ensuring a  
3 constant state of readiness for all forces on the Peninsula.  
4 Most assuredly, I understand the need to defend the  
5 homelands. North Korea's rapid advancement of its nuclear  
6 and missile capabilities combined with its stated ambition  
7 to exponentially expand its nuclear arsenal is the single  
8 greatest challenge facing the tri-commands.

9 The phrase "Fight Tonight" is not just a saying but a  
10 reality for the men and women serving in Korea. The Korean  
11 Theater of Operations is a combined joint multi-domain and  
12 inter-agency operating environment. If confirmed, I will  
13 ensure all service members and civilians within the three  
14 commands are trained and equipped to respond in competition  
15 crisis or conflict. I fully endorse the four longstanding  
16 United Nations command, Combined Forces Command and United  
17 States Forces-Korea priorities of sustaining and  
18 strengthening the alliance, maintaining the armistice,  
19 transforming the alliance, and sustaining the force.

20 I would like to wish a Happy Chuseok to Koreans around  
21 the world, and most especially to the people of the Republic  
22 of South Korea. Finally, on behalf of Kirsten and my  
23 family, I would like to recognize General Paul LaCamera.  
24 Having served together in both war and peace at his side, I  
25 can say with confidence that he has led the tri-commands in

1 Korea remarkably. To him and his wife, Theresa, thank you  
2 for your loyal and dedicated service to our nation. Thank  
3 you again, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Wicker, and  
4 members of this committee for this great opportunity. I  
5 look forward to your questions.

6 Katchi Kapshida, Under One Flag, Fight Tonight.

7 [The prepared statement of General Brunson follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. General Brunson,  
2 I have a series of required questions that all nominees must  
3 answer. You may answer in unison. Have you adhered to  
4 applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of  
5 interest?

6 General Reed. Yes.

7 General Brunson: Yes.

8 Chairman Reed: Have you assumed any duties or taken  
9 any actions that would appear to presume the outcome of the  
10 confirmation process?

11 General Reed. No.

12 General Brunson: No.

13 Chairman Reed: Exercising our legislative and  
14 oversight responsibilities makes it important that this  
15 committee, its subcommittees, and other appropriate  
16 committees of Congress, receive testimony, briefings,  
17 reports, records, and other information from the executive  
18 branch on a timely basis. Do you agree if confirmed, to  
19 appear and testify before this committee when requested?

20 General Reed. Yes.

21 General Brunson: Yes.

22 Chairman Reed: Do you agree when asked before this  
23 committee to give your personal views even if your views  
24 differ from the administration?

25 General Reed. Yes.

1 General Brunson: Yes.

2 Chairman Reed: Do you agree to provide records,  
3 documents, and electronic communications in a timely manner  
4 when requested by this committee, its subcommittees, or  
5 other appropriate committees of Congress, and to consult  
6 with a requester regarding the basis of any good faith,  
7 delay, or denial in providing such records?

8 General Reed. Yes.

9 General Brunson: Yes.

10 Chairman Reed: Will you ensure that your staff  
11 complies with deadlines established by this committee for  
12 the production of reports, records, and other information,  
13 including timely responding to hearing questions for the  
14 record?

15 General Reed. Yes.

16 General Brunson: Yes.

17 Chairman Reed: Will you cooperate in providing  
18 witnesses and briefers in response to congressional  
19 requests?

20 General Reed. Yes.

21 General Brunson: Yes.

22 Chairman Reed: Will those witnesses and briefings be  
23 protected from reprisal for their testimonial briefings?

24 General Reed. Yes.

25 General Brunson: Yes.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

2 General Reed you have a series of issues that you'll  
3 have to confront and one of them is the cyber protection of  
4 your forces, and that in many respects is a reflection that  
5 most of your reserves are civilian platforms, both merchant  
6 ships and aircraft. And what do you intend to do to ensure  
7 the cyber security of these, particularly these private  
8 entities that come under your command?

9 General Reed: Thank you, Chairman. Logistics by  
10 nature is an information-heavy activity, and while we and  
11 TRANSCOM, if confirmed, and from an air component  
12 perspective, we plan a lot on the secret side, but when we  
13 share the information and we come together, a lot of that is  
14 not on the secret side. And so, sharing that information  
15 requires that we have ways to protect the information.

16 TRANSCOM, I'm aware, does a lot to monitor its  
17 information networks, but at the same time, it also partners  
18 very well with the commercial entities. If confirmed, I'll  
19 make sure that TRANSCOM continues its cyber surveillance and  
20 at the same time offers the form through very proactive  
21 working groups to invite the entire community to come  
22 together, share best practices, and also as we write  
23 contracts for them to support us, that the baseline for that  
24 includes things that they need to do to protect their  
25 information.



1 Chairman Reed: Thank you. Another aspect of TRANSCOM,  
2 as

3 I alluded to before, is if we go and fully mobilize,  
4 you'll have to call merchant ships that are now in  
5 commercial service into TRANSCOM. You'll also have to call  
6 in aircraft. Is there a question in your mind about the  
7 sufficiency or the capacity of the fleet we could generate  
8 in a short period of time?

9 General Reed: Senator, for the commercial partners,  
10 they are avid volunteers to serve with us. Each and every  
11 day as we operate around the world in competition, they are  
12 there with us and they provide a tremendous amount of the  
13 capability of our ability to move in the shift from day-to-  
14 day ops, to crisis, and conflict. We have some emergency  
15 programs with which they could surge.

16 We also have in TRANSCOM, as I see it from the air  
17 component perspective, the mobility requirements capability  
18 study, which actually helps inform us what sufficiency we  
19 need. And Senator, I'm here to tell you from what I've seen  
20 it's there.

21 Chairman Reed: Thank you. General Brunson, on a  
22 recent trip to South Korea, I had the opportunity to sit  
23 down with President Yoon, who's done an extraordinary job  
24 pulling together with this Japanese counterpart, a working  
25 relationship that has never existed before, and also

1 reaching out to the Philippines and other nations. We have  
2 also with the declaration that President Biden and President  
3 Yoon announced at Camp David going into the sharing of real  
4 time information with the South Korean forces and planning  
5 multilateral, multi-year, trilateral exercises. So, could  
6 you elaborate on your sense of where the relationship is  
7 going, and my sense it was vastly improved?

8 General Brunson: Yes, Chairman. I believe the  
9 relationship at present is trending upward strongly. As I  
10 look in my previous experience as a corps commander, what  
11 we've been able to do in terms of going into multilateral  
12 exercises, securing the information that's being shared,  
13 whether that be through technological means using sensitive,  
14 but unclassified, or using UB keys on a mission partner  
15 network or environment, what those things provide for us is  
16 an opportunity that hasn't existed before.

17 Some of the things that General LaCamera has done to  
18 drive from the military element of power have allowed us to  
19 draw closer together because we're able to share information  
20 across these multilateral exercises. And what that's really  
21 doing, Chairman, is it's helping us to set the environment.  
22 And so, what I see as a charge to myself, if confirmed, is  
23 to continue to find ways to bring not only the Northeastern  
24 piece of Asia together, but to also bring in the South,  
25 having participated in exercises from India, to Indonesia,

1 to Australia, and points beyond that there are willing  
2 allies that are in the region at this time, sir.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, General Brunson.  
4 Thank you both gentlemen. Senator Wicker, please.

5 Senator Wicker: Thank you. Lieutenant General Reed,  
6 let's talk about unfunded requirements. I promised that I  
7 would ask that. For the last three years, TRANSCOM has  
8 failed to submit a single unfunded requirement, yet it  
9 proceeds to submit reports and studies outlining shortfalls  
10 within its components. So, first of all, if confirmed, will  
11 you submit any unfunded requirements for components such as  
12 Air Mobility Command or others that directly support  
13 TRANSCOM's ground and sealift elements?

14 General Reed: Senator, thank you for the conversation  
15 yesterday. And as we discussed yesterday, I will be a  
16 fierce advocate to get all of the equipment that our folks  
17 need. And I know that there are several ways to pursue  
18 that. And absolutely, Senator, if unfunded requirements is  
19 the way to get the force equipped, I will certainly do that.

20 Senator Wicker: Okay. Well, and just along those  
21 lines, it is a statutory requirement that this Congress and  
22 this committee expects. And so, do you, along those lines,  
23 agree that underfunded requirements are important in  
24 providing information to this Congress about what the joint  
25 force needs?

1 General Reed: Absolutely, Senator.

2 Senator Wicker: Okay. Let's talk about movement of  
3 household goods. There's what do you know about the  
4 agreement between homes Safe and TRANSCOM about how that's  
5 going and do you think it's going to work better?

6 General Reed: Senator, I will tell you that having  
7 moved in excess of 15 times, having a system that works is  
8 very important. And if confirmed in TRANSCOM, I'll have an  
9 opportunity to make sure where there's room for improvement,  
10 we will absolutely get that done. I'll also tell you that  
11 there are some family members behind me, on both sides, who  
12 will put pressure on me to make sure that we actually get  
13 that done.

14 What I do know of the contracts so far is that it  
15 initiated this spring about April. There were some moves  
16 that were executed under the contract during the peak period  
17 this summer in some locations. From what I understand,  
18 Senator, for those things have gone well.

19 The feedback is strong not only from the families who  
20 have moved, but also from the transportation carriers who  
21 had an opportunity to participate that did not before.  
22 Going forward, we will have to be careful with that in terms  
23 of the speed of the transition. But now that we have a  
24 single entity that sits over top of that, they do have a  
25 capability to integrate a little bit better on the national

1 scale and on the local markets as well. And so as long as  
2 we're very careful in the speed of the Transition Center, I  
3 think this shows tremendous promise.

4 Senator Wicker: Okay. And so, we'll be visiting about  
5 that in the next months. Speaking of family members,  
6 General Reed, do you think it's fair for General Brunson to  
7 talk about the height of his twin brothers --

8 [Laughter.]

9 Senator Wicker: -- since they came in in a package of  
10 two and he's only one, and seems to me his family got two  
11 for the price of one? I'll withdraw the question.

12 What lessons are we learning in watching the Ukrainian  
13 conflict, the Russia's war, illegal war of aggression  
14 against Ukraine, and what lessons are our adversaries north  
15 of the DMZ learning?

16 General Brunson: Ranking Member Wicker, I think that  
17 one of the things that we're learning is the need to move  
18 beyond current means of production. For example, the need  
19 for munitions and lethal aid from Russia outpaced their  
20 ability to produce those things. So, they found a proxy to  
21 provide them arms in ammunition. I think that what we also  
22 are learning from this is that one of our strengths that's  
23 playing out over a, a wide variety of engagements around the  
24 world just falling short of full-on war, is that our United  
25 States forces are part of a partnered network of friends,

1 allies and partners that make us strong, where we can look  
2 for capacity and capabilities amongst our partners.

3 The Korean Peninsula is a great example of that. For  
4 70 years, this alliance has stood, and it is an example for  
5 all other nations to look toward. When you look at sort of  
6 authoritarian collusion that occurs between China, and DPRK,  
7 and Russia, and Iran, and others, they don't have the same  
8 benefits that we have.

9 Senator Wicker: Amen. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman.

11 Chairman Reed: Well, thank you, Senator Wicker, and I  
12 associate myself with your comments about the General's  
13 brothers. They're men of normal height --

14 [Laughter.]

15 Chairman Reed: -- and I applaud them. Senator  
16 Shaheen, please.

17 Senator Shaheen: Congratulations, General Reed, and  
18 General Brunson, to both of you, and to your families. And  
19 thank you so much for the service, each of you, and all of  
20 your families, and I especially appreciate your senses of  
21 humor. Which as you can see is shared by the committee.

22 General Brunson, I want to pick up on Senator Wicker's  
23 questions about North Korea to what's happening in Ukraine.  
24 There's now photo evidence of that. I understand there's a  
25 British report that also found Western dual-use components

1 in the missiles that were -- so how concerned should we be  
2 about the fact that we still have that sort of diversion of  
3 our Western components going into the war zone being used by  
4 our adversaries?

5 General Brunson: Senator, I think we ought to be  
6 concerned, and if confirmed, it would be my hope that we  
7 would be able to take not a whole-of-government approach at  
8 sort of tracking these things where they're going, but  
9 multi-element engagement, which would be more targeted. So,  
10 if confirmed, what I would do is I would dive into the IC to  
11 see where these components were made, where they're going  
12 to.

13 The benefit that the Tri-Command has is that there's UN  
14 Command that's a part of this and a great many of these  
15 nations. I would be supposing here giving you something  
16 that I believe could be tied with those means of production.  
17 So, I believe that it would be my job as the -- if  
18 confirmed, as the USFK Commander to not be so concerned with  
19 what we can see, but the things that we don't see.

20 In another setting, I would be more than happy to talk  
21 to you about some of the things that I know that General  
22 LaCamera is working on right now in that regard to help us  
23 to more easily be able to sort of illuminate the network  
24 that exists for those parts, ma'am. And I think it best  
25 that I stop there.

1           Senator Shaheen: Thank you. I would appreciate that  
2 opportunity. General Reed, thank you for taking time last  
3 week to come and meet with me. One of the issues that we  
4 discussed was the Air National Guard Bureau's intent to re-  
5 level programs of record that's going to have an impact on  
6 the 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease National Guard Base in  
7 New Hampshire, former Air Force base. And we also discussed  
8 the importance of aerial refueling capacity, which you know  
9 so well and cite in your testimony, as the only KC-46  
10 refueling wing in the nation to reach initial operating  
11 capacity. Do you agree that the 157th plays a significant  
12 role in meeting TRANSCOM's requirements?

13           General Reed: Senator, absolutely. Very fine unit.  
14 In my commands in the past across the world, they were very  
15 quick to respond when called upon and love to serve with  
16 them. Also want to point out that we're looking forward to  
17 their service this fall as they deploy. So, out of the  
18 eight airplanes that are there, four will go forward and  
19 they will do a fine job for us.

20           Senator Shaheen: The proposed releveling initiative  
21 will decrease the 157th's ability to support TRANSCOM. By  
22 our estimation, it is 23 percent. Are you concerned about  
23 losing that kind of capacity, especially as you think about  
24 what we may need to do in the Indo-Pacific?

25           General Reed: Senator, I'll share with you that every



1 refueling fleet is incredibly stressed every day as they  
2 support every combatant command around the globe. Any  
3 capacity that we can get, I'll absolutely call for in need.  
4 If confirmed, I will have conversations with -- hopefully,  
5 if confirmed, Steve Northouse, to make sure that he and the  
6 force can provide the nation everything that we're asking.

7 Senator Shaheen: Well, thank you very much. I  
8 appreciate that. And if confirmed, will you commit to  
9 visiting New Hampshire and to getting a briefing on what's  
10 happening with the 157th?

11 General Reed: Yes, Senator.

12 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. I want to go back General  
13 Brunson, to the player that we haven't really talked about  
14 so far this morning, and that is the PRC and China's  
15 reaction. How concerned are you about the aggressive  
16 behavior of PRC in the South China Sea, what kind of an  
17 impact does that have on your responsibilities as you would  
18 take over in Korea?

19 General Brunson: Senator, I think we should share the  
20 concerns of our partners in the region, and we ought to look  
21 at this much like a balloon. If you push on one area of  
22 this balloon, there's going to be an opposite reaction  
23 somewhere else. I think that if confirmed, my job is to  
24 hold the Peninsula fixed, but dynamic because of all the  
25 things that are going on in the region.

1           And again, I would point back to that authoritarian  
2 collusion. That we be able to understand best what is  
3 troubling our friends, partners, and allies in the region.  
4 Senator, as you know, there are a host of mutual defense  
5 treaties that exist in the Pacific. And folks are counting  
6 on us to assure them of not only our presence, but our  
7 willingness to act. And I think that what I'd have to do if  
8 confirmed as a USFK Commander, is to be able to separate  
9 actions from actors, and be able to go to the INDOPACOM  
10 Commander and talk to him about operations, and activities,  
11 and investments that are being made in the region, for him  
12 to even have a conversation with the Secretary of Defense on  
13 our policy toward actions to be taken in the region.

14           I also find myself witting to the fact that there are  
15 things that we don't see right now, but these things have to  
16 be looked at from the perspective of tying in more of the IC  
17 to things that we're doing.

18           To your earlier question, Senator, what I said was,  
19 we've got to be targeted within our own elements of national  
20 power to say it quite simply. And that targeting means that  
21 it's not enough to just say the whole-of-government. There  
22 are elements of power that ought to be brought into play  
23 here that I think could help us deal with any of those  
24 situations, be it in the Northeastern corridor or through  
25 the Southern corridor, or even in the center.

1 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Thank you, both, very  
2 much.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Shaheen. Senator  
4 Fischer, please.

5 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome  
6 General Reed, General Brunson, and welcome to your  
7 families. Today as the grandmother to two sets of twins,  
8 I'm on their side.

9 [Laughter.]

10 Senator Fischer: General Reed, in a potential conflict  
11 with a peer adversary, our forces will likely have to face a  
12 contested logistics environment, which implies that TRANSCOM  
13 must account for attrition. This would be unlike anything  
14 we've seen since World War II. If confirmed, how would you  
15 ensure that mobility forces are appropriately training to  
16 realistic threats in these TRANSCOM exercises that are  
17 needed?

18 General Reed: Thank you, Senator. If confirmed one of  
19 the first things that I'll do is I'll get with the planning  
20 shops to take a very deep look into the plans and what we're  
21 doing to plan with the Theaters to see what their challenges  
22 are and what adjustments we may have to take in addition to  
23 the planning.

24 What's important next is to make sure that we have  
25 realistic training as well. I will share with you that from

1 an air component perspective, part of what we've been doing  
2 is participating in a series of exercises, one of them being  
3 Bamboo Eagle which takes place on the West Coast. And in  
4 this, we simulate a contested environment, and we've learned  
5 several things that are important. If confirmed this will  
6 be a good platform to bring to not just airlift and air  
7 refueling, but to sealift as well.

8 Senator Fischer: If confirmed, how would you increase  
9 the interoperability with our allies and partners?

10 General Reed: Senator, first and foremost, I would  
11 depend primarily on the Theater, combatant commanders who  
12 already have the relationships with them. Two, I would make  
13 sure that we are involved in their planning and then offer  
14 our forces to partner with them as well.

15 Senator Fischer: Thank you. General Brunson, do you  
16 agree that the United States must remain unequivocal in our  
17 commitment to extended nuclear deterrence with our ally,  
18 South Korea?

19 General Brunson: Senator, I believe that, one, there's  
20 policy on all these things, but what I do believe is that  
21 the NCG has gone to great lengths to bring us closer to be  
22 able to talk about a lot of these issues. I think that  
23 denuclearization of the Peninsula, it accounts for several  
24 things. One, in terms of classic deterrence, we have to  
25 continue to assure our partners that we are there. I think

1 that it's everything from protection, to sustainment, to  
2 even our posture in the region. Understanding the fact that  
3 there will be continued discussions, you know.

4 But some of those discussions are sovereign issues,  
5 ma'am. And what I think that we've got to do is to trust  
6 the established frameworks that are there, like the NCG, and  
7 the directives that come from that as we look to assure our  
8 partners so that they're not be further discussion about  
9 those things, ma'am.

10 Senator Fischer: We've been seeing I think a lot of  
11 destabilizing actions from North Korea. Recently, they  
12 released images of their uranium enrichment facility. They  
13 did that last week. How would you go about reassuring South  
14 Korea that our nuclear umbrella remains firm for them?

15 General Brunson: Ma'am, sometimes the best way to do  
16 that is to recognize where the adversary is maneuvering at.  
17 I would, in my own military estimation, say that he was  
18 maneuvering in the information space, and so making a  
19 careful assessment so that we not have miscalculation. I  
20 think that that's where I would start at, ma'am, is to come  
21 close to our partner, our ally in Korea, and explain to them  
22 what we were seeing and then trust again our diplomats and  
23 others to continue to have higher level discussions.

24 But at its base, it's being able to assure our partner  
25 and ally that we're there and they can exist under not only

1 a conventional umbrella, but a nuclear umbrella on the  
2 Peninsula.

3 Senator Fischer: We've had a recently established  
4 group formed, the Nuclear Consultative Group. Would you, do  
5 you see that as an avenue that you, that you might be able  
6 to use in providing the assurances that are our allies in  
7 South Korea need?

8 General Brunson: Yes, ma'am, and please forgive me for  
9 using an acronym. I am an army man, and so I kept saying  
10 NCG because I didn't want to wrestle with consultative  
11 group. But yes, ma'am, that would certainly be an avenue  
12 that's available. And I think that when we use constructs  
13 like the NCG, it relieves us of this almost deleterious  
14 effect of just deciding that one letter is going to get it  
15 done by all.

16 And I am trying to caution myself on saying whole-of-  
17 government, because it's not targeted, it's not precise.  
18 Words matter. And we ought to talk about the multi-element  
19 engagement that's necessary to ameliorate a host of problems  
20 that we see not only in the Peninsula, but around the world,  
21 ma'am.

22 Senator Fischer: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator  
24 Kaine, please.

25 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And

1 congratulations to the nominees and your families. You're  
2 both very well qualified for these positions.

3 General Reed, this is the first time we've had a  
4 hearing since -- with relevant folks before us, since the  
5 DOD canceled the joint logistics over the shore effort to do  
6 the humanitarian pier into Gaza. And I don't really want to  
7 get into too much questioning about it, but I do want to  
8 say, I hope there's going to be an after-action review of  
9 that effort, what worked, what didn't, and what can be  
10 improved because we're going to have to do joint logistics  
11 over the shore in all likelihood in the future. And  
12 everyone on this committee noticed some good 20 million  
13 pounds of aid delivered into Gaza. That was a good thing.  
14 It was also good that some people served under very  
15 difficult conditions to do this work, including the 7th  
16 Transportation Brigade out of Fort Langley Eustis.

17 But there was also real problems. There were problems  
18 with conducting the operation due to weather. There were  
19 problems with conducting the operation due to a challenging  
20 security environment. There were problems with conducting  
21 the operation because of challenges matching up with  
22 humanitarian aid groups on the shore.

23 In my view, the biggest problem was this all could have  
24 been done by Israel. We've stopped the humanitarian aid  
25 pier, and now, humanitarian aid is going into the Ashdod

1 Port in Israel and being delivered by land to Gaza, as it  
2 was before October 7th. The fact that the United States  
3 needed to spend \$230 million. That was the estimated cost  
4 upfront.

5 I don't know what the actual price tag was and  
6 deploying people. I think about 1,000 U.S. troops were  
7 involved in this when the aid could have been delivered  
8 through an Israeli port and through land crossings that were  
9 being used extensively and now are being used to deliver aid  
10 strikes me as the U.S. wanting to do the right thing, but  
11 doing something that frankly, someone else should have been  
12 doing.

13 And so, the only question I would have for you is, is  
14 there some kind of an after-action study that's being done  
15 that Congress could have access to when it is done about the  
16 good, the bad, and how we need to improve going forward?

17 General Reed: Senator, it's my understanding that  
18 there is something being studied. If confirmed, obviously,  
19 that will be one of the things that I will look into joint  
20 logistics over the shore and its totality is something that  
21 TRANSCOM would support in some form or another. And this  
22 committee would be looking to me to make sure that we were  
23 able to actually get that done. And so, yes, Senator, I  
24 will look into that and I will provide information to this  
25 committee.



1           Senator Kaine: And I know entities other than  
2 TRANSCOM, obviously, were key to the CENTCOM. It was a lot  
3 of people that weren't a lot of parts of the DOD family that  
4 were involved, but I think we need some answers about it.  
5 And in particular, the last piece, what do we need to do to  
6 improve going forward? Let me ask you this. The 2020 NDAA  
7 guaranteed there would be 60 congressionally-funded  
8 operating agreements for the maritime security program, and  
9 it extended existing agreements through September 30th,  
10 2025, a year from now. All 60 agreements are currently  
11 filled. As you're already aware, the MSP provides a  
12 retainer incentive to ensure that there are vessels  
13 available in times of national need. If confirmed, how do  
14 you plan to ensure that the MSP is appropriately resourced  
15 to meet our strategic needs?

16           General Reed: Senator, that's an outstanding program  
17 that we have to make sure that when the nation needs to move  
18 in a decisive manner, that we can ship things by sea. Under  
19 that program where we have access to commercial ships, these  
20 ships register, they actually want to participate with us.  
21 If confirmed, one of the things that I will do is to make  
22 sure that I strengthen the relationships that we have and  
23 that we continue to inspire them to serve. Thank you.

24           Senator Kaine: And General Brunson, on the subject of  
25 negotiating agreements. The last round of negotiations on

1 the U.S.-Korea Special Measures Agreement were tough, and  
2 they put some strain on one of our most important  
3 relationships. The current agreement that was negotiated is  
4 due to expire next year. Thus, more negotiations are  
5 underway to complete that.

6 I don't want to ask you to get into the politics of the  
7 negotiations, but can you just highlight for the committee  
8 the importance of the relationship and the need to find a  
9 path forward to reach an agreement that will be good for all  
10 parties?

11 General Brunson: Yes, Senator. So, of course, I'm not  
12 a negotiator. I'm not negotiating that agreement at all.  
13 The State Department is well involved in that. But what I  
14 will tell you is, as a corps commander, the things that I  
15 have seen. I've seen Camp Humphreys and the housing that's  
16 available to our families there, the resources that are  
17 available to those families there, much of that done by the  
18 Korean government.

19 I also know, sir, for a fact that when you look at APS-  
20 4, for example, and that's maintained by Korean workers  
21 there, and it's maintained in such a high state of readiness  
22 that the soldiers I talked to -- I don't think we have any  
23 members from Texas here, but the soldiers I talked to from  
24 Fort Bliss preferred the vehicles they used on the Adria and  
25 the most recent large scale exercise than they do those back

1 home.

2 And so, if I give you those two data points right  
3 there, that those soldiers are absolutely fired up about the  
4 equipment that they're able to use that is maintained by  
5 Koreans, that when we look at the facilities that we have at  
6 a place like Camp Humphreys that are far better than some on  
7 my current installation, I think that there's much to be  
8 said. And those are the data points that, I, as an  
9 operational commander, currently look at when I look at that  
10 situation, Senator.

11 Senator Kaine: Well, as I conclude, you make a good  
12 point that you're not the negotiator, but the progress of  
13 that negotiation is going to have a huge impact on your  
14 ability to do your job and do it well. So, we'll push the  
15 State Department and everybody to conclude a deal that is  
16 very, very positive for the U.S. and Korea. And with that,  
17 I yield back, Mr. Chair.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kaine. Senator  
19 Cotton, please.

20 Senator Cotton: Gentlemen, welcome. Congratulations  
21 on your nomination.

22 General Reed, I want to associate myself with  
23 everything Senator Kaine just said about the debacle of  
24 using that pier to try to supply Gaza, with the exception  
25 that it was Israel's responsibility. It's neither I, nor

1 our responsibility, nor Israel's responsibility to provide  
2 for the people of Gaza. That would be Hamas, that de facto  
3 governing authority of it. You said there's already an  
4 after-action review underway, that's your understanding. Is  
5 that correct?

6 General Reed: Senator, it's my understanding that  
7 folks are looking at it. If confirmed, I'll have visibility  
8 on how folks are looking at that. Exactly what's being  
9 done, I would have to defer to CENTCOM.

10 Senator Cotton: Okay. That's fine. But can we move  
11 from understanding to your commitment. Whatever it is that  
12 you find is underway, that you're committed to you actually  
13 having an after-action review that you'll report back this  
14 committee either in person or with a written report?

15 General Reed: Senator, I'm committing to this  
16 committee, if confirmed in my position as TRANSCOM, to share  
17 with you what I discover and the impacts of that from  
18 TRANSCOM.

19 Senator Cotton: Okay. Thank you. Military sealift  
20 command recently announced plans to sideline 17 logistic  
21 ships because of a shortage of merchant mariners. Can you  
22 explain to us how the loss of those 17 ships might degrade  
23 TRANSCOM's ability to sustain military operations, both  
24 peacetime and wartime?

25 General Reed: Senator, what I can share with you on

1 that is being from the air component, what I understand is  
2 that there is a little bit of an adjustment to make sure  
3 that the crews are available, can crew the ships. For the  
4 details of that, actually, I would have to defer to the  
5 Department of the United States Navy

6 Senator Cotton: Okay. If confirmed, can you come back  
7 to us after, say, 60 or 90 days, with an answer about what  
8 you think the loss of those 17 ships means for our ability  
9 to sustain operations?

10 General Reed: Yes, Senator.

11 Senator Cotton: Thank you. General Brunson, I want to  
12 speak about landmines. Landmines have been a critical part  
13 of defending the Korean Peninsula for decades now, essential  
14 assuring that North Korea doesn't sweep into South Korea.  
15 The South Korean government has also stressed the importance  
16 of landmines. Do you agree that landmines continue to  
17 fulfill a critical battlefield need on the Peninsula?

18 General Brunson: Senator, having been up on the DMZ  
19 recently, they perform a very useful purpose where they are  
20 laid in the De-militarized Zone, as you well know, sir. So,  
21 yes, I do believe they serve a purpose.

22 Senator Cotton: And you believe that we should  
23 continue to employ them in that way at the DMZ?

24 General Brunson: Senator, I believe that if confirmed,  
25 what I would do is continue to assess that. If there are

1 other means to mitigate that, to serve the same purpose and  
2 role that they are currently, then I'll look at that. But I  
3 believe that right now, that they are serving the purpose  
4 they were intended for.

5 Senator Cotton: Okay. Are you aware of any other  
6 potential means besides the landmines? I'm curious in your  
7 professional military judgment.

8 General Brunson: Well, sir, yes. And I'm just going  
9 to take that for a question there. There's one-way  
10 munitions and things like that could be used to provide the  
11 same purpose, sir.

12 Senator Cotton: Okay. The reason I ask is that some  
13 people, to include some Senators, but certainly some  
14 nations, believe that we should withdraw land mines. Not  
15 use them anymore. And that may be nice if you live in  
16 Europe and think you're behind the gates of paradise. But  
17 someone has to guard the gates around the world. North  
18 Korea has gotten more aggressive lately. They violated  
19 sanctions by sending all those missiles and munitions to  
20 Russia, fired ballistic missiles in sea in North Korea, and  
21 they just recently decided to reveal their uranium  
22 enrichment facility for the first time. Why do you think  
23 they did that?

24 General Brunson: Senator, one of the things I think  
25 that continues to go on is especially in the more ephemeral

1 domains, you know, EW cyber, is we continue to maneuver in  
2 those spaces. And I think North Korea in revealing  
3 something that they've generally hidden for years, and  
4 years, and years, is trying to maneuver in the information  
5 space.

6 And to that end, if I'm confirmed, I have to take a  
7 look at how are we maneuvering in the information space to  
8 counter the narratives that are put forward by that, that  
9 causes tectonic shifts amongst the Korean people when they  
10 see another facility. Because we all know that a facility  
11 that you can process uranium in is a facility that you can  
12 make warheads in.

13 And so, I think that by working closely with not only  
14 those within the embassy spaces, but also working alongside  
15 INDOPACOM, and even U.S. Army Pacific, I think that we can  
16 get toward alleviating some of the things that are being  
17 done there. For example, there's a Theater Information Unit  
18 within U.S. Army Pacific, and those exist across our army,  
19 IO command and others, that can help us to message  
20 appropriately that we might maneuver as well. Any maneuver  
21 is met with other maneuver, and so we've got to meet them in  
22 that space and alleviate some of those challenges.

23 Senator Cotton: Thank you. If I could conclude about  
24 the Brunson family. I know military service is often a  
25 family affair in this country. But so, your father,

1 Sergeant Major Brunson, was a veteran of both Vietnam and  
2 the Gulf War. And Sergeant Major Brunson and Mrs. Brunson,  
3 you've raised three sons. Now all rose to the rank of  
4 Colonel, and general officer. I just want to say it's a  
5 remarkable testament to you as parents. You must've raised  
6 your kids right?

7 And to all those families out there who don't come from  
8 a family like the Brunsons, if you have any doubts about  
9 your child serving in armed services, then you should look  
10 at what Sergeant Major and Mrs. Brunson have raised and know  
11 that it's a great choice for your family at a time when  
12 we're struggling to recruit. We need more parents like  
13 Sergeant Major and Mrs. Brunson to encourage their kids to  
14 take the path you-all have taken and serve this nation. So,  
15 kudos to you.

16 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cotton.

17 Senator Hirono, please.

18 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Congratulations to both of you on your nominations and aloha  
20 to your families who are here. I ask the following two  
21 initial questions of, of all nominees who come before any of  
22 my committees. And so, I will ask you, and if you can  
23 respond first, General Reed, and then General Brunson.  
24 Since you became a legal adult, have you ever made unwanted  
25 requests for sexual favors, or committed any verbal or



1 physical harassment, or assault of a sexual nature?

2 General Reed: No, I have not.

3 General Brunson: No, I have not.

4 Senator Hirono: Have you ever faced discipline or  
5 entered into a settlement related to this kind of conduct?

6 General Reed: No, I have not.

7 General Brunson: No, I have not.

8 Senator Hirono: For General Reed, U.S. TRANSCOM's  
9 ability to project and sustain military power around the  
10 globe is one of our asymmetric advantages. However, that  
11 advantage is at risk given the delayed recapitalization of  
12 the Ready Reserve Force. General Reed, one solution, if you  
13 can call it that, expensive solution, to this issue is  
14 bolstering our domestic shipbuilding capacity and making  
15 these ships in the United States.

16 Another is giving the Navy authority to purchase more  
17 used vessels built in foreign shipyards. For example, the  
18 current version of the Fiscal Year 2025 Senate NDAA  
19 increases that buying authority from 9 to 12 ships. What do  
20 you think is the right approach, particularly for the long-  
21 term?

22 General Reed: Senator, thank you for that question.  
23 For sealift, sealift is fundamental to what we do. This  
24 country has always been great, primarily, because we've been  
25 able to sail the seas. And as we go forward, we need to

1 maintain the capability to do just that. The ages of our  
2 ships continue to increase. We have fantastic crews to  
3 cruise the ships. We do need to do some more work to  
4 recruit more. However, I think it would be easier to  
5 recruit more if we could get them newer equipment.

6 And so, to whatever we can do to bring down the ages of  
7 the ships, whatever we can do to put ships that are easier  
8 to repair, would absolutely help. So, in that regard, I  
9 know that we've received permission to buy used, that's for  
10 the near-term. In my view as an airman, that would also  
11 help shipbuilding because that would actually put equipment  
12 in the shipyards to get people trained. And when we have  
13 the opportunity to actually buy new, then we actually have  
14 the industrial base to do that as well. So, if confirmed as  
15 a TRANSCOM Commander, I will ask all give us as much as we  
16 can get, whether it's used or new.

17 Senator Hirono: The difficulty is there was a time  
18 when we had a much greater shipbuilding capacity in our own  
19 country. And as the shipyards closed, we're in the position  
20 of where you are, where we have to buy ships that are  
21 produced by other countries. So, I think in the long-term,  
22 I would really welcome -- basically, the DOD should be  
23 thinking about how we can increase our domestic shipbuilding  
24 capacity. I think it's an expensive proposition, but one  
25 that's worth pursuing.

1           For General Brunson, we continue to hear about the  
2 importance of allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific, and  
3 you responded to what you would do if confirmed to make sure  
4 that our relationships with Japan and the Republic of Korea  
5 stay very strong. What other relationships in the region  
6 would you prioritize to deter North Korean aggression?

7           General Brunson: Yes, Senator. One of the things that  
8 I've found over the three years that I've been a corps  
9 commander in the Pacific is sort of like the field of  
10 dreams. When we have exercises, if we put the exercises  
11 together and we make means for people to contribute to those  
12 exercises in substantive ways, they continue to show up.  
13 So, what we've got to look is more multilateralism in our  
14 exercises to make room for our partners to participate in  
15 significant ways.

16           Our posture is achieved by the locations where our  
17 partners are. That's how we have posture in the region. I  
18 also believe that when we look at the difference in  
19 capacities, we can't be bound by that.

20           We have to also understand that there are three levels  
21 of interoperability. Technological interoperability is the  
22 height because we're asking you to use your resources to do  
23 things somewhere. But human and procedural interoperability  
24 are the things that we have to really focus on in the region  
25 to ensure that others show.

1           Japan and Korea are great examples of nations which are  
2 magnets because of the exercises that they host and the  
3 space they make for other partners. We just did an  
4 exercise, Talisman Saber, last year, Senator, where the year  
5 prior there were four nations there. Australia and the U.S.  
6 were two of four. Last year, we had 15 nations there.  
7 Everyone, from Papua New Guinea to Indonesia was there, but  
8 they were able to participate in substantive ways because we  
9 made space for them by ensuring that we could communicate in  
10 a secure fashion.

11           Senator Hirono: I think that's very important. My  
12 time is running out. But beyond Japan and Korea, you have  
13 the Philippines, you have in the Indo-Pacific region, of  
14 course, Australia, New Zealand, India. So, there are a lot  
15 of other countries and island nations that I think we should  
16 be having activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17           Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hirono. Senator  
18 Cramer, please.

19           Senator Cramer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank  
20 you General Reed, General Brunson, for your service and for  
21 your willingness to keep going. We need you badly, and  
22 thank you for stepping in the gap. Congratulations to both  
23 of you.

24           General Brunson, you may know or you may not, but you  
25 may know that in North Dakota, not only do we have two of

1 the three legs of the nuclear triad based at Minot, but we  
2 have two very important ISR bases. In Grand Forks, the  
3 319th Reconnaissance Wing flies RQ-4s, a lot of them in the  
4 area that you're going. And then the 119th National Guard  
5 in Fargo flies MQ-9s around the world.

6 In recent years, and in future years, it seems the Air  
7 Force is aggressively retiring some of these legacy systems  
8 with not a lot to replace them. And I would just be  
9 interested in any thoughts you have about ISR needs in in  
10 the INDOPACOM area, and certainly, the Peninsula,  
11 specifically, and whether those needs are being met? What  
12 you see going forward as, you know, capacity, and just your  
13 general thoughts on Airborne ISR and its availability to  
14 fight.

15 General Brunson: Yes, Senator. So, when I look at the  
16 needs right now as an operational commander, I believe that  
17 General LaCamera has what he needs right now to help him to  
18 best understand his operating environment, which now  
19 stretches in USFK, a joint command. He's looking at the  
20 EEZ, the Exclusive Economic Zone. He's looking at the  
21 Northern Limit Line. He's got to see all these things in  
22 ISR as a technical means that allows him to see those things  
23 so that he might best understand his operating environment.

24 I will tell you that if confirmed and allowed to serve  
25 or given the opportunity to serve as a commander of the Tri-

1 Commands, that I would do much the same as to continue to  
2 assess the needs of ISR. That's meeting the requirements  
3 that we have across domains, the physical domains in the KTO  
4 Center.

5 Senator Cramer: Along the same lines, then obviously,  
6 we're becoming more dependent on space for ISR. Could you  
7 elaborate a little bit on your relationship with General  
8 Whiting at Space Command, General Saltzman at Space Force,  
9 how you see the integration of space and whether or not that  
10 can fill the gap either in the short-, mid-, or long-term  
11 for ISR demand?

12 General Brunson: Senator, I think space can do a great  
13 many things for us. As you know, there's a Space Force  
14 component in the headquarters at USFK. I think it can give  
15 us a great many things. But as the Army has learned over  
16 time, there's a need for a little bit more granularity than  
17 the bigger platforms of days gone by.

18 And I think that not to speak for services, but I know  
19 that we're achieving great, great results as we continue to  
20 campaign through the Pacific and Operation Pathway by using  
21 small aperture, UAS quadcopters and the like to be able to  
22 provide the granularity needed to finish actions. The find  
23 and the fix can be done by larger assets, but when it comes  
24 time to finish, which is the aim of our operations, when  
25 we're on the ground, it takes something a little bit

1 smaller.

2 And I think that also as communications, and our  
3 ability to see and understand our environments continues to  
4 improve. I think we're finding other ways to get at the  
5 information, the intelligence, that we need to drive  
6 operations.

7 Senator Cramer: General Reed, Senator Kelly and I,  
8 last week, launched a new caucus called the Military  
9 Modernization Caucus. And what we're looking at is how do  
10 we do things at the speed of the enemy, at the speed of  
11 China, especially given the big bureaucracy and some of the  
12 cumbersome clumsiness of our system. By the way, certainly  
13 at the Department of Defense, but that would include  
14 Congress, I would say. As you look at your new mission  
15 soon, or your new job soon, can you think of any gaps in  
16 technology or modernization demands that we could be helpful  
17 with?

18 And then, and along the same lines, what can we be  
19 helpful with as Congress when it comes to getting you what  
20 you -- I very much appreciated your conversation with  
21 Senator Hirono just a little bit ago. I found it very  
22 helpful as Senator Kaine and I co-lead the Seapower  
23 Subcommittee. But in the airspace especially, there's  
24 probably some things we could be doing better and  
25 differently. Anything you can think of in a modernization

1 category?

2 General Reed: Senator, I'd like to begin from where  
3 I'm sitting now from an air component perspective. And  
4 being connected to the joint force is very, very critical.  
5 Not just to be able to talk to others and not just being  
6 able to make sure that that they can talk to us. But the  
7 bottom line is that equates to survivability.

8 So, when the force is connected, and we're able to  
9 determine what's going on in the space where is red, where  
10 is blue, where is the need, then we can make decisions at  
11 the speed of the war to actually outmaneuver the adversary.  
12 If confirmed moving to TRANSCOM, there is certainly room to  
13 get the rest of the force connected as well, because again,  
14 that equates to survivability.

15 Senator Cramer: Very well said. Thank you very much.  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Cramer.  
18 Senator King, please.

19 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I want  
20 to associate myself with Senator Cotton's comments. I  
21 haven't seen so many stars in one place since the last clear  
22 night in Maine. I want to compliment the Brunson family for  
23 what you've achieved in the service you're providing to the  
24 country.

25 General Reed, for want of a nail, the shoe was lost.



1 For want of the shoe, the horse was lost. For want of the  
2 horse, the rider was lost. For want of the rider, the  
3 message was lost. For want of the message, the battle was  
4 lost. For want of the battle, the country was lost. All  
5 because of the loss of one nail.

6 I'm deeply worried about the adequacy of the industrial  
7 base, but also of the system that you have with private  
8 sector partners. And I hope that there is a profound  
9 testing process, a red team process, because in time of  
10 conflict. The first attack is going to be on our logistics.  
11 Do you believe that the command is up to that challenge, and  
12 are you taking steps to ensure that it's up to that  
13 challenge?

14 General Reed: Senator, once again, I'll begin from an  
15 air component perspective. So, from where we sit now, with  
16 the funds that we have, we are very heavy into  
17 experimentation. We are actively seeking technologies that  
18 are available today, not necessarily things that are  
19 available in the future. Data is one area where we have  
20 looked very deeply into machine learning, artificial  
21 intelligence, being able to, what we call sense and seize.  
22 So, the better we're able to sense the environment, seizes  
23 on the opportunities to actually get things done.

24 From there, we've been looking to transition to  
25 airborne tests to see how can we get connected to the joint

1 force, not just line of sight, but beyond as well. And then  
2 from there, how can we fast track some of this to the actual  
3 platforms? Obviously, if confirmed, running this to scale  
4 and TRANSCOM would be key. I must be quick to mention also  
5 that TRANSCOM itself has been very supportive of us, and  
6 they are doing much the same.

7 Senator King: Well, let me suggest, as several others  
8 have, if there are deficiencies, if you red team and assess  
9 your capacity and find it wanting, come to this committee.  
10 We don't want to be having hearings after the fact as why  
11 didn't we have sufficient air transportation or maritime  
12 transportation?

13 And that moved me to the next topic, which is cyber.  
14 Again, CIOs always say, "Yeah, we're okay. We're  
15 protected." You won't know that until you test it. And  
16 cyber, again, to go back to a conflict, is going to be the  
17 first step. So, I think the cyber capacity and resiliency  
18 of your system is going to be of utmost importance and  
19 utmost vulnerability.

20 General Reed: Senator, yes, indeed, it is. Just  
21 within the last few months, I had an opportunity to join  
22 TRANSCOM itself in a two-to-three-day session here in the  
23 area at Fort Meade. And during that time with CYBERCOM, I  
24 got exposed to a tremendous amount of work that's already  
25 underway. If confirmed, I'll be privy to more of that. And

1 certainly, something that's very important for us --

2           Senator King: Thank you. I'm going to follow-up with  
3 on several questions about moves and rural areas. We're  
4 worried about our Coast Guard personnel in Maine, or the  
5 adequacy of the moving the household goods is a problem.

6           [The information referred to follows:]

7           [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1           Senator King:   General Brunson, the danger of  
2 accidental conflict in the Indo-Pacific.  It's one of the  
3 things I worry the most about.  A hot dog, Chinese pilot  
4 miscalculates and takes the bridge off of a destroyer.  How  
5 do you assess that risk?  And do we have the infrastructure  
6 in place to communicate with the Chinese or the North  
7 Koreans that what is happening isn't a provocation, it's an  
8 accident?

9           General Brunson:  Senator, you know, the risk of  
10 miscalculation, it's ever present.  And the Pacific is wide  
11 and as vast as the Pacific is.  We still find ourselves,  
12 whether it be in the West Philippine Sea with ships running  
13 into one another or it be along the exclusive economic zone  
14 there in the KTO.  And I think that there are ample means of  
15 connection amongst leaders.

16          Senator King:  Is there a hotline with North Korea, for  
17 example, or with -- I understand there's this been  
18 discussion with China on this issue, but nobody answers the  
19 phone.

20          General Brunson:  Senator, I can't answer that right  
21 now.  I do know that up in Panmunjom, there's an area that's  
22 met meant for face-to-face consultation if needed.  But at  
23 this current time, it's not within the realm of my duties to  
24 know that.

25          Senator King:  I hope when you take over your duties,

1 that's something you'll look into because accidental  
2 conflict is a serious potential problem. And one way to  
3 resolve that is some kind of deconfliction infrastructure,  
4 which I hope you'll pursue both from your point of view, but  
5 also within the Department of Defense, and the  
6 administration.

7 General Brunson: Senator, if confirmed, I will.

8 Senator King: Thank you very much. And one comment on  
9 household moves. I used to work for a company that moved  
10 household goods for service people. I have been known to  
11 carry a few boxes. I recommend boxes with lampshades rather  
12 than books. That was my experience. But one military  
13 spouse told me years ago that they considered seven moves  
14 equals a fire. Leave it at that.

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King. Senator Budd,  
16 please.

17 Senator Budd: Thank you, Chairman. General Brunson, I  
18 was reading your remarks, was able to listen to them. And I  
19 think it bears repeating the more than 130 years of combined  
20 service of your family starting with your dad, retired  
21 Sergeant Major Brunson, and continue with your brothers and  
22 your wife, you set a great example. So, thank you.

23 Now, if I understand correctly, you were born and  
24 raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

25 General Brunson: Yes.

1           Senator Budd: I didn't see that in your remarks, but  
2 if you could talk a little bit about the time that you've  
3 served, I think even with your brothers. Maybe all of you  
4 were there at one point. Tell us a little bit about what  
5 you learned growing up North Carolina and some of the values  
6 you're going to bring into this job, if confirmed.

7           General Brunson: Yes, Senator. Thank you for your  
8 recognition of my family. Very important to me. That's a  
9 thing I learned in North Carolina. I also learned in  
10 Cumberland County how to pick strawberries without crushing  
11 them. And that if you get your bucket filled faster, you  
12 can eat more than the folks that are putting their buckets  
13 up on the truck. My grandmother taught me industry early on  
14 in my life, so I know what it's like to pick cucumbers, or  
15 pick strawberries, and cabbage, and everything else.

16           What I learned in North Carolina is industry. That if  
17 you work for it, you can get it. You can have it. I  
18 learned early on as well that the great State of North  
19 Carolina and the great people of North Carolina are very  
20 forgiving. And I think that one of the things that I have  
21 on my desk speaks to North Carolina. It says, "Do justly,  
22 love mercy, and walk humbly." And that's what I've always  
23 found.

24           My wife and I, as we've moved around in the army, have  
25 often thought; number one, there's no sweet tea here. And

1 number two, folks just aren't like Carolina people. There  
2 used to be a WRAL commercial a long time ago that said, "I  
3 like calling North Carolina home." And that's what it was  
4 for me.

5 What I also learned militarily is that the center of  
6 the universe, as it's used to be called at Fort Bragg, now,  
7 Fort Liberty there are a host of forces there, both airborne  
8 and special operations, who come together to achieve great  
9 effect for our nation. And I've tried to template that on  
10 everything in every unit I've been to, to include currently  
11 within my corps, trying to ensure that I Corps can place  
12 combat credible forces west of the IDL. I think that's my  
13 part of the job. That's my part of the task. I learned  
14 that in North Carolina.

15 Because integrated assurance for our partners is just  
16 as important as the deterrence piece. There are policy  
17 makers and more senior leaders who will ensure that  
18 deterrence is in alignment, that we can do things like  
19 extended deterrence. But my job as an operational commander  
20 currently is to assure our friends, partners, and allies  
21 that we will be there, we'll be present, we'll be engaged.  
22 We'll continue to foster human and procedural  
23 interoperability to allow them to live and thrive in a free  
24 and open Indo-Pacific, sir.

25 Senator Budd: Thank you, General. So, as you look at

1 the growing adversary relationship between China, Russia,  
2 North Korea, what does that growing relationship between our  
3 adversaries, what challenges and opportunities does that  
4 present?

5 General Brunson: Yes, sir. So, Senator, one of the  
6 things I look at is where are the fishers in those  
7 relationships? There is no true alignment of what, and I'll  
8 just say simply, Senator, we are the partner of choice for a  
9 reason. Because we look at, as a nation, we generally look  
10 at the interest of those we're working alongside. And where  
11 that intersection lies, we begin to work from. That's our  
12 point of departure on building a relationship.

13 The relationship between the DPRK, China, and Russia  
14 seems to be far more quid pro quo. "This is what we need,  
15 this is what we're going to give you in return." I had a  
16 great conversation with Chairman Reed yesterday, and we  
17 talked about one of the things that's just as important as  
18 what's going out is what's coming back in. And I think  
19 that's where we have to become more astute in being able to  
20 divine what our enemies are doing, what they're receiving,  
21 what might come of those things. But I think that being the  
22 partner of choice in the region is really what we're after,  
23 sir.

24 Senator Budd: Thank you. General Reed, again, thank  
25 you for being here, and congratulations on your nomination.



1 So, if confirmed, you'd have responsibility for Military  
2 Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point in North Carolina, the largest  
3 military terminal in the world, a critical ammunition  
4 shipping point on the East Coast. So, if confirmed, do you  
5 commit to staying in close touch to ensure Sunny Point's  
6 infrastructure and systems remain modern, cyber resilient,  
7 and physically secure?

8 General Reed: Yes, Senator, I do. It's vital for us.

9 Senator Budd: Well, thank you. I look forward to many  
10 conversations about that, and hopefully working together  
11 with both of you. Thank you, both.

12 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Budd. Senator  
13 Duckworth, please.

14 Senator Duckworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good  
15 morning to both of our witnesses. Welcome to you and your  
16 families, and congratulations on your nominations. General  
17 Reed, thank you for our conversation last week, and if  
18 confirmed, I look forward to working with you to ensure that  
19 TRANSCOM is resourced at the levels necessary to project and  
20 sustain the joint force at our nation's choosing. This  
21 ability is key to our strategic deterrence, especially in  
22 the Indo-Pacific AOR.

23 I am very proud of TRANSCOM. Proud to host it in my  
24 home state with its headquarters there at Scott Air Force  
25 Base. I am the fiercest advocate for TRANSCOM on this

1 committee and the work that you are doing there at TRANSCOM  
2 to support operations around the globe, including in  
3 Ukraine, the Middle East, and Indo-Pacific region is second  
4 to none.

5 Now, as the global patient movement manager for DOD,  
6 TRANSCOM has a vital role in providing medical care for our  
7 service members through designated aeromedical evacuation  
8 hubs and patient reception areas. This role is critical for  
9 moving a large number of service members from overseas  
10 theaters to treatment centers.

11 I've discussed the need to improve DODs medical  
12 readiness in the Indo-Pacific with every service chief and  
13 combatant commander who comes before this committee. And I  
14 would like to discuss my Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA proposal to  
15 create an Indo-Pacific Medical Readiness Program, and it was  
16 included in the SAAS Committee markup.

17 This proposal would address current gaps in the DODs  
18 medical capacity in the Indo-Pacific region. It is aimed at  
19 ensuring our nation service members, as well as their  
20 families, have access to high quality, U.S.-standard medical  
21 care throughout the region. The program would authorize DOD  
22 to access foreign medical facilities in the Indo-Pacific,  
23 and DOD would work with our allies and partners to accredit  
24 those facilities, thus increasing the number of available  
25 medical facilities DOD personnel would have access to during

1 peace time and in the event of a conflict abroad.

2 I'm going to direct my question first at General  
3 Brunson. General Brunson, DOD already has a version of this  
4 in the Republic of Korea. In fact, it is the only place  
5 where we have this arrangement. In fact, the United States  
6 helped set up the Ajou Trauma Center in Suwon, and it was  
7 modeled like a U.S. trauma center because there is a doctor  
8 there, Dr. Lee Guk-jong, who received training from U.S.  
9 surgeons, and he set up this Level 1 trauma center there to  
10 U.S. standards, and is JCAHO certified. And in 2017, he was  
11 able to leverage that training that he received in the U.S.  
12 to treat the North Korean soldier who defected at the Ajou  
13 Trauma Center, saving his life.

14 General Brunson, if confirmed, can you speak to how you  
15 would leverage my Indo-Pacific Medical Readiness Program,  
16 and speak to the significance of DOD, having access to ROK  
17 medical facilities that meet U.S. standards in the event of  
18 a kinetic conflict?

19 General Brunson: Yes, Senator. One of the things that  
20 we are trying to even work now at Joint Base Lewis-McChord,  
21 is the impact of care being needed for our service members,  
22 their families, and our veterans in a hospital that is a  
23 magnet for the State of Washington, and how we might also  
24 replicate role two, and one, and threes forward in the  
25 theater. Because, as you know, the distances are great.

1 The need for a host nation medical care is something that's  
2 also got to be assessed.

3 And Senator, if I'm confirmed, I will continue to  
4 assess the location and the depth with which in the services  
5 provided, because DHA is also over on the Peninsula. And  
6 we've got to tie all that together in a means that's  
7 sustainable because we need it in competition, we need it in  
8 conflict, and we'll certainly need it when crisis arises.

9 Senator Duckworth: And it would be another way for us  
10 to forge even closer bonds if we are using this process to  
11 have our military medical personnel work with their military  
12 medical personnel, and have that habitual training  
13 relationship in that area.

14 General Brunson: Yes, Senator.

15 Senator Duckworth: Thank you. General Reed, if  
16 confirmed, can you commit to ensuring that my Indo-Pacific  
17 Medical Readiness Program will be a priority for TRANSCOM?

18 General Reed: Absolutely, Senator. Having served  
19 abroad with the family and without, and having served abroad  
20 in a place where there's no base, this would be very  
21 welcome.

22 Senator Duckworth: Thank you. And if confirmed, how  
23 will you work with INDOPACOM to ensure we continue  
24 exercising aeromedical evacuation patient movement routes  
25 with our allies and partners in the region, including our

1 ASEAN partners?

2 General Reed: Senator, if confirmed, I don't think  
3 that will be much of an issue. I think the theater will  
4 find it very welcome that we will want to partner with them  
5 in that. Last summer, as a matter of fact, we did just  
6 that. We participated with them across the entire summer.  
7 And in that, we were with seven partner nations. And one of  
8 the primary things that we worked on was air medical  
9 evacuation. During that time, not only did we train  
10 together and fly sorties together, but we were able to use  
11 each other's equipment. And it was very, very, very  
12 helpful.

13 Senator Duckworth: Thank you. I'm out of time, but I  
14 am looking forward to discussing with you about your key  
15 priorities for improving surface distribution logistics  
16 within the continental U.S., specifically with regard to  
17 rail and the commercial trucking industry, and how timely  
18 movement of supplies reports will be critical in the event  
19 of conflict in the Indo-Pacific region. But we'll take that  
20 offline once you're confirmed. Thank you.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Duckworth. Senator  
23 Scott, please.

24 Senator Scott: Thank you, Chairman. First, I want to  
25 thank, congratulate both of you on your nomination. If you

1 look at your background, you clearly can do these jobs.  
2 Your family should be very impressed with what you've  
3 already accomplished. You should be very proud of your  
4 accomplishments, and I know you're both going to do a great  
5 job.

6 General Reed, I understand the Global Household Goods  
7 Contract recently changed. So, we just finished peak moving  
8 season. Can you talk a little bit about the contract  
9 implementation, what you're seeing, how it's working?

10 General Reed: Senator, what I understand so far, we  
11 began in the spring, as you mentioned, went through the peak  
12 season in select locations. And the feedback that I'm  
13 getting is things are going well. I understand feedback has  
14 come in from families and also from transportation providers  
15 who were not in the system before. Part of the improvement  
16 that seems to have really resonated with the families is the  
17 fact that using IT systems, they can actually tell where  
18 their household goods are, and they can actually see the  
19 position of the folks who actually have their goods.

20 Senator Scott: Do you know when we'll know how much we  
21 spent on the Gaza Pier?

22 General Reed: Senator, at this time, I don't have that  
23 information.

24 Senator Scott: Do you have any idea when we'll find  
25 out?

1 General Reed: Senator, at this time, I do not.

2 Senator Scott: General Brunson, thank you for taking  
3 the call yesterday. Hannah's here with me. Thank you for  
4 taking her questions seriously. And, and I, and thank you  
5 for your willingness to look into it and see what you can  
6 what you can do to be helpful.

7 I had the opportunity, like a lot of us have, been to  
8 South Korea. I went to Camp Humphreys to celebrate the 4th  
9 last year. So, we have 28,000 service members in South  
10 Korea. Can you just talk about, if you're going to talk to  
11 the American public, the importance of being in South Korea,  
12 about what the relationship is like with the government in  
13 South Korea, how are they a good partner? Is it a fair  
14 relationship? How important is it to our national security?  
15 Things like that.

16 Senator Scott: Yes, Senator you know, as a corps  
17 commander, currently as a sitting corps commander, I've had  
18 that very same conversation. The things that we do forward  
19 prevent things from happening in the homeland. Defense of  
20 the homeland is a key task that I've got to accomplish.  
21 It's a no-fail task.

22 Even as a corps commander, I would explain to them that  
23 by us being forward-postured, or posture forward, allows us  
24 to be inside of the air defense exclusionary zone. It  
25 allows us to be able to, if need be, move to conflict. It

1 allows us to establish for ourselves posture, and  
2 protection, and sustainment that our homeland not be brought  
3 at risk.

4 It's one of those things that you'd be hard pressed to  
5 get someone in St. Augustine where my family lives to  
6 understand, but it should be of supreme importance to them  
7 that there are men and women, 28,500, which is the floor,  
8 not the ceiling, who are there prepared to not only defend  
9 our ally in Korea, but to really support and defend the  
10 Constitution of the United States and defend her people  
11 wherever they might be.

12 I would also tell you that there's something to be said  
13 for the will and the resolve of a nation when we take our  
14 families and place them in that same environment and trusts  
15 their care to not only our ally for our ally doing what they  
16 say they're going to do, but for us to be good for what we  
17 say we're going to do as well, sir,

18 Senator Scott: Is South Korea a good partner?

19 General Brunson: Yes, sir, they are.

20 Senator Scott: And do you feel like they bear their  
21 part of the burden?

22 Senator Scott: Sir, when I look at the way that APS-4  
23 is maintained, when I look at Camp Humphreys itself, which  
24 you've seen, those are facilities, the likes of which we  
25 don't even have on Joint Base Lewis-McChord right now, we're



1 moving toward it. But in the past two years where I've gone  
2 over for exercises in the Republic of Korea, what I've seen  
3 is a diligence, the likes of which I would love to see on my  
4 joint base.

5 We see the Koreans erecting facilities. We just opened  
6 recently there in Korea, three new towers for family  
7 housing. And that says something when those things go from  
8 decision to design, to actual brick and mortar going up.  
9 So, yes, Senator, I would say they are good partners.

10 General Reed: Senator, if I may add, they also have a  
11 counterpart to TRANSCOM, and that commander has a  
12 relationship with ours. In addition, they have a liaison  
13 that's in the headquarters at TRANSCOM. That individual  
14 spends time and is able to attend each and everything to  
15 make sure that we stay tied and in terms of being a great  
16 partner. Very nuanced support, even for the annual West  
17 Point and Annapolis football game.

18 Senator Scott: Thanks. Thanks for your service. You  
19 guys are going to do a great job.

20 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Scott. Senator  
21 Kelly, please.

22 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. General  
23 Brunson, General Reed, Congratulations to both of you,  
24 General Reed. I'm the only U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
25 graduate in Congress currently, and I pay close attention to

1 the strength of our merchant marine and our maritime  
2 industry. China's the world's largest ship builder and  
3 controls the most merchant ships in the world with over  
4 5,500 vessels. There are just 80 merchant ships flying  
5 under the American flag in International Commerce. 80.

6 I'm concerned that the size and capability of the U.S.  
7 merchant fleet is a danger to our national security. As you  
8 know, insufficient commercial maritime capacity impacts  
9 peacetime, trade, and supply chains, and it will hamper our  
10 ability to supply our own troops in a conflict. This isn't  
11 a capability that we can turn on overnight. We need  
12 investments now to be ready for tomorrow. That's why I'm  
13 developing legislation to rebuild our commercial maritime  
14 industry and our U.S.-flagged international fleet.

15 General Reed, can you explain how the lack of a  
16 commercial ship building industry here at home, and a lack  
17 of U.S.-flagged commercial, oceangoing vessels, is having  
18 real impacts on our national security and U.S. TRANSCOM  
19 strategic sealift capability.

20 General Reed: Senator, it might actually surprise you  
21 to know there was a time where I actually considered going  
22 to that academy. Growing up in Hampton Roads, I fully  
23 understand the importance of sealift and that force. If  
24 confirmed as a TRANSCOM commander, there is no way that I  
25 can do my mission without the commercial industry.

1           The fact that you just mentioned legislation, I'm not  
2   sure what's in it, but I think that absolves me of one  
3   instance of asking for help from this committee. I know  
4   that we need to grow that force. That force is very vital.  
5   And thank you for that help in advance.

6           I'll also share with you. Just within the last week, I  
7   happen to have a conversation with a father of two merchant  
8   mariners. Very proud. They're very young. They are within  
9   their first eight years. And they're very, very positive  
10  about their service, but obviously they hear things from the  
11  other sailors. And so, they get the noble service. They  
12  want to have folks behind them, and their father is very,  
13  very proud of what they do. If confirmed, you have my  
14  commitment for that, because that's a vital part of the  
15  force that we have. It's the decisive force that we have.  
16  And I also make a commitment to be very visible in the  
17  public space to inspire folks to serve there as well.

18          Senator Kelly: Well, General, I look forward to  
19  working with you on this comprehensive legislative effort to  
20  fix this. And also, you know, we're going to need to create  
21  a business case so U.S.-flagged carriers and companies can  
22  succeed economically.

23          General Brunson, you're going into an incredibly  
24  important job and it's vital to one of our strongest allies  
25  in South Korea. And I'm seriously concerned about North

1 Korea's weapons trade with Russia. They're providing  
2 advanced short range ballistic missiles that are being used  
3 to kill Ukrainians and undermine regional security.

4 Our South Korea partners are telling us that North  
5 Korea's factories are now operating at full capacity so they  
6 can keep supplying Russia. They've sent over 16,000  
7 containers of munitions to Russia. And Russia has launched  
8 dozens of North Korean missiles into Ukraine. It's unclear  
9 what North Korea is getting from this cooperation, but I'm  
10 concerned that Russia will provide them with more advanced  
11 military technology, and we've got to do what we can to  
12 curtail these illegal arms transfers. They're killing  
13 Ukrainians, and they're harming the security of our allies.

14 So, General Brunson, can you provide your thoughts on  
15 the impact of these weapons transfers from North Korea, and  
16 how concerned should we be about North Korea receiving  
17 advanced technology from Russia?

18 General Brunson: Yes, Senator. I believe, first of  
19 all, on the first point that you made. I would just, again,  
20 echo that South Korea is one of our preeminent allies, one  
21 of our finest. And the exchange of lethal aid between the  
22 DPRK and Russia is a thing to be alarmed about. But most  
23 importantly, what we have to do is see what's coming back  
24 in. And in order to see that, Senator, it's going to take  
25 the IC to help us to see and understand what's coming back.

1           Because if confirmed, my job as USFK commander would be  
2 to mitigate that, and that is part of our plans. Our plans  
3 have to address that. That we might be able to assure our  
4 partner that we've thought through these things. And these  
5 technologies may affect even things like NEO, which is  
6 another mission that we've got to be able to accomplish  
7 there on the Peninsula. You have my promise to continue, if  
8 confirmed, to assess the threat as it is and assess the  
9 risk, and then report back to the INDOPACOM commander, all  
10 the way up through to the chairman on what we are seeing  
11 based on our engagement, not only with the IC, but our  
12 engagement, our operating environment, Senator.

13           Senator Kelly: Thank you, General. Then we got to  
14 figure out what to do about it. So, we'll be able to, you  
15 know, with the information from the IC, figure out what the  
16 risk is to South Korea, and to the region, and to our own  
17 national security. And then we'll figure out what the  
18 response needs to be to try to mitigate that risk.

19           General Brunson: Yes, Senator.

20           Senator Kelly: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21           Chairman Reed. Thank you, Senator Kelly. Senator  
22 Peters, please

23           Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And both of  
24 you gentlemen, thank you for your service to our country.

25           General Reed, during their testimony before this

1 committee, General Alvin and Secretary Hunter shared that  
2 the Air Force is exploring using KC-46s as communications  
3 node in addition to their tanker responsibilities. And  
4 they've explored that during recent mobility guardian  
5 exercise.

6 I believe I believe this is a positive step, and I've  
7 been pushing the Air Force to think outside of the box about  
8 the potential for KC-46 refueling tankers to use and command  
9 perhaps collaborative combat aircraft in far-ranging  
10 missions. So, my question for you, General Reed is how do  
11 enhanced communication capabilities on our tanker aircraft  
12 assist TRANSCOM's global missions? And additionally, how  
13 can TRANSCOM work with the Air Force to plan for potential  
14 CCAs and KC-46s interoperability?

15 General Reed: Senator, connectivity is key for all the  
16 platforms and for most of the air mobility fleet they're not  
17 as connected as they could be, although things are starting  
18 to change. In terms of the information node, currently most  
19 airplanes can only communicate with each other line of  
20 sight. So, they have to be very close to each other. What  
21 we really need is the ability to communicate beyond that and  
22 stay connected to the entire force.

23 Our adversaries are developing technologies that are  
24 that have greater range which puts us more and more into the  
25 contested environment. But we're going to have to be there,

1 and we're going to have to have ways in order to make sure  
2 that we can open up an opportunity to continue to support  
3 the joint force in that communication node. It not only  
4 allows the crew to be aware of what's going on in the space,  
5 but in the absence of others who cannot control, they can  
6 actually contribute to the fight. And so that's incredibly  
7 key.

8 Senator, to your question for CCAs. A little bit  
9 premature for me to determine what's in that space, but I'll  
10 tell you, if anything is in the air and it can respond to  
11 the needs of the joint force that's in the air, and can  
12 contribute to survivability, absolutely, I'll take it.

13 Senator Peters: Thank you. General Brunson, I  
14 recently returned from South Korea with several of my  
15 colleagues where we met with government and military  
16 officials there. And we were fortunate to see firsthand the  
17 importance of this relationship to a free and open Indo-  
18 Pacific.

19 While there, among many topics that we discussed, we  
20 also discussed the growing cooperation between American and  
21 Korean universities and government organizations. This  
22 collaboration includes recently announced a partnership  
23 between the University of Michigan, Hyundai Heavy  
24 Industries, and Seoul National University to cultivate and  
25 to expand U.S. shipbuilding expertise by developing

1 specialized training programs.

2 So, my question for you, sir, is if confirmed, how will  
3 you use your role as commander for the U.S. Forces-Korea to  
4 expand and foster similar relationships between Korea and  
5 the United States?

6 General Brunson: Yes, Senator. My daughter, Rebekah,  
7 attended Seoul National University. And so, I'm very well  
8 familiar with them, and their reputation, and what they  
9 produce at that institution. Currently, as a corps  
10 commander, I've built several relationships with local  
11 universities because they were able to see things in ways  
12 that we can't, or don't, or don't have time to investigate  
13 or champion.

14 We built a Pacific education program and an engagement  
15 program, which brought academia forward on our exercises to  
16 answer some of the strategic questions that we had. I would  
17 very much see myself leveraging the brain power of  
18 institutions, not only in Korea, but here in the United  
19 States to help us solve some of our most compelling issues.

20 It's one thing to just use PMTECH, or the Pacific  
21 Multi-Domain Training and Experimentation Capability, it's  
22 another thing entirely to think about new ways of doing  
23 things. I think academia can help us to challenge some of  
24 our assumptions, and at little cost, truthfully, versus  
25 going on into some new technical solution for a problem that



1 maybe we haven't thought fulsome enough about. So, that's  
2 how I would do it, Senator, if confirmed.

3 Senator Peters: Very good. Well, thank you. Thank  
4 you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Peters. I  
6 believe Senator Gillibrand is prepared to go, and then we'll  
7 recognize Senator Schmitt. Senator Gillibrand, please.

8 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And  
9 congratulations, Generals, for these appointments, and best  
10 wishes to your families that are here. We know none of us  
11 do these jobs on our own, so having the support of our  
12 families really does make a difference.

13 General Reed, we have repeatedly heard that in the  
14 event of a crisis or conflict, the Chinese government will  
15 target critical infrastructure in the U.S., in part, to  
16 disrupt the ability of the U.S. to respond. As Deputy  
17 Commander of Air Mobility Command, how have you sought to  
18 ensure the availability of your fleet and your systems in  
19 the event of such an attack, and how would you approach this  
20 challenge as TRANSCOM Commander?

21 General Reed: Senator, first and foremost, we've  
22 focused really hard on making sure that the force is ready  
23 and they understand what's required of them. When we do  
24 that, and we give them the chance to exercise, a lot of  
25 times they find out ways to get around the disruptions

1 themselves. And then, we take those lessons and we roll  
2 them up.

3 The next thing that we do is we exercise realistically,  
4 and we're putting ourselves under pressure to exercise with  
5 problems, to exercise with an incomplete force, to exercise  
6 with incomplete information. And so, with that, we get the  
7 lessons learned and we get to try it real time.

8 In terms of what would happen in the case of crisis and  
9 conflict, if confirmed, going into TRANSCOM, TRANSCOM  
10 already does some of that, but there's opportunities to  
11 scale and there's opportunities to do that, not just in the  
12 air, but in the other modes as well.

13 Senator Gillibrand: How would TRANSCOM leverage  
14 artificial intelligence technology to improve day-to-day  
15 operations? I've seen how AI can impact the private sector  
16 in terms of getting supplies where it needs to go around the  
17 globe. Is that something that the military and TRANSCOM  
18 will consider using?

19 General Reed: Absolutely, Senator. And from an air  
20 component perspective, we do much the same. We are looking  
21 into the future in terms of how we can turn unstructured  
22 data into structured, and then use that to present  
23 information for us to sense things and then make decisions.  
24 At the same time, we're using it real world to make  
25 decisions on the operational floor.

1           Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. General Brunson, I  
2 also had the occasion to take a Senate trip to South Korea  
3 and Japan, and I'd like you to talk a little bit about how  
4 important is our alliance with South Korea, and under the  
5 Biden Administration, historic progress was made with  
6 building a trilateral relationship between South Korea,  
7 Japan, and the U.S. Can you talk about how you would seek  
8 to deepen that? And last, can you please speak to the  
9 threat that North Korea ballistic missile capabilities  
10 create and what your approach may be?

11           General Brunson: The relationship is very important,  
12 especially, Senator. One of the things that we have to look  
13 at is opportunities versus challenges presented by malign  
14 acts. And we have to separate the acts from the actors who  
15 are involved in the things going on in the region. And if  
16 we do that, what we start to understand is -- what we  
17 discover is that the impacts are felt by nations around the  
18 region.

19           INDOPACOM says a free and open Indo-Pacific is what  
20 they are charged to provide. And we do that for our  
21 friends, partners, and allies in the region. The  
22 relationship between the ROK and the Japanese is huge. We  
23 just had our chairman over there conducting historic  
24 trilateral meeting. I think also what it does is it changes  
25 the math problem; that is DPRK sitting in the north, moving

1 south, and the Republic of Korea sitting in the south, going  
2 north. It changes that.

3 I think that more often than not, as malign acts happen  
4 in the region, it draws like-minded nations together. And  
5 the Japan, U.S., Republic of Korea relationship can serve as  
6 a magnet for other nations that just want to live. They  
7 want to fish in the waters off their coast. They don't want  
8 to be threatened. They don't want to be under duress every  
9 day.

10 So, the true importance of that is showing nations that  
11 they can stand together outside of a large construct that  
12 says; this is who we are, and this is what we do. But just  
13 folks who come together, stitching together those mutual  
14 defense treaties that exist in the region and saying, we're  
15 going to be there. We're going to assure you that we will  
16 be there, and we'll do the things as a nation that we said  
17 we were going to do. We'll demonstrate our resolve there,  
18 ma'am.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Gillibrand. Senator  
20 Schmitt, please.

21 Senator Schmitt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And  
22 congratulations to you both. I missed the intro, but I  
23 guess this is your family's back here. Congratulations.

24 I know that Senator Peters, I think, he asked you,  
25 General Brunson, this question. So, I want to pose it to

1 you, General Reed. I was also on that trip to South Korea,  
2 or to Republic of Korea and Japan. It was illuminating. A  
3 topic that came up over and over was, you know, as relates  
4 to our industrial base and making sure we have more  
5 shipbuilding and maintenance capacity.

6 What role do you see that Republic of Korea and various  
7 entities could play in the Indo-Pacific and helping out in  
8 really these capacity issues that we have?

9 General Reed: Thank you, Senator. I'll tell you  
10 TRANSCOM's role and TRANSCOM's mission is simply not  
11 possible without allies and partners. When we talk about  
12 being able to deliver to the point of need, especially for  
13 him, if he gets confirmed, he's going to be relying on  
14 TRANSCOM to make the strategic delivery to then get to where  
15 he is, and then to bridge the seams to the system that he  
16 has. That would not be possible without the host nation  
17 that is hosting him. In order for us to fly our aircraft,  
18 allies and partners actually give us access to the airspace.

19 And so, there are a multitude of contributions that  
20 they make just for the access and the basing, but we also  
21 rely on them for their infrastructure. And so, that's in  
22 airbase, that's a sea port, that's fuel storage, and the  
23 list goes on, and on, and on.

24 And so, in order to get this job done, having friends,  
25 and having partners to help is how we win. I also see that

1 as being our fundamental advantage against our adversaries.  
2 We simply have more friends than they do.

3 Senator Schmitt: And General Brunson, if you want to  
4 add, I know that you answered this with Senator Peters, so I  
5 can get a brief on later and don't want to have you repeat  
6 yourself, but that partnership's really important. But  
7 particularly on this maintenance issue, right? And by the  
8 way, our European allies, I think, have a lot to learn about  
9 burden sharing from the Republic of Korea. The percentage  
10 of their GDP they actually spend on defense, including that  
11 new airfield that's been constructed. There's a lot that  
12 NATO allies can learn from that. But did you want to chime  
13 in on that?

14 General Brunson: Yes, Senator, I did. Because what I  
15 think Randall brings up to be quite honest with you is the  
16 transition from strategic movement to operational maneuver.  
17 Once something hits the Peninsula, there's got to be an  
18 operation that takes care of that.

19 We benefit greatly. And I mentioned earlier to Senator  
20 Peters' question, APS-4 and how that's maintained in a  
21 marvelous fashion for us. But I think that there ought to  
22 be assessments done with where can Randall get things to  
23 have confirmed, and where do we need to take that as part of  
24 the theater responsibility to provide onward movement and  
25 integration into the theater of that material.

1           Senator Schmitt: One last question I wanted to ask,  
2 General Reed. There's been reports, and I know there's been  
3 hearings about. There's been reports about Chinese cargo  
4 cranes at various ports, posing an espionage risk, number  
5 one, and number two, perhaps even debilitating some of our  
6 critical infrastructure. Sort of follow-up on Senator  
7 Gillibrand's question. What do you know about that? What  
8 can be done about that?

9           That's a lot that's concerning because the CCP is  
10 continuing to try to acquire access to ports that we use.  
11 And if either one of you want to chime in on this. This  
12 seems to be kind of a big deal, that there's not a lot of  
13 discussion about. And just how you see that and some of the  
14 things that we might be able to do to thwart those efforts.

15          General Reed: Senator, I'm aware of the concern. I  
16 know that TRANSCOM is aware of the concern, and there are  
17 some things that they are doing for that from the air  
18 component perspective. I'm not privy deep into that. But  
19 if confirmed, absolutely, that'll be something to --

20          Senator Schmitt: Sure. General?

21          General Brunson: Yes, sir. As you may or may not  
22 know, we are wholly relying on the Ports of Olympia, Tacoma,  
23 and some a little bit further north of us, as far as SPODS  
24 go, within Washington State. We recognize the fact that the  
25 vulnerability is the ports and the networks at the port.

1 Your internet might be more secure than in your home than it  
2 is at some of our ports and facilities. And so, I think  
3 that wherever we are looking to push men, women, and  
4 material from, we've got to look at how do we harden those  
5 sites that they might not be vulnerable.

6 General Brunson: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman.

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. Senator  
9 Rosen, please.

10 Senator Rosen: Well, thank you, Chairman Reed, and of  
11 course, Ranking Member Wicker for holding this hearing. And  
12 I want to thank the witnesses, of course, for testifying,  
13 for your willingness to serve far.

14 I want to talk to you first, General Reed, about cyber  
15 resiliency. And I want to build upon an important topic  
16 brought up by members on this committee, because  
17 cybersecurity threats will they continue to grow, both in  
18 scale and sophistication. They pose significant threats to  
19 the operational resilience of our global logistics and  
20 transportation.

21 So, I have a kind of a three-part question for you.  
22 And I did a little disaster recovery back in a long time ago  
23 when I was a young computer programmer. But if confirmed,  
24 how are you going to ensure that your command is prepared  
25 to; number one, defend against; number two, operate through;



1 and number three, recover from cyberattacks?

2 I'll leave the long-term implications of cyberattacks  
3 somewhere else because it depends what the attack is for  
4 sure, but defend against, operate through, and recover. If  
5 you could talk about that please?

6 General Reed: Cyber resilience, Senator, begins with  
7 hygiene, and understanding what the networks are, what's  
8 connected to what, and how to keep the information clean is  
9 key. And so, I'm aware that TRANSCOM does that as well as  
10 all of the other components. And then good, just  
11 fundamental training with that as well, and being  
12 responsible with the information.

13 Additionally, since cyber is so connected between the  
14 government and the commercial world, having good quality  
15 relationships with the commercials is fundamental. In that,  
16 as part of the National Defense Transportation Association,  
17 there's actually a subcommittee specifically for cyber. And  
18 in that, all of the players who operate air, sea, rail  
19 whatever mode are part of that committee.

20 And we share best practices, and we do a lot of  
21 crosstalk at the same time. There are pieces of the  
22 government who can offer help if the companies want it. And  
23 then in the contracts that we let for their support, we  
24 mandate that they have to have a certain level of resiliency  
25 with that.

1 Recovery is all mission-focused. And understanding  
2 that we are a contribution to an agile lethal force, it's  
3 just one of those things that we're going to do, one of  
4 those things we have to do, one of those things we work  
5 through each day.

6 Senator Rosen: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.  
7 I'm going to turn to you General Brunson. We're going to  
8 talk about military family resilience. And speaking about  
9 families, it is really wonderful and obvious to see how much  
10 you care about your family, how much they care about you as  
11 your family proudly surrounds and supports you here today.  
12 Like all of us, we're lucky enough to be blessed with a  
13 supportive family, good and powerful thing, and parents.

14 But if confirmed they're going to remain an important  
15 pillar of support. I know for you and the forces you lead,  
16 but the U.S. Forces-Korea maintains a "fight tonight"  
17 mission that not only requires readiness of our forces to  
18 mobilize at a moment's notice, but also, again, we talk  
19 about resilience and preparedness of our families, right?

20 So, these families play a critical role in supporting  
21 our service members, their ability to stay focused, their  
22 ability to stay mission ready. So, some U.S. forces in  
23 Korea are accompanied by their families. Not everybody, of  
24 course, we know that. But in both scenarios, it's critical  
25 for service members to know that their families will be both

1 safe and taken care of should a military emergency arise.

2 So, if confirmed for families that are in Korea, how  
3 will you prioritize family resilience, family safety, as  
4 part of the overall "fight tonight" strategy? And what  
5 steps will you take to ensure military families are equipped  
6 and prepared for any scenarios that they might be faced  
7 during a heightened time of military tension or military  
8 conflict?

9 General Brunson: Senator, one of the things that's  
10 most important is -- I believe it's General Odierno who used  
11 to say that the soldier is a strength of the nation and the  
12 family is a strength of the soldier. I wholeheartedly  
13 believe that. And if confirmed, I think that one of the  
14 best steps that I could take is to communicate freely,  
15 openly, and often with the families of the affected tri-  
16 commands.

17 I think that information and the ability to explain to  
18 folks the things that they are given their lives to and what  
19 it means, what it requires, and what's required of them, and  
20 what them wearing the uniform denotes every day. I think  
21 that those are things that we have to do.

22 It's also equipping the installation with the resources  
23 and programs that help families to feel as if they're at  
24 home. The specter of conflict or crisis is always going to  
25 be there, but it's very important for us to have our

1 families there that soldiers might be stable. I know for a  
2 fact, if confirmed, that my wife and my son are coming with  
3 me. That changes things for me. That adds to my  
4 resilience. That adds to the strength of this soldier is  
5 improved every day I am with my family. But there are  
6 things that I think as a commander, I'll have to continually  
7 assess how are we doing it? Could we be doing this better?  
8 How are our families fairing? How are our schools, how are  
9 our hospitals how are our folks integrated into the  
10 community?

11 I believe that the facilities that exist there at Camp  
12 Humphreys are without peer. But there's always time to  
13 continue to assess and look at these things to ensure that  
14 our soldiers are able to do their best job. It's 28,500,  
15 which is a floor, but there's families beyond that that all  
16 have to be cared for in the same way we care for weapon  
17 systems, material, and equipment.

18 Senator Rosen: Thank you very much. Appreciate you  
19 both. My time is over.

20 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen, I will note  
21 that there is a vote on the floor. Senator Sullivan is  
22 recognized for five minutes, at least.

23 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want  
24 to thank the witnesses for their excellent service to our  
25 country, and their families for their great service in

1 support of them as well. It's very much appreciated.

2 General Reed, I want to dig into the issue of error  
3 refueling. The current TRANSCOM Commander, General Van  
4 Ovost testified in our April hearing before this committee,  
5 that aerial refueling was among her top readiness concerns.  
6 You expressed similar concerns in your advanced policy  
7 questions, the importance of air refueling, something that  
8 my state, the State of Alaska, is very familiar with.

9 Alaska-based tankers more than tankers based anywhere  
10 else in the country, are currently executing real-world  
11 missions in support of our national defense strategies.  
12 Number one priority, which is defense of the homeland. As  
13 I'm sure you've seen just in the last couple weeks, our KC-  
14 135s, which are associated with our International Guard have  
15 been performing at the highest level of readiness.

16 Intercepting Russian fighters just last weekend,  
17 intercepting joint Russian/Chinese strategic bombers coming  
18 into our -- five weeks ago intercepting and shooting down  
19 Chinese spy balloons over Alaska. This is all done with our  
20 tankers. And then of course, when we have Red Flag up in  
21 Alaska, the tankers are hugely needed for that massive  
22 exercise. It's been going on all summer, Northern Edge as  
23 well.

24 And then, as you know, General, any INDOPACOM conflict,  
25 the forces are going to flow from the Lower 48, through

1 Alaska, over to the INDOPACOM. As General Van Ovost said,  
2 air refueling is foundational to our nation's power  
3 projection advantage. It is our most stress capability.

4 One of my concerns, and if confirmed, I want to get  
5 your commitment to work with me on this. I have gone  
6 through Air Force leadership, General, C. Q. Brown, when he  
7 was Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the current Secretary  
8 of the Air Force, the last Secretary of the Air Force  
9 saying, hey, Senator, we know you need more tankers in  
10 Alaska. Makes strategic sense. KC-46s, oh, maybe not. KC-  
11 135s. Oh, we'll get four to you. Oh, maybe not. So, it's  
12 been a real frustration of mine because strategically the  
13 leadership I talked to in the Air Force is saying 100  
14 percent, we need more tankers in Alaska.

15 So, what's your view on where we are with regard to  
16 tankers for the country in Alaska? And can I get your  
17 commitment, if confirmed, to work with me on this? It's  
18 been a frustration of mine. Secretary of the Air Force, a  
19 couple years ago. General C. Q. Brown, a couple years ago,  
20 said, "Hey, we're not going to do KC-46s in Alaska." It  
21 doesn't make sense to me.

22 Had a lot of four stars saying, of course we are. But  
23 we're going to bring KC-135s there. Now, we're not doing  
24 that. I'm frustrated. I've been working on this issue for  
25 six years, and it makes strategic sense what I'm talking

1 about. So, can I get your commitment to work with me on  
2 this, and if confirmed, because it's a huge issue for  
3 TRANSCOM. And by the way, the TRANSCOM service members do  
4 such a great job. But do you have any thoughts on this,  
5 General?

6 General Reed: Senator, my reflections on this stems  
7 from my years of operating there off and on. And so, I know  
8 you also have concerns on the operating conditions in the  
9 High North and what our outstanding forces do when they're  
10 operating up there in flying transports and air refueling.  
11 I fully understand the importance of Alaska, importance of  
12 the region. Very, very proud of the airmen who have  
13 supported the fighters to protect the country. And very,  
14 very valuable piece of land there.

15 Senator, as you can tell from General Van Ovost and the  
16 statements that I made in my policy questions, tankers are  
17 absolutely vital and fundamental. We cannot maneuver the  
18 force. We cannot respond at the speed that we need to  
19 without a healthy tanker fleet. And if confirmed, one of  
20 the main things I'll do is I'll continue to push and  
21 advocate for making that fleet stronger in terms of where  
22 the tankers go and how they're positioned wherever they need  
23 to be. I will ensure that those tankers are there. It's  
24 obvious that I will have to work with you, and if you invite  
25 me to Alaska, I will certainly be there to see for myself.

1 Senator Sullivan: You're invited to Alaska.

2 General Reed: Thank you.

3 Senator Sullivan: There you go. So are you, General  
4 Brunson. One final quick question for you, General Brunson.  
5 What's your assessment of this new North Korean/Russia  
6 strategic partnership? The intel I'm reading is, it's more  
7 than just kind of a facade. It's quite concerning. Do you  
8 have any thoughts on that, General?

9 General Brunson: Yes, Senator. I think that one of  
10 the things that we have to continue to look at, we have to  
11 continue to try to understand what's coming back. The  
12 things that are going out, known seen, open press, and the  
13 like. I think as well that as we continue to see DPRK reach  
14 to other locations, I think we also have to be cognizant of  
15 the opportunities that we have. Because there might be a,  
16 between China and DPRK now that they're looking toward  
17 Russia.

18 I think that the quid pro quo relationship amongst the  
19 authoritarian colluders, I think that's going to be there.  
20 And I think that's the assailable flank that we have to deal  
21 with things early and often. I think that there are things  
22 in the IC that we can apply to these relationships that we  
23 might understand better. And I don't mean this in any  
24 marshal sense, but there are nodes that could be targetable  
25 outside of DPRK and other locations that would help us to



1 understand the illicit trade that's going on amongst these  
2 nations, sir.

3 Senator Sullivan: Great. Good answer. Thank you. I  
4 look forward to forwarding both of you gentlemen. Thank  
5 you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. Senator  
7 Scott, do you have no further questions? Well, I must  
8 confess that throughout the morning I've had this strange  
9 feeling of being addressed as General Reed. I was promoted,  
10 but I realized that's not the case.

11 Both of you have done an outstanding job. You have the  
12 experience, the background, and the values, which are  
13 essential to your roles, and I look forward to a speedy  
14 confirmation.

15 With that, I would adjourn the hearing. Thank you.

16 [Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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