

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

POSTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY IN REVIEW OF
THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR
2022 AND THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Washington, D.C.

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6
7 U.S. Senate

8 Committee on Armed Services

9 Washington, D.C.

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11 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., in
12 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed,
13 chairman of the committee, presiding.

14 Committee Members Present: Senators Reed [presiding],
15 Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Rosen,
16 Kelly, Inhofe, Wicker, Fischer, Cotton, Ernst, Tillis,
17 Sullivan, Scott, Blackburn, Hawley, and Tuberville.

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

3 Chairman Reed: The committee meets today to receive
4 testimony on the President's defense budget request for the
5 Army for Fiscal Year 2022. Our witnesses this morning are
6 Christine Wormuth, Secretary of the Army, and General James
7 McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army. Thank you both for
8 your service and willingness to appear before us today. And
9 I would also, on behalf of myself and my colleague, the
10 ranking member, wish the Army a happy birthday. It turned
11 246 years old yesterday, and we were in it long before its
12 246th anniversary, so happy birthday.

13 President Biden's defense budget request for fiscal
14 year 2022 includes approximately \$172.7 billion in funding
15 for the Army, a reduction of \$3.6 billion from the fiscal
16 year 2021 enacted budget. The Army's request focuses on
17 taking care of its people, maintaining and enhancing
18 military readiness, and innovating and modernizing, but it
19 does so in the face of these significant reductions. Budget
20 briefings indicate that the Army budget decreased while the
21 budgets of the Air Force and Navy increased, primarily
22 because of the focus on China as our pacing threat, and the
23 decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. The Army has thus
24 prepared a tightly crafted budget that prioritizes
25 modernization efforts over procurement and military

1 construction. With that in mind, I am interested in hearing
2 about the Army's view of the mission globally, especially in
3 the INDOPACOM theater, now and in the future. Further, we
4 would like to understand the risk the Army is assuming with
5 current funding projections.

6 The Army's most valuable asset has always been its
7 people. This budget request would increase funding for
8 military personnel by \$1.2 billion and support a total force
9 of just over one million soldiers. It also includes
10 adjustments for retirement compensation reform, recruiting
11 and retention incentives, and an across-the-board pay raise
12 for military and civilian personnel of 2.7 percent, an
13 important message to the workforce that begins to reverse
14 years of pay freezes and benefit cuts on our civilian
15 personnel.

16 The Army must continue to improve its readiness in the
17 context of long-term strategic competition. The Army's
18 ongoing focus on large training exercises, including the
19 Defender series in Europe and the Pacific, and its
20 leadership in the Project Convergence series, demonstrate
21 progress in the right direction. These large-scale events
22 not only test system capabilities and exercise critical
23 skill sets to include mobilization and deployment of the
24 force, they also facilitate joint and coalition training,
25 reflecting how we would fight in future operations. The

1 Army has also introduced the Regionally Aligned Readiness
2 and Modernization Model, or ReARMM, to synchronize all Army
3 components across regions and provide predictability to the
4 formations within the service: regular Army, National
5 Guard, and Army Reserves. This effort has great promise,
6 and I would ask our witnesses to elaborate on how the budget
7 request supports ReARMM and the Army's other important
8 readiness exercises and efforts.

9 The Army's budget request includes an overall decrease
10 in research, development, testing, and evaluation, RDT&E,
11 but makes important increases in several cutting-edge
12 technology areas. To remain competitive with China and
13 Russia, it is critical that we continue to invest in these
14 emerging technologies which will define future battlefields
15 across all domains. The Army specifically has been pursuing
16 modernization in the areas of long-range precision fires,
17 air and missile defense, soldier lethality, next-generation
18 combat vehicles, future vertical lift, and the
19 communications network. These are ambitious and far-sighted
20 objectives, but we must acknowledge that the Army has
21 historically struggled to effectively modernize.

22 The establishment of Army Futures Command, and the
23 associated reorganization of related commands, injected
24 tremendous energy into modernization efforts, and Congress
25 has provided the Army with wide latitude to make

1 programmatic and structural changes. Secretary Wormuth,
2 General McConville, I would ask that you update the
3 committee on the Army's modernization and RDT&E efforts and
4 what resources are needed to effectively continue them.

5 Finally, as I said at the opening, the Army is
6 fundamentally about people. In previous hearings before
7 this committee, you have both committed to the Army being a
8 "People First" organization, not just for soldiers, but
9 their families, Army civilians, and veterans. For too long,
10 issues such as racism, extremism, sexual harassment, and
11 sexual assault have, in too many instances, gone unchecked.
12 As we progress through this legislative year, the committee
13 will tackle many important policy issues, including how we
14 prevent and prosecute sexual assault and harassment in the
15 ranks. More than anything, cultural change within the force
16 is critical to reducing the number of sexual assaults and
17 related offenses. The President directed a review earlier
18 this year, and I know the Department and the Army have been
19 hard at work. I plan to incorporate the administration's
20 recommendations into the mark and look forward to debate and
21 votes on the issue.

22 Again, I thank the witnesses for their participation
23 today, and I look forward to their testimonies.

24 Now let me now recognize the ranking member, Senator
25 Inhofe.

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

3 Senator Inhofe: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Reed.
4 Ms. Wormuth and General McConville, thank you for being here
5 today and for all the great contributions you have made for
6 our safety in this country. And I also want to recognize
7 the 246th birthday. I will not tell you what the first
8 birthday in the United States Army was that I celebrated.
9 Well, yes, I will. It was the 172nd. I imagine it would
10 have been a happier birthday had the Army fared better in
11 the President's fiscal year 2022 budget request.

12 As I have often said, the world is the most dangerous
13 place that I have experienced certainly in my lifetime, and
14 we face a wide range of adversaries, the most dangerous of
15 which are an increasingly aggressive China and belligerent
16 Russia. At the same time, we must contend with rogue
17 nations like Iran and North Korea, as well as violent
18 extremist organizations.

19 Our strategic competitors have gone to school on the
20 American way of war, and they are rapidly modernizing their
21 militaries to exploit our vulnerabilities. China and Russia
22 combined are spending more to modernize their militaries
23 than we are. This is something that we have not been able
24 to say before.

25 This request is a cut to defense, and the Army is

1 bearing the brunt of it. This seems to always be the case
2 every time an administration tries to cut defense. And yet,
3 every time we cut the Army, we end up reversing those cuts
4 soon after. It is a shortsighted approach that fails to
5 recognize the strategic value the Army provides.

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

9 Procurement funding decreases \$4.2 billion, a
10 debilitating 11 percent cut, and military construction is
11 cut by 15 percent. As we watch our strategic competitors
12 make unprecedented investments in modernization, cuts like
13 this just do not make sense.

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

19 Chairman Reed: Well, thank you very much, Senator
20 Inhofe, and let me know recognize the Secretary of the Army,
21 Secretary Wormuth. Madam?

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1 STATEMENT OF HONORABLE CHRISTINE WORMUTH, SECRETARY OF
2 THE ARMY

3 Secretary Wormuth: Thank you, Chairman Reed, Ranking
4 Member Inhofe, and distinguished members of the committee.
5 Thank you for your continued support for our Army and our
6 people. It is a distinct privilege to appear before you
7 today. I would like to take a moment to thank General
8 McConville for his lifetime of service to the Army and to
9 our nation. He is a great partner and we are off to a
10 running start.

11 I am honored to be serving as Secretary of the Army and
12 to be working with Secretary Austin and Deputy Secretary
13 Hicks once again. I thank them for their continued
14 leadership.

15 As I have stepped into the role, all of 3 weeks, I am
16 impressed but not surprised to see the state of the Army and
17 the professionalism, hard work, and continued sacrifice of
18 our soldiers and leaders that make up the world's greatest
19 land fighting force. I would like to highlight a few key
20 observations on the state of our Army as I see them today.

21 First, the Army must continue to heavily invest in the
22 development of its people. People are the strength of our
23 Army. We are steadily working to enhance our force
24 structure, build inclusive leadership, and invest in
25 quality-of-life initiatives. Like my predecessors, I can

1 assure you that the character, culture, and climate within
2 our formations, at every installation, will reflect a
3 continued focus on placing people first. The harmful
4 behaviors of sexual assault and harassment, racism, and
5 extremism cannot and will not be tolerated.

6 We will purposefully work to stem the tide of suicides.
7 Our responsibility is to ensure every soldier and civilian
8 has the right leadership policies and resources to be safe
9 and successful among their teams so that they can continue
10 to be successful in our nation's defense.

11 Second, the Army is now a leader in new technology.
12 From our Army Futures Command to the cross-functional teams
13 to the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office
14 on down to fielding the next-generation soldier equipment
15 for individual unit members, the Army is prototyping and
16 experimenting with new capabilities and concepts. The Army
17 is at the forefront of developing and fielding new
18 technology in counter-UAS, directed energy, hypersonic
19 weapons, next-generation assured positioning navigation and
20 timing devices, pushing software coding to the edge, and in
21 many other areas.

22 Third, the Army is opening doors in the Indo-Pacific,
23 Europe, and beyond. The Army can be relied upon to engage
24 with our allies, foster partnerships, maintain deterrence,
25 and set conditions for success prior to or while engaging in

1 conflict. Deterrence requires boots on the ground, and the
2 DOD must be present to succeed in crises. The Army is
3 recognized around the world as an enduring, reliable partner
4 that can directly contribute by bringing resources,
5 training, and expertise. Our partnerships can lay the
6 groundwork for access and cooperation in contingencies.

7 Fourth, the next fight will be an all-domain conflict.
8 Future conflict will be in and across all domains with
9 ground forces to secure terrain, penetrate defenses, and
10 achieve objective. The Army's transformation is directly
11 aimed at supporting joint warfighting that will depend on
12 joint, all-domain command control, expeditionary joint
13 logistics, and joint maneuver across domains. As the Army
14 continues to modernize, we will maintain our overmatch
15 against near-peer adversaries, helping make future conflict
16 less likely by ensuring the costs to our adversaries
17 outweigh the benefits.

18 Finally, the Army's readiness gains in modernization
19 procurement requirements must be prioritized to continue.
20 The Army recognized years ago the need to modernize concepts
21 and capabilities to sharpen our global competitive edge.
22 Working in close coordination with you and Congress, we
23 established a deliberate, achievable path to deliver a
24 ready, modernized Army. Significant progress has been made,
25 but success can only be assured through future and continue

1 transformation. The Army has already made, and will
2 continue to make tough decisions to ensure the best use of
3 the resources we have to adapt to and to stay ahead of the
4 capabilities of our adversaries, whether they are near-peer
5 nations or newly emerging threats. The Army will also
6 compete successfully below the threshold of conflict.

7 The President's budget will help us to care for our
8 people, maintain and enhance military readiness, and
9 innovate and modernize. With your continued support we will
10 pivot to next-generation capabilities to assure we can win
11 now and in the future.

12 From what I have seen our Army is in great shape, but
13 we have important work ahead. I want to use this window of
14 opportunity to make certain that the Army will continue to
15 provide modernized and ready forces capable of responding
16 globally. I join General McConville in striving to ensure
17 we provide the Army with the resources it needs to succeed.
18 I know General McConville is eager to share his thoughts
19 with you as well, and I look forward to your questions and
20 our continued partnership. Thank you.

21 [The prepared statement of Secretary Wormuth and
22 General McConville follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Madam Secretary. General
2 McConville, please.

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1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL JAMES McCONVILLE, CHIEF OF STAFF
2 OF THE ARMY

3 General McConville: Well, I would like to thank the
4 Secretary for leading our Army during this critical time.
5 Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, distinguished members
6 of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here
7 today and for your continued support to the Army and our
8 people, our soldiers, our families, our civilians, and our
9 soldiers for life, our retirees, and veterans.

10 The Army currently has 485,000 active-duty soldiers and
11 a little more than 1 million in the total force. That is
12 roughly the same size Army that we had on 9/11. Army
13 soldiers are presently supporting combatant commanders
14 around the world in more than 140 countries. They form the
15 most lethal and decisive land force in the world, and they
16 stand ready to fight and win the nation's wars as part of
17 the Joint Force. I could not be more proud of each and
18 every one of them.

19 Since last October, the Army's priorities have been
20 people, readiness, and modernization, making us well aligned
21 with the emerging national security guidance. Putting
22 people first means recruiting and retaining the best talent
23 our nation has to offer, maximizing their potential, and
24 taking care of them. We are building a culture of cohesive
25 teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and fit, where

1 everyone is treated with dignity and respect. And that is
2 who we prevent the harmful behaviors that hurt our soldiers
3 and break trust with the American people, these being sexual
4 assault and harassment, acts of racism and extremism, and
5 death by suicide.

6 All three of my children, two sons and a daughter, plus
7 my son-in-law, are currently serving in the Army.

8 Providing a safe and secure environment for our
9 soldiers is not only my responsibility as the Chief of Staff
10 of the Army, it is also a deeply held personal commitment.
11 We win through our people, the best fighting forces in the
12 world, to ensure that soldiers and their units are masters
13 of their craft. This is why we are shifting to a
14 foundational readiness model that prioritizes training at
15 the company level and below first. The Army has rebuilt a
16 high level of readiness with the support of Congress, but
17 that readiness level is fragile. We must sustain that high
18 level of readiness while continuing our most comprehensive
19 transformation and modernization efforts in over 40 years.
20 That is the only way we will maintain our overmatch against
21 near-peer competitors and would-be adversaries.

22 This year we are turning our multi-domain operations
23 concepts into real doctrine. We are not only developing but
24 we are delivering our six modernization priorities,
25 including our 31+4 signature systems. With new doctrine,

1 organizations, and equipment, the Army is offering multiple
2 options to our combatant commanders and multiple dilemmas to
3 our competitors and adversaries. And we are doing so
4 alongside our sister services and alongside our allies and
5 partners. The U.S. Army never fights alone. We are the
6 strongest land force in the world, and a great source of
7 that strength comes from our allies and partners. As a
8 people-based organization, we are uniquely qualified to
9 foster these relationships.

10 Thank you for your continued support to America's sons
11 and daughters in uniform. I look forward to your questions.

12 [The prepared statement of General McConville follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, General McConville. As I
2 mentioned in my opening statement, and as is obvious to all,
3 the focus on Chinese as the pacing threat is taking a lot of
4 your attention and time. Also with the decision to withdraw
5 from Afghanistan that is adding additional, I think,
6 emphasis to the Indo-Pacific region.

7 Secretary Wormuth, with your policy and strategy
8 expertise, what do you see is the appropriate role of the
9 Army in Indo-Pacific?

10 Secretary Wormuth: Thank you, Chairman. I think there
11 are a number of roles for the Army in the INDOPACOM AOR
12 across the full spectrum of competition, if you will.
13 First, I think the Army is uniquely well positioned to serve
14 our nation in the competition phase. You know, many of the
15 chiefs of defense in the countries in Asia are actually Army
16 generals, and so they are particularly interested in
17 partnerships with our Army, and I know General McConville
18 has seen that in his many visits with his counterparts.

19 We can use those relationships to increase our
20 alliances and partnerships to deepen our relationships with
21 those countries so that, as I said in my opening statement,
22 in a time potentially where tensions are rising, we may be
23 able to leverage those positive relationships for access
24 that can be very helpful, and we are doing that with things
25 like our Security Force Assistance Brigades, with elements

1 of our multi-domain task force that right now is working out
2 of JBLM in Washington, and that we are going to build on in
3 the future.

4 And then moving up the spectrum of competition into
5 conflict, the Army, particularly with the modernization
6 programs we are pursuing, can do a number of things:
7 provide long-range precision fires, again through the
8 numerous programs we have there to go after maritime and air
9 targets. We can provide a layered air defense, which will
10 help us in terms of the anti-access and area denial
11 capabilities we face there. We are pursuing making sure we
12 have a survivable, resilient network, which we know we are
13 going to need given the counter-space capabilities that we
14 face.

15 So I think, again, as part of the Joint Force, the Army
16 can be very, very useful in terms of bringing options to the
17 combatant commander in INDOPACOM.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary.
19 General McConville, how do the Army modernization efforts
20 complement and support the strategy that the Secretary just
21 talked about?

22 General McConville: Yes, Chairman. As we take a look
23 at our modernization priorities, what they provide us is
24 speed, they provide us range, and they provide us this
25 concept of convergence, when we bring together all the

1 Army's systems and the joint systems and the future, even
2 our allies' and partners' systems, and that gives us the
3 decision dominance that we need, and quite frankly, the
4 overmatch we need to deter competitors and potential
5 adversaries. I would argue that we get deterrence through
6 strength. That strength comes from a strong Joint Force
7 working together, and it comes from strong allies and
8 partners, and we have strong allies and partners, as the
9 Secretary said, in the region.

10 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. Madam Secretary,
11 you just returned from Fort Hood. Senator Inhofe and I went
12 there in the wake of the serious situations that developed
13 there. There are many factors involved, but obviously
14 command climate, leadership engagement -- one of the more
15 disconcerting comments that I heard was from a sergeant
16 major, saying that the troops do not trust the commanders
17 and the commanders do not know the troops. That might be a
18 function of constant deployments and constant activity, but
19 still it cannot be tolerated.

20 Can you give us your comments and observations about
21 the positive changes that you have made and will make?

22 Secretary Wormuth: Certainly. We are very focused on
23 building cohesive teams down to the lowest level. So we
24 have launched the This is My Squad initiative, and the
25 Sergeant Major of the Army is our point man on that effort.

1 We are, as you know, completely redesigning the SHARP
2 program. We are also restructuring our Criminal
3 Investigative Division so that, among other things, we will
4 have more experienced investigators to handle these kinds of
5 special victim crimes.

6 And I want to share -- well, one other thing I will
7 touch on before I share just an observation. A very
8 important piece we have also undertaken is the Command
9 Assessment Program that really is revolutionizing how we are
10 selecting future leaders, and takes into account their past
11 performance on command climate. But I did a sensing session
12 with soldiers, myself alone in the room, and one of the
13 things I heard strongly was they feel that their commanders
14 do care. I think they think their commanders have a lot of
15 things on their plate that makes it hard for them to have
16 time to care, but there was a sense of caring that was very
17 clear.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. Senator Inhofe,
19 please.

20 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of
21 all, let's get another shot at the Army budget cuts. As I
22 stated in my opening remarks, the Army bears the brunt of
23 the disappointing President's budget request that
24 prioritizes a domestic agenda over national defense. And I
25 am reminded also of the amendment that I had on there for

1 parity between defense and non-defense. I will have to go
2 back and check, but I think this is the first time in 10
3 years or so that we have actually come out and said parity
4 is not something that is going to be pursued, and that is
5 the first time the statement has been made in a recorded
6 vote.

7 General McConville, please describe the impact -- I
8 will give you another shot at the same thing that you were
9 just now talking about -- and the risk of these cuts on the
10 Army's ability to modernize the force for competition, and
11 if necessary, if it should become necessary, conflict with
12 China and Russia, and to fulfill its obligation to the other
13 combatant commanders, which they would have to do at the
14 same time. Talk about capacity. Where do we stand with
15 that now?

16 General McConville: Well, Senator, as I said in my
17 opening statement, the end strength of the United States
18 Army is 485,000 on the active and a little over 1 million
19 when it comes to the total force. That is the same size
20 Army that we had right before 9/11. And as we all know, we
21 go to war with the Army we have, and we had to grow that
22 Army during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. And we
23 so have frozen that end strength at 485,000. Would we like
24 to have a bigger Army, depending on the strategy?
25 Absolutely. But with the budget we have we are trying to

1 bring forward the best Army that can fight tonight and win.

2 But also what I would argue, more importantly in the
3 future, as we watch our strategic competitors continue to
4 improve their capabilities, the budget gives us the most
5 efficient capability when it comes to readiness. If we are
6 going to send forces into harm's way they have got to be
7 ready. As the Secretary talked about, we are focusing on
8 the squad, platoon, and company level, to make sure that all
9 those soldiers are ready to go.

10 And then we have to modernize the Army. I would argue
11 every 40 years the Army has to transform. It did in 1940,
12 right before World War II, it did in 1980, when I came in
13 the Army. Most of the weapons we are using are 1980
14 vintage, and quite frankly, I think in 2020 we must do the
15 same. So we have done all we can with the Secretary and
16 myself to protect the modernization of the Army, and we
17 believe we must do that. And I have outlined in my unfunded
18 requirement letter to you those unfunded requirements that
19 were not met within the budget.

20 Senator Inhofe: Yeah. Well, in general, I am the
21 first to admit, with the budget that we have, you guys are
22 just doing great. We do not have an adequate budget. That
23 is the problem that we have. Let's look into the future of
24 the cuts. It always seems like when the administration
25 wants to cut defense it goes after the Army first, and when

1 President Obama reduced defense he cut the Army's base
2 budget by \$70 billion and cut end strength by nearly 90,000.
3 So that was a problem that we were dealing with at that
4 time. These cuts left the Army with only one brigade combat
5 team at the highest level of readiness. It took nearly half
6 a decade, and \$100 billion of additional funding to fix it.

7 Now, Secretary Wormuth, while we the Army has worked
8 hard in this request to preserve end strength and limit
9 reductions to its highest modernization priorities, would
10 this be possible with additional budget cuts the next year
11 and the year after that? We all tend to look at where we
12 are today, and I am concerned right now, with the trends
13 that are out there, where we are going to be with budget
14 cuts in the near future. What do you think?

15 Secretary Wormuth: Thank you, Senator Inhofe. As you
16 know, Secretary Austin has undertaken both a new national
17 defense strategy review as well as a global posture review,
18 and we, of course, in the Army, are participating in both of
19 those efforts. And I think it will be very important in
20 terms of looking to the future to look at how that new
21 strategy is developed and what it requires the Army to do.
22 And I would agree with you certainly that we are in a very,
23 very tough international security environment. There is no
24 shortage of threats.

25 So I think as General McConville and I go forward into

1 future POM builds we are going to have to be looking
2 carefully at what does the strategy call upon us to do, what
3 do we think are the current demands from combatant
4 commanders, and can we meet those current demands while also
5 protecting our modernization efforts, which is going to be
6 critical? And particularly having seen everything we are
7 doing at Fort Hood, and again, the challenge of taking care
8 of our people while also meeting current mission
9 requirements, I think we are having set end strength at
10 485,000, we are still under stress, particularly in certain
11 areas like air defense, as you know. So we are going to be
12 strong advocates going into the future budget discussions.

13 Senator Inhofe: Yeah. Well, I do not have any doubt
14 of that, and I know that you are fully aware of the problems
15 that exist if we have reductions, which I lot of people,
16 including myself, are concerned with. So I appreciate the
17 fact that we have the two of you at the helm at this given
18 time, but it is going to take more resources.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Inhofe. Senator
21 Shaheen, please.

22 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Secretary Wormuth and
23 General McConville, for being here this morning and for your
24 service.

25 The National Guard plays a critical role both in adding

1 to the total force of the Army but also in the welfare of
2 each of our states. I do not know how New Hampshire could
3 have gotten through the last year and a half with the
4 pandemic without the National Guard. We had the highest
5 percentage of our force structure per capita activated in
6 response to the Guard. And it has come to my attention that
7 there was a recent letter sent by members of the Florida,
8 California, and Texas congressional delegations to the
9 Secretary of Defense that requested larger Guard end
10 strength levels in line with the per capita size of their
11 states. For a small state like New Hampshire, that is
12 especially troubling to think about what that means for the
13 future.

14 So can you talk about how we strike the balance between
15 the needs of those large states and small states that have
16 our Guard both working on state missions but are also being
17 activated for the national missions as well?

18 Secretary Wormuth: Certainly, Senator Shaheen, and I
19 would ask General McConville to expand on this. When it
20 comes to looking at the National Guard, first I want to
21 agree that they have done a fantastic job all around the
22 country this year. It has really been incredible, whether
23 it has been helping us respond to COVID, natural disasters,
24 or securing the Capitol here more recently.

25 We need to look at both what the overseas requirements

1 are for the National Guard and how they fit into our
2 contingency plans around the world, whether it is Europe or
3 in Asia. That is part of what we think about when it comes
4 to looking at the size. But we also, of course, look at
5 their support to civil authorities here at home, and try to
6 look at that very holistically. That is something we look
7 at each year as we go through our total Army analysis, and I
8 think, you know, we would want to look carefully at making
9 adjustments, particularly significant adjustments.

10 But, General McConville, you may want to add to that.

11 General McConville: I think the Secretary -- you know,
12 one thing that I do want to say about the National Guard,
13 this has been the year of the Army National Guard. I could
14 not be more proud of what they have done in their
15 communities. They have been there. They have been all over
16 the place. I just could not be more proud of them. And I
17 think, Senator, it comes to balance. You know, we have big
18 states and we have little states. What we want to do is
19 work with each of the states, make sure we know what their
20 requirements are. As we transform the Army, we are working
21 very closely with their leadership. You know, we have
22 certain states that would like to have certain type units
23 that are more beneficial for how they operate within their
24 state, but also the type of people that want to serve in the
25 Army, there are some states that have better opportunities

1 than others.

2 So as the Secretary said, we need to work very, very
3 closely with them, with you all, and come forward with what
4 the Army looks like, what the National Guard, what the total
5 force looks like in the future.

6 Senator Shaheen: So we should not expect to see an
7 announcement any time soon that will dramatically cut the
8 size of small states' Guard forces to the benefit of large
9 states?

10 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, I would not expect -- you
11 should not expect to see that. Again, if we are going to
12 make adjustments to the distribution of Guard force around
13 the country, that is something that the Chief and I are
14 going to want to look at carefully.

15 Senator Shaheen: And consult with Congress, I assume.

16 Secretary Wormuth: Absolutely.

17 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Secretary Wormuth, in
18 your opening statement you talked about future conflicts
19 being all-domain conflicts. Do you see hybrid warfare as an
20 all-domain conflict?

21 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, I think certainly hybrid
22 conflict or gray zone conflict, as some people refer to it,
23 can take place in multiple domains. So, for example, you
24 may have the little green men that we saw that Russia put
25 into Ukraine --

1 Senator Shaheen: That we are still seeing in Ukraine.

2 Secretary Wormuth: -- correct, while at the same time
3 you see cyber warfare and information operations, for
4 example. So I do think that hybrid or gray zone conflict
5 can be multi-domain.

6 Senator Shaheen: Well, where I am going with this is
7 concern about how we are preparing to respond to that kind
8 of hybrid or gray zone warfare, because so far we have not
9 been as successful as I would like to see us. And so how do
10 we address that, going forward, as we are looking at
11 preparing our Army?

12 Secretary Wormuth: I think we do need to do more in
13 that area, and I would anticipate that that is something,
14 again, that in the strategy review it is going to be looked
15 at, because I think we need to build out our thinking about
16 how to operate effectively in that zone. In particular, in
17 the Army, you know, we first of all had been investing for
18 some time now in additional cyber capabilities, for example.
19 We have been paying attention to cybersecurity but also
20 building out or cyber protection teams and doing a lot of
21 work with Army Cyber Command.

22 We also see, you know, in the Multi-Domain Task Force
23 formation an information operations capability, an
24 electronic warfare capability, and those are the kinds of
25 capabilities I think that we can bring to bear in gray zone

1 situations. We, of course, also have Special Forces, you
2 know, who can go back to the more traditional unconventional
3 warfare that was sort of some of their roots in the Cold
4 War.

5 So those are, I think, all things that the Army can do,
6 but again, the Chief may want to add.

7 General McConville: So I think you make a very
8 important point, and I think we find ourselves at an
9 inflection point right now. You know, over the last 20
10 years we were really focused on irregular warfare,
11 counterinsurgency, counterterrorism. We have to be ready
12 for gray zone, hybrid, but really being contested in what we
13 call every single domain. So, you know, we are going to be
14 contested in cyber, you know, and then the question becomes
15 is that conflict or how does that work? We are going to be
16 contested with a lot of type of systems that we use, all the
17 way back to the United States. And so we are preparing for
18 that.

19 The second thing is the information influence
20 operations are going to change the way we operate in the
21 future. I would argue, in some cases, information advantage
22 may be more important than even the type of operations that
23 are going on on the ground. We go back to some of the, you
24 know, winning without fighting. You can do that, in some
25 cases, with information operations. Our competitors are not

1 constrained the way they operate in that sphere, and we have
2 to take that very seriously when it comes to cyber
3 information operations and some of the other domains. And
4 we are preparing our forces and our troops to be able to
5 operate in that environment.

6 Senator Shaheen: I could not agree more, having just
7 come back from Europe where they are very concerned about
8 those operations in Russia.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Shaheen. Senator
11 Ernst, please.

12 Senator Ernst: Thank you both very much for coming to
13 the committee this morning and for testifying in front of
14 us, and most certainly and most importantly, for your
15 service to our great United States.

16 I appreciate the efforts that you are truly making to
17 put our people first. I think that is extremely important.
18 But you also must meet mission requirements, modernize the
19 force, and adapt to the new challenges and threats that we
20 see presented before us. And as we withdraw from
21 Afghanistan, which will be a significant emotional event for
22 those that have been involved in actions there, as well as
23 their families, I want to commend the force very much and
24 thank them for their service, and your leadership, for the
25 tremendous efforts and accomplishments that we have seen in

1 that theater of operations. For 20 years, the Army, along
2 with our Joint Force, our allies and partners, have kept
3 those threats at bay and away from our homeland.

4 So now, of course, the Army does face new challenges,
5 and I am very concerned about this administration's budget
6 as it comes to meeting the needs of the Army. So, Madam
7 Secretary, the Army is executing its modernization strategy,
8 per the 2018 NDAA. And you state that the games you have
9 made are real, but fragile, and I agree.

10 As the only service that is facing real budget cuts
11 this year, how do you intend to keep the gains that you have
12 made?

13 Secretary Wormuth: Senator Ernst, I think to preserve
14 the gains that we have made we are going to have to balance
15 multiple dimensions of the Army, inside of its budget.
16 First we are going to have to continue to seek, wherever we
17 can, efficiencies and reforms. As you know, my predecessors
18 and General McConville have done a few cycles of what was
19 called "night court" to be able to identify funding that we
20 could move internally. You know, the big fish have been
21 fished out of that pond. At this point there are more small
22 fish and minnows left there. But we need to keep seeking
23 those efficiencies where we can.

24 I think we need to work with the Secretary and the
25 combatant commanders to really scrub our current operational

1 requirements, to see if we can find places where we may be
2 able to take pressure off of the Army. And then I think we
3 will have to look carefully at how we make sure, with the
4 resources that we have, that we continue to put people first
5 but really protect those modernization programs. You know,
6 we are playing the long game now, and we have some time to
7 be able to pursue our modernization program. But we really
8 need to keep that, I think, front and center, because our
9 soldiers are our most important asset and they need those
10 new capabilities, those new next-generation weapons systems
11 to be able to execute their missions in the future.

12 So we are going to have to, you know, look very
13 carefully across the whole budget, going forward.

14 Senator Ernst: Yes, and I think this will be a very
15 delicate balance as we move forward.

16 And so both for you, Secretary, and for you, General
17 McConville, as well, the budget significantly reduces the
18 R&D funding, meaning that development, experimentation, and
19 advancement as we are modernizing our force will be
20 hamstrung, even as we are facing continuing evolving
21 threats. So as we are making that balance, you have
22 mentioned the unfunded requests that have gone forward, how
23 would you prioritize, if you could today, if we had
24 unlimited dollars to send your direction, what would those
25 priorities be, and why?

1 General McConville: Senator, one of the things on the
2 research and development -- and I will come back to
3 priorities -- is we have aligned about 74 percent of our
4 science and technology against the 31+4 systems. And so we
5 have really moved everything we can do.

6 So as far as priorities, we have some installation
7 priorities. We often talk about what would be the top
8 priorities. We have some people priorities right now that
9 we would like to finish. We have barracks, we have housing,
10 we have some child development centers that are all in
11 there. It is about people first, and we would like to get
12 those completed. They are in the unfunded requirements.

13 We also have what we call "enduring systems." We have
14 focused on the 31+4, the modernization systems, but we also
15 have Abrams tanks, we have Paladin howitzers, we have Apache
16 helicopters, we have Black Hawks, we have other weapons
17 systems that are going to be here enduring, that we need to
18 modernize our forces, we need to modernize the National
19 Guard with, so they have the forces when they go off to
20 conflict. And those systems are going to be around for the
21 next 20, 30, 40 years. And so we are improving them, and as
22 the new systems come on, some of those systems will be
23 divest and some will not. And so those are where the
24 priorities are, at least for the Army.

25 Senator Ernst: Thank you very much. I think that is

1 an important point is that while we are seeking to modernize
2 the force, we do have legacy systems as well that will need
3 to be maintained until we see the realization of
4 modernization.

5 So again, thank you both very much for your service.
6 Trying times for all of us. We certainly are here to
7 support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Ernst. Senator
9 Hirono, please.

10 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary
11 Wormuth, first of all congratulations on your well-deserved
12 confirmation.

13 Let me start with, we have all acknowledged the
14 importance of sensing our allies, and so what unique tools
15 is the Army investing in to enable joint interoperability
16 with our allies, and what can the Army do to further
17 strengthen U.S. military relations with our allies and
18 partners in the region? And I am talk about, in particular,
19 within the Indo-Pacific region.

20 Secretary Wormuth: I understand, Senator Hirono. It
21 is very nice to see you in person, and thank you for your
22 well wishes.

23 A few things in terms of interoperability with our
24 partners. First of all, again, many of the countries in the
25 INDOPACOM AOR are led by chiefs of defense who come from

1 their armies. So one thing that we have that I think helps
2 us build our alliances and partnerships is those army-to-
3 army relationships. And, you know, they very much want to
4 train with us, to exercise with us, to learn from us, and in
5 many cases, purchase our various weapons systems. So those
6 are all things that we can build on. And those exercises
7 are part of what helps us with building interoperability.

8 We are moving, with our Project Convergence campaign of
9 learning, that started last year and was largely Army
10 centric, this year it will be a joint undertaking, but we
11 are building towards bringing together some of our allies
12 and partners from the INDOPACOM AOR to be able to work with
13 us and experiment with us and look at using prototypes. So
14 we also are working to try to bring our allies and partners
15 in on the ground floor of developing these new, joint
16 warfighting concepts.

17 Senator Hirono. I think the mil-to-mil relationships
18 have always been the area where we have strong alliances,
19 and would you acknowledge also that diplomacy plays a major
20 part in all of this?

21 Secretary Wormuth: Absolutely, and frankly, my own
22 view is that to make the kind of progress that we would like
23 to see, particularly in terms of access and being able to
24 have more presence in the region that has to be led by our
25 diplomats. And the Department of Defense, the Department of

1 State, the White House, we all need to work together, and
2 frankly, we need to work with our agencies that have
3 economic and trade responsibilities as well. But I think we
4 need to have a whole-of-government approach to really help
5 us get to where we want to be in that region.

6 Senator Hirono: I agree. So moving on, on the issue
7 of sexual assault and harassment, Secretary Wormuth and
8 General McConville, for a number of years now senior DOD
9 leaders have briefed us, basically from my seat countless
10 times, on the need to eliminate the scourge of sexual
11 violence in the military. To the credit of the DoD and the
12 military, yes, a number of attempts have been made, but we
13 still are confronted with the scourge, and, in fact, the
14 Fort Hood report that came out at the end of last year
15 described the installation as having, quote, "a permissive
16 environment for sexual assault," end quote, where junior
17 enlisted personnel did not trust the chain of command. And
18 I think you mentioned that there is a need to increase trust
19 in the military, and it is not just in the sexual assault
20 situation, of course, but in other instances.

21 So for both of you, do you think moving sexual
22 harassment investigations, for example, outside the
23 immediate chain of command would help to restore trust in
24 the system?

25 Secretary Wormuth: Senator Hirono, I had the

1 opportunity to go and visit Fort Hood last week and see
2 first-hand, frankly, a lot of the steps that the Army is
3 taking, at that installation in particular, to try to really
4 get after the command's climate issues. And I think where
5 we are really going to see results in terms of driving down
6 the prevalence of sexual harassment and sexual assault is
7 through prevention. So I am very interested in seeing
8 things like the redesign of our SHARP program, doing This is
9 My Squad initiative that really tries to bring leaders
10 taking care of our soldiers down to the lowest level.

11 That said, accountability is an important piece of the
12 issue as well and I think can play a role. I am open-minded
13 to looking at how best to do that. I think increasing the
14 specialization of our folks responsible for prosecuting
15 these kinds of crimes would be beneficial, and I am open to
16 looking at this, and have been asked to be a part of the
17 conversation with Secretary Austin on this matter.

18 Senator Hirono: Mr. Chairman, if I could just do one
19 short follow-up.

20 Chairman Reed: Yes, ma'am.

21 Senator Hirono: So I mentioned sexual harassment
22 because right now that is not a separate charge under UCMJ,
23 and I do have a bill to move in that direction. I certainly
24 welcome your support of that. And yes, we want to move
25 toward prevention. But there will be an effort to remove

1 the prosecutorial discretion on investigations and
2 prosecutions out of the chain of command. There will be an
3 effort to do that relating to sexual-related offenses. I
4 mentioned that because that is the direction that I think we
5 need to go.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hirono. Senator
8 Cotton, please.

9 Senator Cotton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you
10 both for your appearance.

11 Secretary Wormuth, when you were here for your
12 confirmation hearing you agreed with me that the Army
13 University Press should not remove the term "Union Army"
14 from its publications. Have you had a chance to address
15 that issue yet?

16 Secretary Wormuth: Senator Cotton, I apologize. I
17 have not had the chance to address that yet, given that I
18 have been here 3 weeks, but as I said to you in my hearing,
19 I will look into that and talk to the folks at Army
20 University Press.

21 Senator Cotton: Thank you. I understand it has been a
22 short time and you have got a lot of other pressing issues,
23 but as I said then and I will say again, if it was good
24 enough for U.S. Grant, I think it is good enough for our
25 troopers today.

1 For both Secretary and General McConville I want to
2 speak to you about the nearly decade-long effort to replace
3 the Army Physical Fitness Test with the Army Combat Fitness
4 Test, to test our soldiers on physical fitness that is a bit
5 more applicable to the tasks on the battlefield, and also to
6 make it gender neutral. There are reports of further Combat
7 Fitness Test redesigns and changing standards associated
8 with the test have made for a somewhat confusing story and
9 heated debate. Can you clarify for us the obstacles that
10 are currently facing the Combat Fitness Test, whether it
11 will remain gender neutral and how the Army is seeking to
12 implement the test now?

13 Secretary Wormuth: Certainly, Senator, and again, I
14 would ask General McConville to build on my answer. But
15 first of all it is very important that we have our soldiers
16 be physically fit for a demanding environment on the future
17 battlefield, and one of the reasons that the Army has
18 pursued the ACFT is to try to raise our overall fitness
19 level while reducing injury. So that was the impetus.

20 We are continuing to look at how to finalize the design
21 for the ACFT. We are continuing to have gender-neutral
22 standards. We have made some changes, as you know, moving
23 from the leg tuck to making the plank an option. But we are
24 waiting for the results of a study from RAND that has been
25 required by Congress, and we are not going to make any final

1 decisions about the test until we have the results of that
2 and we can understand how the test is going to both improve
3 our fitness but also potentially what it might do in terms
4 of our ability to recruit specialized skills like cyber and
5 doctors and things of that nature. But why don't I let the
6 Chief build.

7 Senator Cotton: General?

8 General McConville: I think the science behind the
9 Army Combat Fitness Test is really about reducing injuries.
10 As we have taken a look at the Army Physical Fitness Test
11 over the -- in fact, I was there when it was implemented, I
12 hate to say, it was 40 years ago, and it is time to
13 transform that test, to take advantage of the capabilities
14 we have today. As we take a look at it, as the Secretary
15 said, we are examining the impact on the force. I took it
16 last week, for record. I think it is a good test. And what
17 we want to do is move forward in implementation, based on
18 the study. And I think it is going to have a more fit
19 force, which is something that we need as we move in the
20 future.

21 Senator Cotton: Do you want to share you score, for
22 the record?

23 General McConville: 478, for the record.

24 Senator Cotton: That is good. I am sure all your joes
25 around are going to try to beat that now.

1 General, are you committed, as well, to maintaining
2 gender neutrality on the test?

3 General McConville: I am.

4 Senator Cotton: Is there any consideration to pegging
5 scores towards branch or MOS?

6 General McConville: Well, I think the future, at least
7 if I could make a recommendation in the future, is as we
8 move to more of a talent management model in the Army, you
9 know, if you are an airborne ranger, which is a fitness type
10 organization, if you are in the 101st Airborne Division or
11 the 82nd, well, you know, I would say from talent management
12 you want people with a certain level of physical fitness.

13 If you are doing something else, you are a neurosurgeon, you
14 might be more concerned with that person that can operate at
15 a Level VI level than, you know, lead the battalion in PT.

16 So I think what we want to get to -- at least I do --
17 is move away from an Industrial Age personnel management
18 system to a 21st century talent management system where we
19 recruit people, we select people, and we, quite frankly,
20 promote people based on the knowledge, skills, behaviors
21 that they have within their specialized area. But we still
22 want a certain level of fitness in the Army.

23 Senator Cotton: Yeah. I think the Army needs to
24 consider that. You know, loading a round into a tank gun or
25 a Howitzer has to be done, whether you are a man or a woman.

1 General McConville: That is right.

2 Senator Cotton: It requires a certain level of
3 physical fitness. But that is a different level of physical
4 fitness than it takes to be a flight surgeon or to be a
5 cybersecurity specialist.

6 One last question for you, General. In the last
7 decade, I think maybe when you were Vice Chief, the Army
8 stood up the Security Force Assistance Brigades.

9 General McConville: Yes.

10 Senator Cotton: They were primarily active in
11 Afghanistan. Now that we will be out of Afghanistan in a
12 few weeks and our national security strategy has postured
13 towards competition against near-peer rivals like China and
14 Russia, what do you see as the future of those SFABs, and
15 what role are they going to play for the Army in the future?

16 General McConville: They are in tremendous demand.
17 You know, the question was what are you doing in Indo-
18 Pacific. The 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade is
19 active. They are employed. They are building partner and
20 allies capacity and capability, and quite frankly, they are
21 one of the hottest items that are out in each combatant
22 commanders, providing great options to professionalizing the
23 force within these countries. And as we talked about, we
24 are getting our strength, not only from having a strong
25 military but through our allies and partners, and they are

1 instrumental in doing that, and they are building tremendous
2 relationships for us right now, as we speak.

3 So each of the Security Force Assistance Brigades is
4 oriented to a combatant commander and they are using them
5 very well.

6 Senator Cotton: Thank you, General. Thank you,
7 Secretary.

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cotton. Senator
9 Kelly, if you are ready, you could be recognized.

10 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
11 appreciate you having this hearing today. Thank you to
12 Secretary Wormuth and General McConville.

13 Secretary Wormuth, Arizona is home to some of the
14 Army's most capable test ranges, like Fort Huachuca's
15 Electronic Proving Ground and the Yuma Proving Ground. Both
16 installations play an important role in the mission of our
17 Army Futures Command and also an important role for DEVCOM.

18 At Yuma alone, 30 percent of the workload is dedicated
19 to DEVCOM developmental testing. Yuma is also the home, or
20 the host of Project Convergence, a critical modernization
21 project designed to further integrate the Army into the
22 Joint Force and test the effectiveness of concepts and
23 equipment that will prepare us for future conflicts.

24 The defense contractor workforce at these ranges works
25 side-by-side with uniformed and civilian personnel to

1 execute the mission. Now I am concerned by reductions in
2 funding for these range support functions. Electronic
3 Proving Grounds at Fort Huachuca and Yuma Proving Ground is
4 seeing some of these funding reductions.

5 These are premier testing sites for the advanced
6 systems that will modernize America's Army. It is critical
7 that we invest not only in programs but in range
8 infrastructure -- it is often the thing that is left out --
9 but also investing in the workforce that allows us to make
10 leaps in technology, providing our soldiers with the best
11 equipment to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

12 Secretary Wormuth, what would be the risks involved in
13 decreasing funding for test range support, including for the
14 government and contractor workforce, at a time when
15 modernization is a top priority of the Army?

16 Secretary Wormuth: Thank you, Senator Kelly. As you
17 mentioned, Arizona, and Yuma, is going to be the host for
18 Project Convergence. Has been. I am excited to go out
19 there this fall and see the next Project Convergence, which
20 we are scaling up.

21 To your question, you know, given the budget that the
22 Army has, we have made some difficult choices. But we have
23 done everything we can to protect our modernization programs
24 and the testing facilities and ranges that we believe are
25 needed to support those programs, as well as the contractors

1 to support that kind of testing. That said, I have not yet
2 been able to come out to Yuma and Fort Huachuca, and would
3 welcome doing that in the future and talking with you about
4 your concerns, because again, it is very important that we
5 preserve adequate ranges to do the kind of testing that we
6 need for the future. So this is something I would be happy
7 to work with you on and have a dialogue about.

8 Senator Kelly: I appreciate that. I would love to
9 visit with you at Fort Huachuca, at Yuma Proving Ground. If
10 we are going to stay ahead of our adversaries, we are going
11 to do it by out-innovating them, and to innovating our near-
12 peer adversaries we need to test the equipment. So we need
13 ranges and test centers that can support those functions.

14 General, for the past 20 years the Army has focused
15 efforts and resources on conflicts in the Middle East. At
16 the same time, our adversaries were focused on outpacing us
17 through military modernization efforts. Modernization is
18 critical to staying ahead of our adversaries, and when done
19 effectively can function as a deterrent. We know that
20 future wars will look different than current conflicts, and
21 the Army will need to use resources and equipment
22 efficiently across a range of domains to meet tomorrow's
23 challenges.

24 Knowing the important role that basic research plays,
25 are you concerned about the decreases to Army science and

1 technology funding, and is there a plan to reinvest in this
2 area for future years?

3 General McConville: You know, as we take a look at the
4 budget we are always concerned about making cuts, and, you
5 know, what the Secretary and myself have to do is we have to
6 look across the portfolio and determine what are the must-
7 must-dos. And for science and technology, we have
8 reoriented our resources so they are focused on our top
9 priorities. I think it is like 71 or 72 percent of our
10 research and development, our science and technology dollars
11 are focused on delivering the 31+4 top systems. And could
12 we use more money in those other areas? Absolutely. But
13 the Secretary and myself have got to make tough decisions,
14 and those tough decisions are based on the priorities we
15 need to be effective in the future.

16 Senator Kelly: Thank you, General, and thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Kelly.
19 Let me now recognize Senator Blackburn.

20 Senator Blackburn: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam
21 Secretary, just a quick question for you. Kingsport,
22 Tennessee, has the Holston Ammunition facility, and it is a
23 main supplier of explosive materials to the Department of
24 Defense. And Holston is on the Army's unfunded priorities
25 list, along with similar facilities there in Virginia,

1 Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Iowa. Total request for
2 modernization is \$40 million. And these are basically World
3 War II-era facilities, and we need that money for
4 modernization of these facilities. So I would call this to
5 your attention, and I would ask that you commit to me that
6 you will work on this, to modernize these facilities.

7 Secretary Wormuth: Thank you, Senator Blackburn. It
8 is nice to see you in person, first of all.

9 You know, as General McConville developed the unfunded
10 requirements list, those are obviously things that we would
11 like to have if we had additional funding, and we have tried
12 to give you a sense of how we would prioritize them. As the
13 Chief just said, with the resources we have had we have had
14 to make difficult choices, but certainly going forward I
15 would commit to you to look into the ammunition facilities
16 there and try to, for myself, develop a better idea of how
17 it fits in with other places in the country that provide
18 similar capabilities to us.

19 Senator Blackburn: And I think it is appropriate that
20 we review that but that we make certain we have modernized
21 these facilities, because they are a part of our supply
22 chain, if you will.

23 General, good to see you. There are a lot of people
24 from Fort Campbell that fondly remember your and Ms.
25 McConville's time on post, and so we thank you for that.

1 O&M cuts and our concerns that are around these, given
2 the aviation mishaps that have occurred, not only with the
3 Guard but also with the 160th SOAR, and I know that you are
4 very familiar with these incidences. So talk to me a little
5 bit about how we are going to get in behind this equipment.
6 I know that you have heard, I have heard it from some of our
7 men and women, where they get the order to make it work when
8 they are doing maintenance and repair or find a way to get
9 to yes. And we want to be smart. Sometimes shortcuts do
10 not serve us well, and our men and women in uniform deserve
11 to know that when they get into that equipment that that
12 equipment is going to allow them to fulfill their mission.

13 General McConville: First of all, Senator, thank you,
14 and I have got a special place in heart for Fort Campbell,
15 and I have two kids serving there, and it is very special.
16 You make a great point on Army aviation. Pilots have to
17 have the flying hours to train. They have to have that.
18 And our maintainers have to have the time to maintain those
19 aircraft, and they have to have the resources. And so as we
20 pressurize the budget, as we push on these type things, you
21 know, we start -- especially with trends, as the Secretary
22 talked about. I worry about trends, because trends start
23 moving you in a certain direction, and you slowly start
24 taking away things, you know, just a few less hours, a few
25 more this, a few more those type things. And then you find

1 out you have some very serious concerns.

2 So I am concerned about that. I am committed to making
3 sure that our units have the flying hours that they need to
4 be proficient, and really more than proficient, that they
5 can do their job in combat, and I am committed to making
6 sure that they are getting the parts and they have the
7 expertise to maintain those aircraft.

8 Senator Blackburn: Well, and as you know, I went to
9 bat more than once to get dollars for those flying hours and
10 to make certain that those were there.

11 I have got additional questions for each of you, but my
12 time is going to be running out. I will submit these to
13 writing. And General, I am going to come to you with a
14 question on end strength as it relates to this budget. I am
15 very concerned about the impact that that is having on our
16 military personnel and their families, the uncertainty that
17 that has inserted into their lives.

18 So I thank each of you for your time and your service,
19 and Mr. Chairman, thank you.

20 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Blackburn. Let me
21 now recognize Senator Blumenthal, please.

22 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
23 you both for being here this morning. Thank you for your
24 service.

25 I do not know whether you have seen the report by the

1 Associated Press on weapons belonging to all of the military
2 services that have been lost or stolen, and apparently have
3 been unaccounted for. I hope you have. I commend it to
4 you. This report is absolutely blood-curdling. The idea
5 that pistols, assault weapons, grenade launchers are missing
6 from armories of the United States military because they
7 have been lost or stolen, without any apparent account,
8 without any reporting to Congress or to the FBI or to the
9 agency, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, that may have
10 jurisdiction as well, is just incredibly alarming and
11 astonishing. And I would like to get from both of you what
12 you know about it and your commitment that you will, in
13 fact, investigate these reports.

14 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, I did see that report in
15 the press, and certainly we take this situation very, very
16 seriously. You know, we train our soldiers to maintain
17 accountability of their weapons. That is a basic skill and
18 responsibility that we expect from our soldiers. My
19 understanding is that the cases of weapons from any branch
20 of the services being unaccounted for and getting into the
21 hands of civilians is likely to be a small number, but
22 particularly given these reports I commit to you that this
23 is something that we will look into and certainly make sure
24 we have situational awareness of that situation in the Army.

25 Senator Blumenthal: Well, this is a public report, and

1 1,900 firearms is not exactly a small number. Apparently, a
2 substantial number are used in crimes, have been recovered
3 at crime scenes, which is really mind-boggling and blood-
4 curdling. And I would like to know whether you will commit,
5 as the Pentagon used to do, sharing annual updates about
6 lost or stolen firearms with Congress, whether you will
7 resume that regular reporting?

8 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, again, we do take these
9 reports very seriously, and I absolutely commit to you to
10 look into this and share what we know, and get back to you
11 on that.

12 Senator Blumenthal: I do not mean to interrupt, and I
13 apologize, but will you commit to reporting to Congress, as
14 was the practice?

15 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, I think what I can commit
16 to is we can share with you everything we in the Army
17 understand about our weapons.

18 Senator Blumenthal: And will you support a reporting
19 requirements, generally, to the Department of Defense?

20 Secretary Wormuth: I think we would be open to a
21 reporting requirement.

22 Senator Blumenthal: This report says that the Army and
23 the Air Force could not answer basic questions about missing
24 weapons. It says also, quote, "The Army sought to suppress
25 information on missing weapons and gave misleading numbers

1 that contradict internal memos." Will you report back to us
2 about that claim?

3 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, I would be happy to look
4 into how we have handled this issue.

5 Senator Blumenthal: Do you know whether it is true?

6 Secretary Wormuth: I do not, Senator. I do now know
7 what our past practice, going back years, has been on this
8 matter.

9 Senator Blumenthal: The report says, further, the AP
10 began asking the Army for details on missing weapons in
11 2011, and filed a formal request a year later for records of
12 guns listed as missing, lost, stolen, or recovered.
13 Apparently the reports quote an official as saying, "You are
14 dealing with millions of weapons, but we are supposed to
15 have 100 percent recon, right? We are not allowed a
16 discrepancy on that, but there is so much room for
17 discrepancy," which indicates to me that there is systemic
18 failure at every level, a failure to keep track of the
19 weapons, a failure to report up the chain, a failure to
20 report to Congress, a failure to report to law enforcement.
21 Do you disagree?

22 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, I am not, again, familiar
23 with the details of the story so I do not want to speculate.
24 You know, I do not want to characterize how the Army has
25 handled it to date without having the facts. But I would

1 certainly commit to collecting the facts and continuing to
2 talk with you about this important issue.

3 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you. Well, I really
4 appreciate it, and I know that you are new to the job.
5 Welcome to your first committee hearing. Sorry to hit you
6 with this topic, but I think you will agree with me that it
7 is profoundly important that the military keep track of
8 stolen or missing weapons. I hope we can agree on that.

9 Secretary Wormuth: Of course.

10 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

11 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Blumenthal. Senator
12 Hawley, please.

13 Senator Hawley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Madam
14 Secretary, General McConville, thank you for being here.
15 Thank you for your service.

16 Let me just start with one of our priorities in
17 Missouri, which is to ensure that all of our servicemembers
18 have the best possible quality of life. And one of the
19 challenges that we are facing in Missouri, at Fort Leonard
20 Wood, is to make sure that the homes that were built there
21 in the 1960s that are overdue for replacement get replaced
22 in a timely fashion, and that we are able to provide quality
23 housing. So could you just give us an update on what the
24 Army is doing to facilitate replacements for these homes?
25 And, Madam Secretary, we will start with you. General, you

1 can add as you see fit.

2 Secretary Wormuth: Certainly, Senator. Thank you.

3 And General McConville probably can speak to the details at
4 Fort Leonard Wood better than I. But as you know, we have
5 reorganized how we are dealing with privatized housing, to
6 basically make a four-star general responsible. And we meet
7 now weekly to go over the family housing in each of our
8 major installations. We now have 37 out of 44 installations
9 that have privatized housing have fully implemented the
10 Tenant Bill of Rights. We expect to have the other 7
11 compliant with the Tenant Bill of Rights by the end of July.
12 So this is something that we are working on very, very hard.

13 I would ask General McConville to speak directly to the
14 Fort Leonard Wood installation.

15 General McConville: Yeah, just from a priority
16 standpoint, the reason we came out with people is our number
17 one priority was that kind of drives for the resources, and
18 then within the people portfolio, housing in the number one
19 priority. And a couple of things that we have been working,
20 as the Secretary talked about, is we have privatized
21 housing. We are putting billions of dollars back into that.
22 Probably about 25 percent of our housing right now needs to
23 be fixed. And some of that is privatized, and we are
24 working with the privatized housing, and they have raised
25 money to put additional money to improve that housing.

1 The Army housing that the Army owns, which is about 10
2 to 15 percent -- we had historical housing. It was not
3 historical housing. It was old housing. And to me "old" is
4 not "historical." You know, you have a 100-year-old house
5 that needs to be fixed, and for a while there we were trying
6 to fix it at historical rates, you know, put old windows
7 back that looked like old windows, those type of things. So
8 we have got an exception to that so we are putting more
9 money into that. We are also putting additional funds into
10 housing to get after that, because we want quality housing.

11 I will need to come back to you on precisely what we
12 are doing there, and we will come back to you on that.

13 Senator Hawley: Great. Thank you very much. Thanks
14 to both of you. Thank you, General. We will follow up with
15 you on that.

16 Let's shift to our pacing theater, if we could.
17 General, you released the Chief of Staff of the Army Paper
18 Number 1 this past March. One of the things the paper said
19 that caught my attention, and I am quoting you here, "Our
20 adversaries will attempt to achieve their strategic goals
21 without fighting or to seize their objectives quickly as a
22 fait accompli." I want to commend you for highlighting that
23 scenario in the paper.

24 Along those lines, give us a sense of how you see the
25 Army's long-range precision fires and their enablers being

1 able to help deter or, if we have to, defeat a Chinese fait
2 accompli in Taiwan.

3 General McConville: Yeah, I think when we talk about
4 long-range precision fires, and, you know, when you think
5 about the threats that we could face, as far as deterrence,
6 many of our strategic competitors have set up what we call
7 an anti-access air denial capability within integrated air
8 and missile defense capabilities. So you need something
9 that can penetrate that and suppress that. And by having
10 land-based, long-range fires you start to provide options to
11 the COCOM commander to do that. [Inaudible] portfolio and
12 the long-range precision fires is also having a land-based,
13 anti-ship capability, so then again, you have the ability to
14 hold competitive ships at risk. And they all come together
15 to give that combatant commander multiple options, and
16 really to present multiple dilemmas to those who may be
17 wishing us harm, and then by doing that and having those
18 capabilities 24/7, you can deter certain types of behavior
19 from a strength standpoint.

20 Senator Hawley: Let me just ask you, as a follow-up to
21 that, TRADOC's December 2018 publication, which was called
22 "The Army Multi-Domain Operations in 2028," stated that the
23 Army must demonstrate the ability to immediately deny a fait
24 accompli in order to deter an adversary like China. You
25 still agree with that, I assume?

1 General McConville: I do.

2 Senator Hawley: Along those same lines, Madam
3 Secretary, when you and I visited last month you highlighted
4 -- and I thought this was really good -- one of the things
5 you said was that China would like to pull off a fait
6 accompli because it would be much harder for us to dislodge
7 them from Taiwan than to stop them from getting to Taiwan in
8 the first place. Can you just elaborate on that? I thought
9 that was such a crystal-clear explanation of the dangers of
10 the fait accompli scenario. So can you just elaborate on
11 that a little bit?

12 Secretary Wormuth: Yes, Senator. Happy to do that.
13 You know, essentially given the anti-access area denial
14 capabilities that China now possesses, if they are able to
15 achieve a lodgment on Taiwan, we will not have the kind of
16 air superiority, for example, that we have had in things
17 like the Gulf War in the last 20 years. And so it will be
18 much harder to essentially eject Chinese forces from Taiwan
19 once they land there than it would be to stop them coming
20 across the straits to begin with.

21 Now I am not saying it is impossible to dislodge them,
22 but it will be a tougher fight. So my own view is we want
23 to develop the kinds of capabilities that we are pursuing in
24 the Army, along with the rest of the Joint Force, to
25 basically present a sufficiently strong deterrent force to

1 make the Chinese continue to think twice, year after year,
2 about whether they want to actually undertake that
3 amphibious landing.

4 Senator Hawley: Very good. My time has expired.
5 General, I wanted to ask you about the PACOM's 1251 report
6 and what that means for the Army's posture in that region,
7 so I will give that to you as a question for the record, and
8 I will follow up with you about the Fort Leonard Wood.

9 Thank you both very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hawley. Now let me
11 now recognize, via Webex, Senator Gillibrand.

12 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Secretary Wormuth, you and I have talked about the scourge
14 of sexual violence in the military at length, and you
15 understand that for the last 8 years this committee has been
16 trying to have a vote on a bright line to take out all
17 serious crimes from the chain of command, to create a more
18 professional system, to create an unbiased system, to create
19 a system where our trained military prosecutors can make the
20 first judgment about whether a case should go to trial.

21 As you know, about 3 percent of commanders have the
22 right to make this decision about whether a case should go
23 to court martial. So if the prosecutor decides a case
24 should not go forward it will go back to that 3 percent of
25 commanders, who then will have the opportunity to do a

1 summary, a court martial, or a special court martial, or
2 charge a related or a lesser crime, and get NJP.

3 So given this, I would like your assessment of whether
4 this is a recommendation that you will support, number one.
5 I know in your written testimony you intend to take all 70
6 recommendations from the Fort Hood Independent Review
7 Commission, which, as you know, suggests taking sexual
8 assault out of the chain of command and creating an
9 independent SHARP program. So you have already said you
10 support that.

11 What is your assessment of a bright line on all serious
12 crimes, and as part of your analysis I would like you to
13 consider the data that has been developed by the military
14 and the report by Protect Our Defenders that showed that
15 black and brown servicemembers are up to 2.5 times more
16 likely to be punished for serious crimes than their white
17 counterparts? So I would like you to talk a little bit
18 about how you see reforming the military justice system so
19 that it is fair, unbiased, and guarantees civil rights and
20 civil liberties for all servicemembers.

21 Secretary Wormuth: Thank you, Senator Gillibrand, and
22 thank you, first of all, for your leadership on this issue.
23 You have been working on this issue for years. It is a
24 problem that we all want to solve, that I know all senior
25 leaders and all leaders in the Army want to solve, so I

1 appreciate everything you have done.

2 A few thoughts. As I said earlier with Senator Hirono,
3 I do think that focusing on prevention, and doing more on
4 the prevention side, is, I think, where we will really see
5 more success in reducing the prevalence of sexual harassment
6 and sexual assault in our military. But accountability is
7 important. I think --

8 Senator Gillibrand: Secretary Wormuth, can you speak
9 to why you think prevention is the panacea here? Because we
10 have passed over a dozen laws to implement prevention
11 measure, and the GAO reviewed all the laws we have passed on
12 prevention and what they found was that more than 30
13 recommendations and prior works, specifically related to
14 DOD's effort to prevent sexual assault and address the needs
15 of certain populations in the sexual assault prevention and
16 response efforts, what they found that a lot of the
17 recommendations and laws that we passed just have not been
18 implemented.

19 So what change do you imagine would have to happen for
20 the command and the DOD to take the prevention measures
21 seriously, given that we have given you 8 years of
22 prevention measures and they are not being implemented?

23 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, first, I do not think
24 prevention is a panacea. I think we have to pursue this
25 problem across a spectrum, from prevention to

1 accountability. So I want to be clear on that.

2 I think really what we have to focus on is pushing
3 responsibility for a positive command climate, caring for
4 our soldiers down to the lowest level possible, and that is
5 what we are trying to do through the This Is My Squad
6 initiative, through the redesign of our SHARP program, and
7 also through, frankly, selecting our leaders, looking more
8 closely at their previous command climate performance. So
9 making sure the people we put in charge are people who have
10 been able to create positive command climates. I think all
11 of that will be helpful, and that is something we are going
12 to have to work hard on, and work hard on year after year
13 after year, not just sort of when there is a crisis and then
14 we become complacent.

15 Senator Gillibrand: But do you not think that actually
16 prosecuting sexual assailants who are predators, who are
17 often recidivists, and putting them in jail would also
18 prevent crimes, since we have many examples of sexual
19 assaulters who were not prosecuted in the first instance and
20 went on to not only assault others, including children as
21 one of the most recent examples. Don't you think it would
22 be far better to actually treat these cases appropriately
23 and put sexual predators in jail?

24 Secretary Wormuth: We do absolutely have to hold
25 perpetrators and predators accountable, and it is for that

1 reason that one of the things I think makes a lot of sense
2 is increasing the specialization of the individuals in the
3 Army and in the military writ large, who prosecute these
4 cases. You know, I think one of the recommendations that we
5 have seen is to basically help both our investigators and
6 our prosecutors build more specialization in special victims
7 crimes, and given the complexity and sensitive nature of
8 those kinds of crimes, that is something that I am open-
9 minded to and think would be beneficial for us.

10 Senator Gillibrand: And will you review, for this
11 committee, the issues of racial disparity and the
12 recommendations that by giving the decision-making to
13 trained prosecutors you can also eliminate bias with regard
14 to racism?

15 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, what I have been focused
16 on in my time in the job so far has been specifically the
17 sexual harassment and sexual assault set of crimes. So that
18 is where I have been focused. It is clear that there are
19 disparities in our justice system for people of color. I
20 have not been able to look into that in depth, but my
21 initial assessment of this issue, or I should say my initial
22 sense of this issue is that some of those disparities may be
23 happening more on the investigation side of the ledger
24 rather than on the prosecution side. But this is something
25 I would want to study further.

1 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Gillibrand. Now let
4 me now recognize Senator Tuberville.

5 Senator Tuberville: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
6 you both for being here today. General, in your family
7 service, you have got all of your kids in the military.
8 That is awesome.

9 You know, I am a people person. You know, you had your
10 budget cut, and, you know, we need things to fight with.
11 But the number one thing we need is people. You know, with
12 the cuts, how do we address pay and pay raises for our
13 troops? You know, with this inflation rising every day 5
14 percent, it looks like there is no stop to it. Number one,
15 how do we recruit, and how do we pay our troops with the
16 cuts that we are having? Both of you.

17 Secretary Wormuth: Senator Tuberville, good to see
18 you. Why don't I start. I would say, you know, on the
19 recruiting side, you know, it is a tough environment. As
20 you said, we are competing against all sorts of companies
21 that are starting to increase their wages and so on. We are
22 trying to bring in 61,000 soldiers this year. We think we
23 are on track for that. But we are sending out a large
24 number of recruiters to really showcase all of the things
25 that the Army can offer to people all around the country who

1 want to join. As part of that, in the PB 2022 budget we
2 have a 2.7 percent pay increase for our soldiers, and that
3 is a pretty good pay increase. I think we looked carefully
4 at that issue. We also have, as you know, our Tuition
5 Assistance Program, which is very popular with soldiers.

6 So we really try to use a range of the things that we
7 do to be able to bring in the quality best and brightest
8 that we need in the Army every year, to keep us healthy and
9 at the size that we need.

10 General, do you want to build on that?

11 General McConville: Yeah, thank you, and, you know, I
12 am very thankful that our soldiers and our civilians got a
13 pay raise this year, and we are very appreciative of that,
14 and we think that is extremely important. But as the
15 Secretary said, we are in a war for talent, with young men
16 and women. The advantage we have in the Army, and we have
17 to continue to work this, is they want purpose in their life
18 and they want to belong to a team, and we can do both for
19 them. Once we get them in we have to compete for their
20 talents and make sure that we are putting them in a place
21 where we are taking full advantage of their talents. And we
22 are actually being fairly successful at that.

23 We wake up every day making sure we can maintain the
24 all-volunteer force. We want a force where there is no
25 harmful behaviors, so parents are looking at us, and hey,

1 this is a good place that I want to send my kids, and this
2 is a great place to get ahead, for working class people.
3 They can go to school and get an education, they get
4 discipline, and all those wonderful things. So that is what
5 we are doing, Senator.

6 Senator Tuberville: Thank you. Thank you very much.
7 Speaking of recruiting, Secretary, you probably did not have
8 anything to do with this, but last month the Army released
9 an animated marketing campaign titled "The Calling" -- I am
10 sure you are familiar with that -- which was aimed at
11 reaching the Generation Z audience with its storylines.
12 This campaign cost approximately \$4 million to produce. The
13 campaign received so many negative comments, the Army took
14 the comments section down.

15 The Army should seek to recruit the best and brightest
16 to protect our country, regardless of their background,
17 because it is the generals' the captains' and the
18 lieutenants' jobs, once they get there, to build them into a
19 fighting force. My staff has asked for performance metrics
20 on the campaign. Can I get your commitment that we will be
21 given a thorough briefing on quantitative measures?

22 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, we would be happy to brief
23 you on the campaign, and what we know about how well it has
24 performed. I would also just like to emphasize that as the
25 general said, you know, we are in a war for talent. We are

1 trying to reach, you know, young people around America, all
2 across the country, from all sorts of different backgrounds.
3 We are trying to recruit Generation Z and those younger than
4 them. And, you know, the days of Super Bowl ads maybe have
5 been replaced by YouTube and other things.

6 So part of what we are doing is trying to also figure
7 out, you know, which innovative recruiting techniques is
8 most successful and resonates with all sorts of folks around
9 the country. But I would be happy to come back and brief
10 you on the campaign, at your convenience.

11 Senator Tuberville: Thank you. You know, it is
12 important that we get the best, because they do not make a
13 lot, and as the general said here, we are fighting big tech,
14 you are fighting people that are going to be paying a lot
15 more money. I have got buddies in the Army, been in there
16 for a long time, and they struggle, them and their families,
17 as a lot of people across this country struggle, especially
18 with the times that we are in right now. We have just got
19 to take care of our people first, because that is our life
20 blood. You know, we were talking to the Selective Service
21 not too long ago. We discussed this. Thirty-five million
22 people are eligible for the draft and only 450,000 eligible
23 to serve in our military. That is scary. That is really
24 scary. So we have got to do everything possible to sell the
25 point that the military is somewhere that they can come, get

1 a great education, get a great life, raise their families,
2 and be great Americans.

3 Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Tuberville. Let me
5 now recognize Senator King, please.

6 Senator King: Madam Secretary, my first piece of
7 advice is don't talk about Super Bowl ads not working to a
8 former football coach.

9 Secretary Wormuth: Good point.

10 Senator King: I want to welcome you to the committee
11 and congratulate you on your nomination and confirmation.

12 Page 4 of the charts that you gave us, I am a little
13 confused, and I want to get to the terminology to really get
14 a fix on how this budget really works. OCO seems to have
15 disappeared. OCO was a significant part of the budget over
16 the last 4 or 5 years. It is not in your chart. There is a
17 little dotted line, but you talk about direct war costs and
18 enduring costs of about \$18 billion. Is that what we used
19 to call OCO? General, you are nodding.

20 Secretary Wormuth: Essentially, yes, Senator King. I
21 think, you know, there has been a debate, as you undoubtedly
22 know, for years, about trying to ensure we were providing
23 sufficient transparency into the budget.

24 Senator King: Listen, I agree. I have always been
25 skeptical of OCO as a kind of slush up and down. So what

1 you are really proposing is a higher base budget with less
2 OCO, and I presume part of it, OCO last year was about \$24
3 billion, and under your formulation it is about -- what we
4 are thinking of as OCO, direct war and enduring costs, \$18
5 billion. Does that reflect, in some measure, the reduction
6 of costs in Afghanistan, for example?

7 Secretary Wormuth: There is a small reduction in costs
8 associated with our retrograde out of Afghanistan, Senator,
9 but I do not believe it is a large one.

10 Senator King: Okay. But hopefully we are going to
11 have a little more transparent budget in the future, where
12 OCO, the expenditures on war costs are part of the budget.
13 Is that correct?

14 Secretary Wormuth: That is the goal, yes.

15 Senator King: Okay. Thank you. General McConville,
16 you used the word "convergence" in one of the answers to
17 your question, in terms of joint operability. One of your
18 colleagues the other day said he had to pry data out of one
19 of the other service branches. We have got joint
20 operations. That was Goldwater-Nichols. My sense is,
21 however, we need more in the way of joint compatibility of
22 software and capability acquisition. Is that a sensible
23 thing to be talking about?

24 General McConville: Absolutely, Senator, and one of
25 the things that we have done, and I have done it in

1 conjunction with the other service chiefs, is we have stood
2 up what we call the Joint Systems Integration Lab at
3 Aberdeen. Because, you know, the future of convergence is
4 really the ability to pass data from system to system, and
5 to do it in a contested environment. And, you know, if you
6 want to pass an F-35 to some type of weapons system on the
7 ground or some type of sensor, what that allows us to do is
8 go up there, figure out how to move that data, test it, and
9 then we go out into Yuma and do Project Convergence in the
10 dirt. You have already got a way to do that.

11 Senator King: But this is sort of the 21st century
12 version of the phones not talking to each other in Grenada,
13 where we could not communicate.

14 General McConville: Well, I think what we are doing,
15 Senator, is making sure that we can pass data between all
16 the different types of systems we have in the joint system.
17 That is what the intent is, and then next year we go to make
18 sure we can do it with our allies and partners.

19 Senator King: I look forward to working with you on
20 that, because I think that is a very important point going
21 forward.

22 Missile defense and deterrence. Iron Dome appears to
23 be a very effective system as it has been operating in
24 Israel. It has saved a lot of lives. We were involved in
25 the development of Iron Dome. Are we taking advantage of

1 that capability, and is that something --

2 General McConville: Yes, Senator. As I think you
3 know, we have two batteries right now. We are going through
4 the process of training our soldiers on that. And that is
5 the interim program, and what we are working with them and
6 some others is how does that fit into our integrated air and
7 missile defense system. We want to be able to pass data
8 from all the different systems. The future is you have
9 multiple sensors, and you have multiple shooters, and you
10 use an integrated battle command system for integrated air
11 and missile defense. It will take the information from the
12 different sensors, it will pick the right shooter, and then
13 you get the most efficient capability when it comes to
14 protecting forces against air threats.

15 Senator King: So we are back to convergence of data
16 and software.

17 General McConville: Yes, we are, Senator.

18 Senator King: And my final question is, my concern is
19 defense against hypersonics. That strikes me as a
20 significant strategic challenge for this country. Is this
21 something that is in your area, with the Army, or is this
22 again a joint enterprise, because certainly the Navy has to
23 worry about hypersonics?

24 General McConville: Well, we are all concerned about
25 that, and I think we could take that in a different form

1 with the Missile Defense Agency and talk through, probably
2 in another forum, where we are on that, Senator.

3 Senator King: Fine. Thank you. Thank you both.
4 Thank you for your service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King. And now let
6 me now recognize, via Webex, Senator Rosen.

7 Senator Rosen: Well, thank you, Chairman Reed, of
8 course Ranking Member Inhofe. I really appreciate you
9 holding this hearing, and I would love to thank the
10 witnesses for testifying today and for their service.

11 I would like to speak a little bit about Hawthorne Army
12 Depot which is located in Nevada. So Secretary Wormuth,
13 Nevada's Hawthorne Army Depot, it is the world's largest --
14 the world's largest -- ammunition depot and demilitarization
15 facility. The depot stores and demilitarizes munitions, it
16 ensures munitions readiness for DOD, amongst other things.
17 It also supports the Services by hosting military training.
18 It has very unique terrain. All throughout Nevada we have,
19 with the Air Force Nevada Test and Training Range and, of
20 course, up in northern Nevada Fallon Naval Air Station. So
21 we have unique Afghanistan-like terrain throughout Nevada.

22 In 2005, there were attempts to close Hawthorne, but it
23 is mission critical, and again, it is the world's largest
24 ammunition depot. I am grateful that its closure did not
25 come to fruition. So given Hawthorne's contributions to our

1 national security, will you commit to working with me to
2 ensure that the depot continues its important work serving
3 our warfighters?

4 Secretary Wormuth: Senator, I would be happy to work
5 with you on making sure that we continue to keep the
6 capabilities at Hawthorne that we need. It sounds like they
7 offer a variety of capabilities to our Army, and I would
8 look forward to gaining a more in-depth understanding of
9 Hawthorne, and again, making sure that it fits into future
10 Army requirements.

11 Senator Rosen: Thank you. I would like to move on to
12 a little bit of tactical cybersecurity, because, of course,
13 Senator King brought that up. We are going to have
14 convergence of data, of software, hardware, software,
15 firmware, all of it. Multiple points of vulnerability.
16 Every time we add something on we can create a new stress
17 point or a new access point.

18 So, General McConville, in recent years Army Cyber
19 Command, you have been fielding units to enhance our ground
20 commanders' tactical cyber capabilities, such as
21 intelligence, information, cyber, electronic warfare, and
22 space detachment and the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion. So,
23 General McConville, what are the Army's plans for the growth
24 of this mission, and in which theaters do you see the Army
25 employing these cyber units? Is it something that you

1 envision for the Indo-Pacific with our NATO allies, or
2 possibly in Iraq, Syria, or Afghanistan? I am just curious
3 how you see it expanding.

4 General McConville: Well, Senator, right now, when you
5 talk about -- we have to use an acronym, but it is I2CEWS
6 which is intelligence, information, cyber, electronic
7 warfare, and space. We are standing up the new multi-domain
8 task force that has that capability at Joint Base Lewis-
9 McChord with the focus on the Indo-Pacific. The second
10 multi-domain task force is being stood up inside of Europe,
11 and we are looking at third for the Pacific, and we are in
12 the process of developing that also.

13 We see this capability as extremely important for the
14 future. We see, in the competition space, in the crisis
15 space, the notion that we are going to have to have these
16 type of capabilities, and we are in the processing of
17 standing those organizations up and bringing them to
18 fruition.

19 Senator Rosen: Well, I would like to build on that,
20 because how do you envision retaining these high-skilled
21 cyber soldiers when NCOs, warrants, and even officers can
22 find more lucrative and more balance work-life opportunities
23 in cybersecurity jobs in the private sector? So you not
24 only have to grow up your staff, train them, retrain them,
25 and upskill them -- there is always new technology,

1 obviously -- but how are you going to keep the people you
2 have?

3 General McConville: Well, I think that is a great
4 question. You know, with some of the people that are
5 willing to stay in the Army, sometimes they surprise me. I
6 was just down at the software factory at Austin, Texas, and
7 we just stood this up because we are going to need people
8 with these types of capabilities. And there is a
9 specialist, an E-4 down there, that, quite frankly, was a
10 medic in our Army, and when we put out a call for coders he
11 answered the call and he is probably one of the best in the
12 Army, and the other people in that organization that have
13 master's and Ph.D.'s recognize him as one of the very, very
14 best we have.

15 So we have got to have a talent management path for him
16 and for others like him that they may become warrant
17 officers or they may become incentivized, based on their
18 level of experience. And what we find is, if we can give
19 them a good wage, and have them doing what they want to do,
20 they will stay in the Army and they really like the mission
21 that they have. And even though they could go outside and
22 probably make a little more money, they really appreciate
23 the mission. That is the feedback I get from the cyber
24 operators that we have within Cyber Command.

25 Senator Rosen: Well, thank you. I hope that we can

1 help you. Senator Blackburn and I introduced a Civilian
2 Cybersecurity Reserve Act to help you with a Civilian Cyber
3 Reserve Corps, and so I look forward to working with you on
4 that soon. Thank you.

5 General McConville: Thank you, Senator.

6 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen. Senator
7 Sullivan, please.

8 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
9 appreciate the witnesses being here. Thanks for your
10 service.

11 Last week I shared this chart with Secretary Austin and
12 General Milley on the prioritization of the Biden
13 administration with regard to our military. And asked them
14 the question, how do you tell our troops that you are
15 prioritized when you clearly are not? If you can see this
16 -- and I will make sure you have a copy for the record --
17 almost every Federal agency in the U.S. Government is
18 getting double-digit increases with inflation, which is now,
19 unfortunately, creeping up to 5 percent. The U.S. military
20 budget, homeland security budget is actually getting
21 decreased. I find it completely unacceptable.

22 I asked the two leaders of the Pentagon, how do you
23 tell the troops that you are prioritizing our military?
24 They tried to answer. It was a tough question, because I am
25 sure that they probably did not like the budget that they

1 had to come to the Hill and defend.

2 And Madam Secretary and General, digging deeper, the
3 Army -- I mean, you guys are getting gutted. Let's call it
4 like it is. Madam Secretary, in your confirmation hearing
5 you told this committee you do not want the Army to be the
6 bill-payer for everybody else. You are the bill-payer right
7 now, 4 percent cuts without inflation, with inflation you
8 are almost double-digit numbers. This is like 2015, when
9 the Obama-Biden administration was trying to cut 40,000
10 troops from the U.S. Army, active-duty. They did it.

11 How do you explain this to your forces? This is tough
12 on you. I know you did not like this. I know you did not
13 like being the bill-payer, but you are. How are you telling
14 your troops right now that the U.S. Army is prioritized, and
15 why do you think you are taking it on the chin, in terms of
16 your budget? Madam Secretary, I will start with you.

17 Secretary Wormuth: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. I
18 think what I tell our soldiers when I talk with them is that
19 I am confident that at the budget we have we are able to --

20 Senator Sullivan: Is this the budget you wanted?

21 Secretary Wormuth: Certainly, I think --

22 Senator Sullivan: Almost 10 percent cut in the Army,
23 with inflation.

24 Secretary Wormuth: -- I would certainly welcome
25 additional funds. Having seen, for example, you know,

1 barracks at Fort Hood, I would absolutely welcome additional
2 funds.

3 Senator Sullivan: General, is this the Army you
4 advocated for? Sorry to interrupt.

5 General McConville: Well, Senator, I did --

6 Senator Sullivan: This is a huge issue. It is not
7 getting nearly enough attention.

8 General McConville: Yeah.

9 Senator Sullivan: The Biden administration is blowing
10 out the Federal Government, \$6 trillion in spending. Okay?
11 But with regard to the U.S. Army they are saying, "Sorry,
12 guys, ladies. You are getting nothing." So this is a real
13 problem. General?

14 General McConville: No, I just -- I said I laid out
15 our requirements. You know, we have our budget and we have
16 our unfunded requirements that I sent a letter to this
17 committee and all the other committees that lay out, you
18 know, if we can get additional money that is where we want
19 to put it, and we would like to get that additional money.

20 Senator Sullivan: Well, I am going to advocate
21 strongly for additional money for the U.S. Army. I think
22 this is dangerous, and I think it is clear that the Biden
23 administration does not prioritize the military, but it
24 really does not prioritize the Army.

25 Let me ask, you know, a lot of your testimony -- I have

1 been watching it all morning -- talks about tough choices.
2 I agree with you, you have tough choices. General, you have
3 done a phenomenal job, your leadership, on addressing what
4 is a huge challenge with the U.S. Army in Alaska. In the
5 last 5 years we have had 32 suicides. You know, we have
6 only had 41 -- and every death is horrible -- combat deaths
7 in Afghanistan in the same time frame. I just want to get
8 your commitment that when you make tough choices, the work
9 you are doing on addressing suicide, in one of the most
10 important places in the country, my state, is not going to
11 be one of these tough choices that you leave on the cutting
12 room floor, because the Biden administration will not fund
13 the damn Army. Can I get your commitment on that? Lives
14 are at stake.

15 General McConville: Absolutely. It is about people
16 first, Senator. You have my full commitment on that.

17 Senator Sullivan: Madam Secretary?

18 Secretary Wormuth: Yes. Yes, you have my commitment
19 as well.

20 Senator Sullivan: Let me finally ask, can I just get a
21 quick update? I know, Madam Secretary, you committed to
22 meet, you and General McConville, to brief me on the Arctic
23 plan from the Army. We are getting mixed messages.

24 Secretary of Defense, in his confirmation hearing, said he
25 was going to fully resource Arctic strategies of all the

1 Services. General Milley said the same last week at the
2 hearing. But General VanHerck, in his hearing last week, he
3 mentioned that the DoD budget, this budget, is inching
4 along, did not move the ball very far down the field in
5 terms of military Arctic strategy, and as you know, as
6 NORTHCOM Commander he is the advocate.

7 Can I just get an update from the two of you on that
8 strategy, which I think you have done a great job on, and I
9 look forward to the briefing I am going to be getting from
10 both of you here in the next couple of weeks.

11 Secretary Wormuth: Senator Sullivan, we have resource,
12 you know, in this year's budget, the strategy, the Arctic
13 strategy that the Army put forward to you, and I have not
14 lost track of my commitment to come and brief you, so I am
15 looking forward to doing that as well. I do not know if
16 General McConville has anything else to add.

17 General McConville: I think, Senator, you and I talked
18 about the strategy is focused on being able to operate in
19 the Arctic, which is a little different than operating from
20 Alaska. And we are putting that together. We will have
21 more of an operational command up there. You tend to have
22 an administrative command right now, but as you take a look
23 at the fact that you are going to want to compete up there,
24 we are taking a look. And we have talked about the type of
25 organizations we will put in there. We have got some more

1 coordination to do, but we have a vision of where we want to
2 go, and that is funded in the resources we have right now.
3 There is some other collaboration that needs to be done on
4 the type of units. And, you know, we have a Stryker brigade
5 up there, and as we take a look at what the future of that
6 brigade looks like, that may change, and that is where we
7 are having discussions right now.

8 Senator Sullivan: Good. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman.

10 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. Senator
11 Kaine, please.

12 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to
13 continue along the lines of my colleague, Senator Sullivan,
14 on budget issues, and I think the key is this committee has
15 to make a decision. The President has given us a budget and
16 we have to make a decision about what we think is right.
17 But I want to dig into this question of the Biden
18 administration proposal and is it a "cut." I am looking at
19 a document, and it is the fit-up that the Trump
20 administration sent to us last year in April, April 2020.
21 Page 195, Table 616, this was the Trump administration's
22 proposal for Army funding. Fiscal year 2021 it was \$177
23 billion. But in this table, the Trump administration
24 predicted, their projection was that in fiscal year 2022
25 they were going to make the Army undergo a 10 percent cut.

1 I am looking at this table and it shows fiscal year 2021
2 \$177 billion, but they project that the Army was going to
3 drop to \$164 billion in fiscal year 2022. That was the
4 Trump administration's plan that they submitted to Congress
5 last April.

6 The Biden administration did not follow the Trump plan
7 for \$164 billion. My understanding, and I think I am
8 correct, is that the top line that is now before us is \$173
9 billion. Am I right about the top line in the President's
10 budget, that it is \$173 billion, not \$164 billion?

11 Secretary Wormuth: Yes, Senator. That is right.

12 Senator Kaine: At what point in your budget
13 deliberations did you switch from the Trump-era projection
14 of \$164 billion to the dollar amount that was submitted in
15 the President's budget of \$173 billion?

16 Secretary Wormuth: Senator Kaine, I think I am going
17 to have to let General McConville speak to that because I
18 was not yet the Secretary during the budget deliberations.

19 General McConville: Yes, Senator. As far as the
20 budget discussions, I was not aware, as far as we were
21 planning through the process, on how that was going to play
22 out, what was enduring OCO, what was OCO, and all those type
23 things. So I cannot give you a good answer to that but I
24 will take a look and come back to you.

25 Senator Kaine: Yeah, I would like to ask that for the

1 record, and, Mr. Chair, if I could, I would like to submit
2 the fit-up that was submitted to us last April 2020, for the
3 record.

4 Chairman Reed: Without objection.

5 [The information follows:]

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1 Senator Kaine: Because I think what it shows is that
2 contrary -- again, the question of what is the right dollar
3 level for the Army is a very legitimate one, and we may well
4 decide, as a committee, that the President's request is not
5 sufficient. I have done that before and I may do it again.
6 But if I am thinking about who is proposing to cut, I am
7 sure glad that President Biden recommended a \$173 billion
8 top line instead of \$164 billion top line, which was
9 suggested by the fit-up that the Trump administration gave
10 us over a year ago.

11 That is the only questions that I have, Mr. Chair, and
12 I will yield time back.

13 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Kaine, and
14 I believe that we have concluded all of our colleagues who
15 wished to speak. At this point let me thank the Secretary
16 for her comments and General McConville for your comments,
17 both of you for your extraordinary service. And with that I
18 will call the hearing adjourned.

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

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