

SASC-SF Hearing

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Chairwoman Fischer, Ranking Member Donnelly, and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request in support of the Department's efforts to improve our missile defense capabilities so that we remain ahead of the evolving threat while providing effective, integrated and interoperable regional missile defenses in support of our global defense strategy.

Security Environment and Strategic Priorities

Today, the United States faces an increasingly complex security environment, in which the central challenge to our prosperity and security is the reemergence of long-term strategic competition by revisionist powers in China and Russia.

Although they pose separate challenges with unique attributes, both China and Russia seek to reshape the world order and change territorial borders. Consequently, they pose increasing security threats to the United States, and our allies and partners.

Long-term competition with China and Russia requires increased U.S and allied and partner military investment because of the magnitude of the threats they pose today, and the potential that such threats will increase in the future. We also must simultaneously strengthen our efforts to deter and counter the clear and present dangers posed by rogue regimes such as North Korea and Iran.

The U.S. military remains the strongest in the world. However, our advantages are eroding as potential adversaries modernize and build-up their conventional and nuclear forces. In particular, they are fielding a broad and expanding arsenal of new and more advanced missiles capable of threatening the United States, its forces abroad and its allies and partners.

Although this picture is unsettling and clearly not what we desire, as Secretary of Defense Mattis has pointed out, "We must look reality in the eye and see the world as it is, not as we wish it to be."

The Administration has heeded this admonition in recent strategic reviews – the *National Security Strategy*, the *National Defense Strategy*, and the *Nuclear Posture Review*. They reflect a consistent and pragmatic assessment of the threats and uncertainties we face regarding the future security environment.

Our task at the Defense Department is to ensure that U.S. military advantages endure and, in combination with other elements of national power, we are fully able to meet the increasing challenges to our national security.

Strengthening our alliances and attracting new partners are a critical element of retaining our advantages. As the National Defense Strategy points out; “Mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships are crucial to our strategy, providing a durable, asymmetric advantage that no competitor or rival can match. This approach has served the United States well, in peace and war.”

Missile Defense Policy and Posture

With this as the strategic context, let me turn to a discussion of the FY2019 Budget Request for missile defense and the policies, programs and capabilities it supports. The Department’s budget request supports the President’s direction set out in the *National Security Strategy* to deploy a layered missile defense system to protect the American homeland from North Korean and Iranian missile threats. The request also supports regional missile defenses to protect our deployed forces, allies, and partners. Our missile defense system not only protects the United States, it strengthens the deterrence of war and the assurance of allies and partners.

Today, the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system provides protection for the nation. It consists of 44 Ground-Based Interceptors (GBI) deployed in Alaska and California; land-, sea, and space-based sensors; and a command and control system operated 24/7 by trained service members. We are strengthening this system and investing in technologies to ensure that we can continue to counter rogue state missile threats to our homeland.

In September 2017, DoD requested the reprogramming of FY2017 funding of more than \$400 million to counter the North Korean missile threat. Congress approved this request. A portion of these funds supports important homeland defense activities, including initiating work on the procurement of 20 additional GBIs in Alaska as early as 2023, which will bring the total to 64 fielded interceptors. The reprogramming also funded a service life extension to the COBRA DANE radar in Alaska and software upgrades to the Sea-Based X-band (SBX) radar – both essential elements of our homeland defense. In November 2017, the President submitted an amendment to his FY2018 budget request for \$4.0 billion for missile defense which includes construction of a new missile field at Fort Greely, Alaska, and additional procurement funding necessary for the 20 new GBIs.

The FY2019 budget request includes \$9.9 billion for the Missile Defense Agency and \$3 billion for air and missile defense activities in the Military Departments. This budget funds: a more capable GBI with the Redesigned Kill Vehicle; the deployment of new missile tracking and discrimination sensors in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Pacific region; and a new Space-based Kill Assessment capability. These near term investments will enable us to obtain substantially more performance and efficiency out of the GMD systems necessary to meet the evolving threat.

We are also moving forward to bolster homeland defenses against air and cruise missile threats. In 2018, we will complete the first part of a two-phase effort to provide effective surveillance against these missile threats to the National Capital Region (NCR). Doing so will enhance our ability to detect, track, and investigate suspicious aircraft, as well as cruise missiles, and when necessary, cue our missile defense systems against the full spectrum of air threats. We are on track to begin the second phase of this effort in FY19, which will expand our capability to detect, ID and take defensive action before air threats can strike potential targets within the NCR. We are also looking into technologies and concepts that could be used to provide scalable and deployable options for expanding this defensive capability.

The Department's FY 2019 budget request also continues deployment of regional missile defenses tailored to meet missile threats to U.S. forces abroad and allies and partners in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific region. The budget enhances our regional missile defense capacity through additional Patriot missiles as well as Terminal High Altitude Defense (THAAD), SM-3 Block IB, and SM-3 Block IIA interceptors. Our focus is on developing and fielding missile defense capabilities that are mobile and relocatable, which allows us flexibility to respond to a crisis or conflict wherever it emerges. Because systems such as Patriot, THAAD, and our Aegis BMD capable ships can be surged when and where required, they make it possible to deploy layered missile defense capabilities that are responsive to regional missile threats as they arise.

We are also encouraging our allies and partners in Europe, the Middle East and Near East Asia to acquire missile defense capabilities, and to strengthen missile defense cooperation in order to move towards a more interoperable and integrated missile defense architecture against hostile ballistic and cruise missile threats.

Looking forward, it's clear potential adversaries are modernizing and expanding their missile capabilities. We must ensure that our missile defense investment strategy and priorities enable us to meet the most dangerous missile threats today, while also enabling us to counter future missile threats as they expand. Areas for work on advanced technology include improved discrimination in our missile defense system sensor architecture, lasers to intercept offensive missiles during their most vulnerable boost phase of flight, evaluating new space-based sensor concepts, and the multi-object kill vehicle.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by stating that in an increasingly complex and threatening security environment, DoD must sustain the capabilities needed to deter and defend against attacks on our homeland, U.S. forces deployed abroad, allies and partners. We must make the investments needed to address the ongoing erosion of our operational advantages and remain the preeminent military power in the world.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.