

**Senate Armed Services Committee
Paper Hearing Questions
Hearing on 3/26/20, #20-20**

“To receive testimony on the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.”

Witnesses: Secretary McCarthy, General McConville

Senator James M. Inhofe

Budget and Supporting the National Defense Strategy (NDS)

1. Secretary McCarthy, because the NDS Commission advocates 3 to 5 percent real growth per year to implement the NDS while the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request represents a \$15 billion reduction in purchasing power, where were you forced to assume risk?

Response: If there was the 3 to 5% real budget growth as recommended in the NDS in the FY21 topline, the Army would have been able to increase its investments in the critical legacy systems required to fight and win in the future against Russia or China. As there was a reduction in real buying power in FY21, the Army chose to fully fund our next generation modernization priorities at the cost of investing as we would have liked in those critical legacy platforms. For example, the Army reduced Joint Light Tactical Vehicle procurement by \$1.3B over the FYDP which results in HMMWV's being in formations longer than if we had 3 to 5% real budget growth. We also reduced investment in the Army Tactical Missile System Service Life Extension program by ~\$600M to shift resources to the Precision Strike Missile, which will replace the ATACMS round with enhanced performance. Additionally, the Army delayed procurement of the Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter (EHET) which means we'll be dependent on less capable heavy equipment movers for a longer period of time. In order to prioritize modernization investments, the Army assumed risk in endstrength by slowing the rate of growth toward our objective force endstrength levels. The Army must grow to both meet current combatant commander demand and resource the new structure required to fight and win in the future.

Readiness Concerns

2. General McConville, in the effort to meet NDS requirements, the Army successfully achieved in 2019 one of its stated 2023 readiness objectives by having 66 percent of regular Army BCTs [brigade combat teams] ready to “fight tonight,” allowing the Army to transition its focus from BCT readiness to “strategic readiness.” How does this budget invest in strategic readiness while also maintaining 66 percent of regular Army BCTs and their supporting elements at the right readiness levels?

Response: In FY21, Army will maintain its current tactical readiness levels and seek to improve its strategic readiness. The Army training focus at the tactical level is on building highly trained and cohesive teams that are disciplined and fit. We are increasing our focus on individual and small unit readiness. Home Station Training and Combat Training Center (CTC) rotation levels of effort are consistent with recent years that enabled Army to achieve and maintain readiness

goals. The Army FY21 budget request supports 24 CTC rotations and home station training IAW Army training strategy. The Army is seeking to improve its global posture at the strategic level by positioning formations and equipment (APS) in key strategic locations to deter adversaries and assure partners; investing in its Organic Industrial Base (OIB); improving mobilization through MFGI investments and exercises; building proficiency through repetition in deploying/redeploying operations with Dynamic Force Employment (DFE) and Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDREs), sustaining its generating and operating forces; aligning APS & LOGCAP to NDS priorities; and, investing in the industrial base.

Modernization Efforts (Fort Sill Focused)

3. Secretary McCarthy, because the U.S. Army's surface-to-surface fires are currently outranged and outgunned by many similar Russian and Chinese systems, the Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) Cross Functional Team is working on programs to address these shortcomings. How will the Extended Range Cannon Artillery and the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) programs help the joint force implement the NDS and regain a comparative advantage over Russian and Chinese competitors?

Response: The Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) system includes improving the self-propelled howitzer, projectiles, supercharge propellant, and course correcting fuzes for accurate fires at 70KM, almost twice the range of our current howitzers. These improvements will provide the division commander with a deep fires capability to shape the close fight in large scale combat operations, enabling combined arms overmatch. FY21 is an essential year to order long lead time parts to support final prototype development and building for delivery to the first battalion in FY23. ERCA Prototype 0 is assembled and executed a successful live fire demonstration on March 6th, achieving 65KM in range with target hits. We continue efforts to achieve the 70KM range.

The Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) is the Long Range Precision Fires Army modernization priority program to replace the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). PrSM will be fired from existing launcher platforms with greater range, lethality, survivability, and at a lower cost than ATACMS. PrSM will allow the operational force to neutralize enemy integrated air defense systems and long range artillery to enable cross domain maneuver. The accelerated program delivers a base missile with a range greater than 500KM in FY23 (compared to the ATAMCS range of 160 KM), followed by technology spirals for emitting multi-domain targets, enhanced lethality, and extended range. PrSM has executed two successful flight tests since December, achieving target hits at 240KM and 180KM; the next flight test is planned for 30 April.

4. Secretary McCarthy, the Army currently lacks a reliable cruise missile defense capability which leaves the joint force vulnerable in some theaters. What is the Army's plan to defend against more advanced threats, such as hypersonic and supersonic cruise missiles, in the future?

Response: The best defense against hypersonic and supersonic cruise missiles is to have robust offensive and defensive capabilities. From an offensive perspective, we are placing significant

emphasis and investment into our own hypersonic capability. The current schedule of delivering a road mobile prototype hypersonic battery in FY23 remains in place. From a defensive perspective, we must also attack the munition once launched. The Missile Defense Agency is exploring defenses against hypersonic threats, and we are evaluating Patriot against the supersonic cruise missile threats. Supersonic threats are also an Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) objective requirement, while subsonic remains a threshold requirement.

5. General McConville, the Army is procuring two Iron Dome batteries in fiscal year 2020 as an interim solution for cruise missile defense. What efforts are underway to integrate the batteries into the Air & Missile Defense network and what is the plan for the associated force structure?

Response: The Iron Dome is a combat proven system and the Army will field two interim, stand alone, batteries. Moving forward, the Army will hold a competition for an enduring solution, which is compatible with Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS), and allows all of industry to participate in a shoot off and best value competition. The Army is also going to a layered defense for air and missile defense. We see in the future the ability to tie every sensor to every shooter – multiple radars tied into the IBCS, which will be able to apply the appropriate shooter as a response based on the threat. That response could be a missile, a kinetic projectile, or high powered microwaves and directed energy systems. Based on the specific solution, the Army will design and develop the appropriate force structure

Senator Roger F. Wicker

Modernization

6. Secretary McCarthy, what steps are you taking to produce tangible results that will accelerate or enable greater defensive and offensive capabilities for directed energy weapons in the next 3 to 5 years?

Response: The Army is pursuing a variety of Directed Energy (DE) weapons, including high energy lasers and high power microwaves for maneuver unit and semi-fixed/fixed support. DE provides defensive capability against rocket, artillery, mortar, UAS, and rotary/fixed wing threats. The Army is prototyping a 50kW-class laser for a platoon of Stryker vehicles to be delivered no later than FY22 for Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) and transition into a program of record. We are prototyping a 300kW-class laser in the new Indirect Fire Protection Capability-High Energy Laser (IFPC-HEL) for fixed and semi-fixed locations. Directed Energy S&T efforts are funded through FY22 to inform IFPC-HEL prototyping fielding in FY24. The Army is also teaming with USAF for High Power Microwave (HPM) as electronic warfare paired with HEL for semi-fixed /fixed base support with prototyping by FY24.

7. Secretary McCarthy, a recent study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) titled, "Assessing the Affordability of the Army's Future Vertical Lift (FVL) Portfolio" stated that affordability of the two FVL programs was feasible but would require strict program management and oversight. What is the Army doing to ensure continued affordability of the two programs?

Response: AFC, in consultation with ASA(ALT), are committed to requirements stability and preventing requirements creep. This team approach will identify appropriate trade space to ensure requirements are both achievable and affordable. The Army is conducting "fly before we buy" prototyping efforts such as the successful Joint Multi Role Technology Demonstrator, Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft Competitive Prototype, the Future Tactical UAS demonstration, and Air Launched Effects early experimentation and prototyping. All four of these efforts will fly an air vehicle before we go final on requirements to ensure we have effective weapon systems. These efforts reduce risk, promote competition, and produce well informed, realistic, achievable, and affordable requirements. We have also reduced requirements creep by developing and implementing an Army Futures Command (AFC), Commanding General (CG) approved requirements prioritization methodology and scoring forum. This best practice has allowed the AFC CG to see how all in-development and in-progress requirements align to critical Army Senior Leader criteria and guidance. The results of this scoring shape the Army Capabilities Integration and Development System/Army Requirements Oversight Council (AROC) calendar for the Chief of Staff of the Army, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, and AFC CG AROC decisions.

Cyber

8. General McConville, does the consolidation of capabilities under Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER) mean that cyberspace operations will be prioritized over other information

capabilities, and if all of the information-related activities are already being utilized by commanders in the field, why consolidate the capabilities in one command?

Response: No. The Army will deliver trained and ready forces with capabilities and capacity balanced to mission need. The consolidation of mission and capability is going to drive a Total Force for MDO including Information Warfare, of which Cyberspace Operations, Electronic Warfare, along with other capabilities, are subsets. Cyberspace operations and the employment of Cyber Operating Forces will remain a core mission for the command.

Information Warfare

9. General McConville, do you feel that overtly announcing a move towards information warfare, which you have stated is key in the competition phase prior to conflict, overly militarizes the information element of national power, and does this send a negative signal to adversaries, which will then cause escalation of information warfare against, most-likely, non-military targets in the United States?

Response: I do not. Russia and China are already contesting international norms and U.S. interests in Cyberspace and the Information Environment. Deliberately leveraging information and aspects of information inherent to military operations in concert with information efforts of other Federal government departments and agencies adds to the effectiveness of the overall governmental effort. Our adversaries leverage information capabilities against U.S. military and non-military targets to seek advantage over the U.S. or limit our ability to counter their operations. Stating our intent to develop this capability establishes a check on adversaries' bold use of information against military and non-military targets.

Strategic Sealift

10. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the U.S. Government's current approach to strategic sealift has yielded an aging and inactive government fleet that depends on a shrinking pool of merchant mariners and ships that have trouble getting underway. I'm concerned that a resilient maritime logistics strategy doesn't exist. Given that 90 percent of Army and Marine Corps equipment will travel by sea to a major conflict, is there sufficient sealift available now, and for the foreseeable future, to support combatant commander operational plans (OPLANS) per the National Defense Strategy?

Response: The present assessment is that the current strategic sealift fleet is sufficient to meet the current demand, but by 2024, it will be inadequate without recapitalization efforts. USTRANSCOM and the Navy are using a three-pronged strategy to recapitalize: (1) service life extensions when cost effective; (2) acquiring used vessels with congressional approval; and (3) building new vessels.

Senator Deb Fischer

Partner Training

11. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, do you believe that the current mix of armored, infantry, and Stryker brigade combat teams is appropriately balanced between the active Army and Army National Guard, and are there missions or platforms you believe should be shifted between the Active, Reserve, and Army National Guard to make the total force more aligned with the National Defense Strategy?

Response: The current mixture of brigade combat teams between the Regular Army and Army National Guard is appropriately balanced to support the National Defense Strategy. When balancing brigade combat teams across components, the Army considers responsiveness to meet Combatant Commander requirements along with Title 10 and Title 32 Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

12. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army recently announced the deployment of the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade to Africa, the first such deployment to the continent. National Guard units are similarly conducting partner training in Africa, including units from the Nebraska National Guard partnered with Rwanda through the State Partnership Program. How is the Army working to enhance its partner training capacity to provide a better alternative to similar efforts by Russia and China?

Response: In Africa, the U.S. Army actively seeks to build partner networks through military and medical exercises, security cooperation, engagements including the African Land Forces Summit, and the State Partnership Program. The National Guard's State Partnership Program includes 14 other African nations partnered with U.S. States in addition to the Nebraska National Guard's partnership with Rwanda. The Army supports six U.S. DoD-directed operations in Africa and is deploying the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) to assume the train, advise, and assist mission with our partners. The Army is also reviewing an increase in ally and partner Invitational-Professional Military Education (I-PME) participation by 10% for FY21-FY22, and up to 50% over FY22-25, and continues to utilize the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) to strengthen relationships and build capacity globally as a means to compete with Russia and China.

Modernization

13. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, what are your biggest modernization priorities, and what lessons have you learned from past Army acquisition efforts and from the other services that you are incorporating into your own modernization efforts?

Response: The Army is two years into a major transformation to ensure we are prepared for future conflict – we are finishing what we started. The Army's modernization efforts are a continuation of its FY19/20 efforts. FY21 marks a pivotal year for Army modernization as we have matured our processes and established momentum across all 6 modernization priorities: Long Range Precision Fires, Next Generation Combat Vehicle, Future Vertical Lift, the

Network, Air and Missile Defense, and Soldier Lethality. Army modernization is a holistic approach – changing doctrine for how we fight and equipping our formations with the best equipment possible – but also organizing and training the force differently, leading and managing people differently, and ensuring Army facilities and infrastructure support these changes. The establishment of Army Futures Command is enabling the Army to set priorities, efficiently resource, synchronize the execution of modernization efforts, and assess progress set forth by the framework within the published Army Modernization Strategy.

The Army learned many lessons from past acquisition efforts. Three major lessons are: (1) the Army must understand and orient on the future threat; (2) the Army must understand what is technologically feasible for design and materiel solutions before developing a timeline; and (3) the Army must clearly prioritize desired capabilities and avoid requirements creep throughout the acquisition process. Additionally, we learned that joint programs are usually most successful when the requirements from the different services are common (i.e., JLTV)

14. Secretary McCarthy, you were recently quoted saying that, “as long as we can continue to work under these conditions, we can continue to proceed” with the Army’s modernization priorities. How much of an impact do you believe COVID-19 will have on the readiness and modernization of the Army?

Response: It is too early to determine the full extent of the impact COVID-19 will have on readiness and modernization, though we expect COVID-19 will impact several, if not many, programs. We are working with our industrial base partners to determine their ability to perform within the current COVID-19 environment, and we are assessing effects on the Army’s ability to test, field, and train on systems. Whenever possible, we are seeking solutions to mitigate effects to preserve the readiness of the force. The health and safety of the workforce and Soldiers is the Army’s paramount concern.

15. General McConville, you were recently quoted saying that some high-priority tests will continue while “other ones will slow down.” How are the decisions being made on which programs will proceed apace and which ones will be postponed amidst the pandemic?

Response: The Army is closely monitoring the pandemic to ensure the health and well-being of our Soldiers, civilians, families, and their communities. Army Futures Command is coordinating with ASA(ALT) and Army Test and Evaluation Command to determine which tests are most critical to meet current readiness requirements and critical developmental milestones. We are also working closely with FORSCOM to ensure necessary Soldier involvement in these events. Our current assessment, which will change as conditions change, is that 9 events will be cancelled, 65 postponed, and 42 will continue as scheduled. In all cases, the decision to continue or delay an event is made by commanders and senior leaders at the 4-star or Assistant Secretary-level after considering the risk as part of a cost-benefit analysis.

Senator Tom Cotton

Coronavirus Phase IV

16. Secretary McCarthy, does coronavirus make your Unfunded Priorities List (UPL) look any different, and where can we target more procurement dollars to best support both the National Defense Strategy and sustainment/recovery of the defense industrial base?

Response: It is too early to tell the long term impacts of COVID-19 and any adjustments that would need to be made to our UFR list. The Commands and the Army Staff are conducting a review and are updating the requirements as necessary.

Coronavirus and DEFENDER-Europe 20

17. General McConville, coronavirus diminished DEFENDER-Europe 20 – how can you backfill the training and deterrence value of that exercise, and what do you need from us to do it?

Response: The purpose of DEFENDER-Europe 20 was to build strategic readiness by deploying a combat credible force to Europe in support of NATO and the U.S. National Defense Strategy. The exercise was modified in response to COVID-19, but the Army was still able to exercise its ability to coordinate large-scale movements with Allies and partners. Since January, the Army deployed approximately 6,000 Soldiers from the United States to Europe including a division headquarters and an armored brigade combat team. It has moved approximately 9,000 vehicles and pieces of equipment from Army Prepositioned Stocks and approximately 3,000 pieces of equipment via sea from the United States. In coordination with Allies and partners, it also completed movement of Soldiers and equipment from multiple ports to training areas in Germany and Poland. The Army plans to continue its planned DEFENDER series exercises in Europe and the Pacific during FY21 and beyond.

Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS)

18. Secretary McCarthy, the Department of Defense has spent millions in research, development, test & engineering (RDT&E) in search of solutions that already exist in the private sector. Have you explored commercial, off-the-shelf capabilities like kinetic intercept for CUAS, and will you commit to using a commercial solution if an effective one exists for CUAS?

Response: Yes, we have and will continue to explore both commercial off the shelf and the development of systems based on new or emerging technologies. Filling a capability gap is a process. We first look at if there are Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures that can close the gap, and if none are adequate to fill the gap, we look to commercial off-the-shelf materiel solutions. If no commercial solution can address the gaps, we look to materiel solutions from other government or non-developmental items that can be modified to meet our needs. Our last resort is initiating a full development program. In that vein, we have fielded commercially viable capabilities. The Drone Defender; Mobile Low, Slow Unmanned Aircraft Integrated Defense

System (MLIDS); and Coyote systems are all examples of urgently fielded commercial CUAS systems.

Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle (OMFV)

19. General McConville, I understand the Army made a difficult decision to pause OMFV, and that you don't want adherence to a fielding date to drive poor decisions in development, as well as the need for industry to have inputs into what timeline is possible, but when do your troops need this very necessary capability?

Response: The bottom line is that our troops need this as quickly as we can deliver the transformational capabilities they deserve. The Army remains committed to OMFV as Next Generation Combat Vehicles are our second highest modernization priority. We will field the Bradley replacement to support a Multi-Domain Operationally Ready force. Fortunately, we learned early in the process of developing the OMFV that industry could not deliver the requirements needed in the time we wanted. AFC published broad vehicle characteristics at industry's request, to allow for industry innovation and trade-space. These characteristics will be refined through a series of industry engagements, digital design competitions, and Soldier touch points to inform and sharpen the OMFV prototypes for testing, before we establish the final vehicle requirements. This approach will enable us to explore the solution space in an environment of rapid and inexpensive learning, leading to requirements verification through physical prototypes, Soldier input, and testing.

Long-Range Precision Fires

20. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, your opening statement highlights funding requests and capabilities for long-range precision fires. What is your vision for their integration into units inside and outside of Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD), as well as where you expect them to be postured in peacetime to support strategic deterrence?

Response: We see these long range precision fires layered from the tactical to strategic level, and postured both CONUS and OCONUS to provide adequate response and deterrence value. Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) will provide the division commander with a deep fires capability to shape the close fight, while the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) allows the operational force to neutralize enemy integrated air defense systems and long range artillery to enable cross domain maneuver, and the Long Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW) allows us to penetrate across the world in minutes instead of hours. These capabilities will be in traditional Army formations as well as Multi-Domain Task Forces that will have long range precision effects that can operate below the level of armed conflict, and long range precision fires for use during armed conflict.

Senator Mike Rounds

COVID-19 and U.S. Leadership

21. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in your opening statement, you said that the “Army must continue to compete for and retain allies and partners, as our adversaries will attempt to do the same.” The COVID-19 response requires almost unthinkable resources and a supreme commitment to the American people. However, the Army still must execute its many missions, even while supporting our citizens at home and expending great effort to protect our soldiers wherever they serve.

I was concerned to see a Reuters story this week that stated the Russian military will send medical support to Italy and am curious to know what efforts the U.S. Army has taken – or is planning to take – to help our allies, even while the overwhelming majority of this government provides for the American people at home.

Response: We continue to provide an assessment to the SECDEF of available assets and capabilities that may be available to support our domestic or overseas responses. The commanders of USFK, USAREUR and USARAF have all demonstrated tremendous partnership in sharing information and force protections techniques with their host nations to control the spread of the virus within their areas of operations. We are in contact with our allied counterparts to discuss a coordinated response.

Strategic Readiness

22. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, I had a very enjoyable and illuminating meeting with Lieutenant General Christopher Cavoli, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe, on March 4. The DEFENDER-Europe 20 exercise, has been greatly curtailed, but one of its primary objectives is to demonstrate and learn lessons about the Army’s strategic readiness to deploy capabilities, despite the presence of contested domains, and provide these capabilities to the right place at the right time. Can you discuss your assessment of the Army’s current strategic readiness posture – and describe to the American people what is needed, and why it is needed, as the United States engages in a great power competition that characterizes the current and future operating environments?

Response: Army strategic readiness incorporates assessments across manning, equipping, sustaining, training, installations, and capacity and capability to meet the requirements of the NDS. Army strategic readiness begins with a responsive force posture, the ability to mobilize and project power into contested environments, and the ability to sustain forces in large-scale combat operations. The Army’s ability to continually generate and project ready formations (at scale) for the combatant commander is critical to the defense of our nation and our interests worldwide. Recent events in the Middle East demonstrated how necessary strategic readiness is to allow the Army to be globally responsive with ready units. As the United States engages in great power competition, the Army must assure current and future readiness by: (1) balancing current global demand; (2) preparing forces for potential conflict; and, (3) modernizing the force to respond to future adversaries.

Secretary of the Army's Civil Works Responsibilities

23. Secretary McCarthy, I want to thank you for the good job the Corps of Engineers has done managing the Missouri River, over the last year, under some very difficult conditions. I commend the outgoing Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, for his energetic leadership across the Corps' many mission sets – including the current COVID-19 response, and Major General Scott Spellmon, for leading the Civil Works mission. Nevertheless, I would like your commitment to continue robust oversight of the Corps of Engineers – and to assuring that major progress on the snowpack monitoring system deployment is made this year. We are a nation facing many challenges right now, but a large portion of the safety, security, and economic well-being of the Missouri River basin states depends on you executing your Civil Works responsibilities in an exemplary manner. In addition to your commitment, I would appreciate it if you could describe the importance of this mission to your overall responsibilities as Secretary of the Army.

Response: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to executing the snowpack monitoring efforts in the Upper Missouri River Basin. The Corps is working closely with several state partners, including Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota, on initial equipment purchases. The Corps is also working closely with a larger five-state region, including Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska, to identify existing sites in the Mesonet environmental monitoring network for initial retrofits. Enhancing the Corps' and state partners' understanding of the extent and magnitude of the snowpack is important to safety, livelihood, and economic well-being of this region, and is a critical mission for the Corps and the Army Civil Works program.

Title 32 and the COVID-19 Response

24. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, it is vital during this time of the COVID-19 crisis that there be a great deal of uniformity in how our National Guard is activated across the Nation. There have been calls by numerous governors advocating that these activations be made in a 502f status, so the activation is funded with Federal dollars, with the governors retaining command and control. Our States do not possess the resources to address this unimaginable crisis without that kind of support from the Federal Government. Can you describe your perspective on this matter and how you will approach advising the President of the United States?

Response: The Army National Guard (ARNG) has tremendous capabilities to support their states and Governors during crises. 32 USC 502(f) allows Governors to employ the ARNG with federal funding. This is important as many states do not have the resources to fully mobilize their National Guard forces.

Senator Joni Ernst

Army Integrated Visual Augmentation System

25. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army is planning to invest \$906 million in the development and fielding of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) giving our soldiers tactical advantage over our adversaries on the battlefield and establishing deterrence through superior technology. What is your assessment of the progress of the program, and is it meeting your requirements?

Response: The IVAS program is progressing exceptionally well. The partnership between the Army and Microsoft, and the speed with which engineers make refinement based on Soldier feedback, has allowed us to take the IVAS program from Middle Tier Acquisition/Rapid Prototyping in November 2018 to delivering four capability sets within the next 27 months.

26. General McConville, when will our soldiers start to receive and begin large-scale operational testing of IVAS?

Response: The Army has scheduled Touch Points to provide an opportunity for Soldiers to use the equipment in real world training and provide feedback to the engineers and developers. The IVAS Soldier Touch Point 3 is scheduled for FY20 and Soldier Touch Point 4 is scheduled for the Spring FY21. We will begin fielding IVAS to units in FY21 to enable large-scale operational testing. Temporary closure of engineering and production facilities for the prototype systems, due to local responses to COVID-19, may cause delays. The initial fielding dates may shift from FY21 to FY22. We cannot assess the full impact until we know when the facilities will reopen.

Modernization

27. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, China and Russia are reaching parity with us in areas like field artillery and air defense artillery. I commend Futures Command for looking at ways to modernize, but want to emphasize the need to ensure our current systems are maintained and ready to support the warfighter. For example, some components of our field artillery systems—such as the breech on a howitzer—are legacy systems. How are you ensuring the required hardware and software updates, availability of parts, and ease of maintenance as you move forward with the artillery modernization process?

Response: We will continue investments in upgrading and sustaining key systems in the near term - such as our in howitzer fleet - to fill gaps until the technology is ready for our next generation systems. We made a conscious decision as part of the Paladin Integrated Management program to first replace the chassis to allow the system to keep pace with the Bradley and Abrams tank, without changing the turret, gun or breach. We are pursuing two lines of effort to further modernize the howitzer. The first is extending the range thru upgrading propellant, such as the Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) Charge 5, which we have found adversely affects the reliability of the Paladin breech. We have initiated upgrades to the currently fielded Paladin breeches that are in the A6 fleet and testing shows that the capability

addresses the issues caused by the MACS Charge 5, with excellent results. In concert with these fixes, we are stocking up on breech parts at the unit level to minimize down-time for readily replaceable components. The second line of effort involves upgrades to the turret gun and breech via the Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) program. The combination of ERCA and upgrades to the breech will go far in establishing higher reliability as well as increasing standoff for our artillery systems.

28. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, new systems like the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) program have switched from a traditional hydraulic system to electric/high voltage. This requires highly trained contractors to make repairs on high level maintenance, not the typical soldier. How will you ensure the timely deployability and maintenance of modern systems writ-large when our warfighters are down range?

Response: The Army fields most major systems with validated maintenance manuals and appropriate levels of maintenance (usually field level and depot level). Soldiers performing field level maintenance receive necessary training for the maintenance tasks they can perform at the unit level, frequently with assistance from Field Service Representatives. In cases where a capability is urgently fielded and organic maintenance expertise is not yet in place, the Army often employs Contractor Logistic Support.

While the M109A7 has moved from a hydraulically operated turret to an electronically operated one, the performance of our Soldier operators and maintainers has not diminished. Our Soldiers who operate the howitzer continue to excel and exceed standards for their performance with the system. Maintainers have not missed a beat in maintaining the system, on the rare occasions when maintenance is required. Universally, comments from the 3 ABCTs fielded to date have shown nothing but praise for the electronic components of the howitzer.

Hypersonic Testing

29. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, on March 19, DOD announced that the Army and Navy conducted a joint test of the Common-Hypersonic Glide Body (C-HGB) at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii. The successful test marks a significant progress in the development of hypersonic technology and a step forward in the Army achieving long range precision fires. Can you provide an update on the Army's development on hypersonics, specifically on development timelines and key testing milestones?

Response: The Army is on track to deliver a road mobile prototype hypersonic battery in FY23 as part of the Joint Service Conventional Prompt Strike program. The FY21 budget request fully funds the Long Range Hypersonic Weapon effort and the long-lead items necessary for the prototype and all associated flight tests, as well as initial unit fielding and training.

Senator Thom Tillis

Force Modernization and End Strength

30. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Marine Corps has seemingly continued business as usual during this time (COVID-19 Containment Phase). The Marine Corps Commandant announced his plans to move forward with force modernization by cutting infantry battalions, downsizing artillery batteries, and divesting of tanks, which inevitably shifts to the Army. Is the Army prepared or positioned to pick up those ground force capability gaps in its modernized force layout and how will this impact recruitment goals or demands for soldiers to fill ground combat arms military occupational specialties (MOSs) in the Army and the Army's end strength needs?

Response: The Army designs its force size, structure, and capabilities to meet the requirements asked of us by the NDS, the CJCS, and Combatant Commanders. The Army will need to conduct a detailed assessment of the Marine Corps plan to determine capability and capacity mix across the services. The outcome of that assessment and associated decisions would inform possible changes to our recruitment goals and end-strength requirements.

Strategic Power Projection and Readiness

31. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, at Fort Bragg, a recent Army audit found its airfields as being the poorest infrastructure in the Army. These infrastructures serve as primary training air fields for USASOC [United States Army Special Operations Command], JSOC [Joint Special Operations Command], and others, including the Immediate Response Force. Is the Army adequately funding power projection and installation readiness, which also extends to rail, stationing requirements, and facility issues that undermine training and readiness?

Response: Our FY21 budget submission addresses several strategic readiness requirements. The budget helps the Army increase Army power projection capabilities to support combatant commander and Dynamic Force Employment requirements. The Army has also designated 14x installations as Secondary Contingent Deployment Locations and 4x Mobilization Force Generation Installations being utilized; and we are working with the National Guard Bureau to improve states' pre-mobilization and unit movement support capabilities.

Specifically, at Fort Bragg, since 2011 the Army has invested over \$115M to repair runways, aprons and airfield lighting systems at Pope Army Airfield (PAAF). In FY20 we have an approved project of \$25M for airfield lighting repair and in the FY21 budget, we plan to spend \$65M to repair the PAAF runway and Taxiways. Army Materiel Command is currently reviewing the full scope of additional requirements in support of this critical Power Projection platform as part of our comprehensive Facilities Investment Strategy.

Personnel and Family Readiness

32. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, last month, in previous posture hearings, I announced my plans to show up unannounced at military installations for a progress report on PPV [public-private venture] housing repairs and outstanding issues. Have you personally visited PPV housing units on any Army installation this year and can I get your help in ensuring Army families have quality/safe housing and not subjected to unhealthy living conditions?

Response: We have personally visited housing on Ft Bragg, Ft Carson, Fort Stewart, Fort Campbell, Fort Meade, Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, Fort Drum, Ft Belvoir and Hawaii, and you have our commitment that we will do everything within our power to ensure our People have safe, quality housing. The Army has implemented several FY20 NDAA provisions and all require close coordination with privatized companies. The Army has implemented the requirement for a reliable, accessible online work order system; timelines for repair; and incentive fee policies; and are developing action plans for the remainder. The Army is also incorporating the FY20 NDAA provisions into our Army Housing Campaign Plan to establish priorities for implementation and oversight.

DOD Coronavirus Task Force

33. Secretary McCarthy, how is the DOD Coronavirus Taskforce taking steps to disseminate information through all service branches down to the unit level, and are you encountering any difficulties in enforcing consistency in responding to the COVID-19 threat?

Response: Senior leaders across the Department of Defense communicate multiple times a day to synchronize our response to COVID-19. Throughout the Army, we have multiple senior leader touch points and are publishing orders from HQDA down to the unit level. A key factor in mitigating the spread of the virus is ensuring personnel have the most up-to-date information on appropriate measures to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. The Department, Commanders, and leaders at all levels are taking positive action to educate the force and implement appropriate force protection measures.

Senators Tillis and McSally

34. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, COVID-19 is a threat to the well-being of our troops and their families. During the March 24, 2020 DOD COVID-19 virtual town hall, it was recommended that servicemembers in the middle of a permanent change of duty station (PCS) should request their commanders put them into an awaiting transportation status, so they receive per diem and preserve their TLA/TLE [temporary lodging allowance/temporary lodging expense] entitlement. How are you handling the “stop move order” for all non-essential travel to limit the spread of the virus, and what measures are being taken to provide for servicemembers and their families caught up in the PCS process to avoid financial hardships?

Response: In response to the challenges Soldiers and their families are facing during the stop movement order, the Army is adhering to DOD’s guidance for non-essential travel.

Additionally, the Army, with DOD's support, has implemented a series of new entitlements. These new authorities are aimed at minimizing, to the greatest extent possible, the financial impacts of this unprecedented situation. These include Hardship Duty Pay for Restriction of Movement, (HDP-ROM), Isolation Allowance, temporary duty status, advanced PCS allowances, and Army Emergency Relief (AER) loans. Further, to provide Soldiers the utmost support and flexibility, if a Soldier is scheduled to PCS during this time and experiences hardship due to COVID19, they can request an extension—for up to 1 year—at their current duty station.

Senator Dan Sullivan

The Future Army – Recruiting

35. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in your joint testimony you mention “the Army has overhauled its Recruiting and Marketing enterprise, exceeding revised end strength goals in FY 2019, while simultaneously retaining quality soldiers.” How is COVID-19 affecting the current recruiting efforts and what specific precautions do you have in place to protect recruiters as well as applicants?

Response: U.S. Army Recruiting Command is taking precautions to protect the health of the force and minimize exposure to coronavirus disease. As of March 18th, all recruiting stations within U.S. Army Recruiting Command are shifting to mobile and virtual Operations with the public to limit in-person contacts. These precautions allow our recruiting force the ability to continue to make solid contacts with those interested in joining the Army while protecting both the recruiters and the applicants. Recruiters remain accessible to those interested in a career with the U.S. Army by communicating through text, phone calls, direct messages, or video chat rather than face-to-face. Contracts/leads have decreased, but we do not attribute this to the shift to virtual recruiting. Many of our leads are generated from Recruiters attending events and larger gatherings and conducting high school visits. Due to COVID 19, all events have been cancelled and we no longer have access to schools due to closures. Contract/leads from virtual recruiting, however, have increased.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, USAREC was on pace to achieve its FY20 accessions mission including a Delayed Entry Pool for FY21 of 13.5K. In an effort to protect the recruiting force and the Army’s training base, USAREC has a goal to ship to half of the Army’s training capacity. The determination of which future Soldier will ship is dependent on the level of risk in the area in which each future Soldier resides. As more and more areas become restricted, USAREC continues to analyze each individual situation in an effort to determine a safe to ship status. All Future Soldiers are being prescreened at 15 days, 72 hours and 24 hours prior to shipment for symptoms and potential exposure to COVID-19 to mitigate the spread of the disease. Additionally, they are screened again upon arrival at the Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS). Depending on the level of risk in certain areas of country, recruiters are working with the Future Soldiers to either complete all necessary steps and MEPS processing so the Future Soldier can ship to basic training or the recruiter is working with the Future Soldier to reschedule them to ship at a later date. We are shipping from 218 stations.

USAREC does not ship a certain number each month. Recruiting ebbs and flows based on the time of year. We typically see our highest number of shippers in June, July, and August, which have not yet been impacted by COVID 19. Prior to COVID 19, USAREC was on track to ship 5,897 in March. We actually shipped 5,157. In order to minimize risk and exposure, our goal for April and May is to ship to half of the training capacity’s base.

Army Force Posture/Structure

36. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, to address potential great power threats, what types of force structure(s) are required for the Army to deter and, if necessary, defeat a near-peer competitor like Russia and how is the Army changing its force posture to better support United States Indo-Pacific Command's (USINDOPACOM) efforts to compete with an increasingly aggressive and modernized Chinese military and how are these two efforts complementary and how are they different?

Response: The Army will calibrate its force posture, develop new organizations, and field new capabilities to provide the necessary support to USINDOPACOM in order to deter competitors in the region.

Fort Wainwright Suicide Response

37. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, as you know Fort Wainwright is located in Fairbanks, Alaska and has experienced a concerning number of suicides over the last 18 months. What specific initiatives and projects have you taken this year and in coming years to enhance the morale, welfare, and recreation of soldiers stationed along the Arctic's front lines, especially at Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson? Please provide separately to my office the specifics for each initiative, the schedule for delivery, and the anticipated impact or benefit on morale, welfare, and recreation of soldiers.

Response: The Army established a Quality of Life Task Force to coordinate and synchronize the development and implementation of policies/projects to enhance the quality of life of our Soldiers and Families. Specific to Alaska, we have established an intensive outpatient behavioral health program, approved Remote and Austere Conditions Assignment Incentive Pay (RAC-AIP), improved transportation and shuttle services, established more predictable training schedules, improved junior leader development on the risk reduction tools and engaging behavior skills training, and refreshed MWR facilities. We are also taking actions to increase effective command messaging, improve barracks living conditions, increase indoor recreational facilities for Soldiers and Families, and improve the dining facilities (hours, quality of food). As circumstances permit, I am prepared to brief you on specifics regarding scheduled delivery of each initiative.

Long-Range Precision Fire Testing

38. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, as technology for long-range precision fire weaponry increases, the size of test ranges will also need to increase. How long do you think it will be until the current Army long-range precision fire ranges are outpaced by the range requirements of the weaponry being tested and to what extent are you considering JPARC- with it over 1 million cubic miles of training space – as a potential testing site for long-range precision fire weapons, to include hypersonics? Please elaborate.

Response: The Army uses the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii and the Reagan Test Site in the Republic of the Marshall Islands for initial testing of developmental capabilities. Test

demand at some point will exceed the capacity of these two ranges to handle the workload which will require additional ranges to support this mission. The Defense Test Resource Management Center is conducting a study to determine alternate options for all the Services including JPARC

Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF)

39. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, with the world-class training opportunities offered by the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) and the strategic platform offered for expeditionary forces such as the 4th Brigade Combat Team 25th infantry in Alaska, would you say that Alaska is a prime candidate for the stand-up of the U.S. Army's third Multi Domain Task Force? Why or why not? Please expand.

Response: The Army is analyzing potential locations across the INDOPACOM Area of Responsibility to station the third Multi Domain Task Force (MDTF) in support of INDOPACOM and USARPAC operational requirements. MDTF #3 will activate in 2022 and will serve as the second MDTF in support of INDOPACOM.

Senator David Perdue

Squad X Robotics – Fort Benning

40. General McConville and Secretary McCarthy, since 2018, the U.S. Army and Marine Corps have worked with industry to enhance unit interoperability with unmanned systems and artificial intelligence (AI) through Squad X experiments, allowing Army and Marine Corps squad units to better utilize the capabilities of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and unmanned ground vehicles (UGV) to track and engage hostile forces. While Squad X experiments have shown remarkable progress in developing these capabilities, monthly, large-scale experiments incorporating Army and Marine Corps leadership are necessary to ultimately field these capabilities on the battlefield. Collocating the unmatched resources and capabilities of the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence with these squad-level robotics experiments will provide a long-term asymmetrical advantage for our warfighters and allow for the rapid build-test-build of AI capabilities that will greatly enhance small unit lethality. Additionally, overcoming advances our potential adversaries have made in their own squad-level robotics and AI development is crucial, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence is uniquely suited as an ideal location to develop and integrate the future of infantry squad-level robotics and AI capabilities. What role do the Squad X experiments play in increasing the lethality, maneuverability, and survivability of the squad unit, and how could collocating industry innovators with the warfighter at the Maneuver Center of Excellence best enable the future development of AI-supported robotics for Army squad units?

Response: The Army is aggressively pursuing manned-unmanned teaming and artificial intelligence (AI) through a number of promising programs and experiments. These programs and experiments link the Army to academic and industry leaders across America to capitalize on best-of-breed innovation in those fields. Examples include the Army AI Task Force (TF) and National Robotics Engineering Center at Carnegie Mellon University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and the University of Texas. Experiments like Squad X enable capability developers and Soldiers to explore new solutions in four key areas: precision engagement; non-kinetic engagement; squad sensing and threat detection; and squad autonomy. Co-location of industry and academic innovators with warfighters can help accelerate the development of operationally relevant solutions to Soldiers and units.

Advanced Battle Management System

41. General McConville, as you know, the new Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS) conducted its first demonstration of capabilities in December, and the system is scheduled to hold another demonstration in June. You recently called ABMS "Air Centric" and not a universal solution to the problem of sharing data between platforms, units, and services. Additionally, Lieutenant General Eric Wesley, the Chief of the Army's Futures and Concepts Center, recently said, "ABMS cannot be the sole solution, because it doesn't account for, in some cases, the scale or the unique requirements of all the other services." You have also noted that waiting for a future Joint All-Domain Command & Control (JADC2) system cannot mean setting aside current systems completely. How can upcoming

ABMS field demonstrations address questions of scalability and the Army's unique needs for such a network that you and other senior Army leaders have voiced?

Response: The goal is to allow us to see, understand, and act faster than our adversaries and to leverage the rest of the Joint Force to achieve overmatch. You will see a continuous series of experiments culminating in annual demonstrations to iterate, learn, and improve upon the previous year's outcome. Joint All-Domain Command & Control (JADC2) is an effort – actually a growing commitment – by the Joint community to develop a 21st Century command and control capability that optimizes the contributions of the elements of the Joint Force, as well as those of our multinational partners. We are working closely with our sister Services and the Joint Staff to identify and achieve its full potential.

Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS)

42. General McConville, JSTARS aircraft continue to be active in executing the National Defense Strategy around the world. JSTARS aircraft were deployed for 18 straight years in the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) in support of overseas contingency operations. Following an increase in tensions with Iran in January, JSTARS aircraft returned to the USCENTCOM AOR. A JSTARS unit manned by the 116th Air Control Wing, based out of Robins Air Force Base, also forward-deployed to Germany this past fall. How does the forward deployment of JSTARS support Army readiness and lethality in response to regional and global threats?

Response: The Army utilizes a wide range of Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI)/Synthetic Aperture RADAR (SAR) collection platforms and sensors to determine patterns of life, perform intelligence preparation of the battlefield, define the operational environment, and evaluate the threats in support of ground forces. The specific platform and sensor tasked depends on the mission, terrain, weather, region, and factors such as platform/sensor specifications and the Joint Commander's priorities. The combatant commanders' ability to access GMTI capability is integral to react to a dynamic and changing operating environment. This capability to collect GMTI data deep into enemy territory provides collection to support the combatant commanders' Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIRs).

Demolition of Old Martin Army Community Hospital

43. Secretary McCarthy, the old Martin Community Hospital (MACH) and associated facilities were replaced with a new hospital in 2014. In fiscal year 2015, Fort Benning included the old MACH facilities in their project for Army Installation Command's (IMCOM's) Facility Reduction Program (FRP). However, funding was redirected from the FRP for other Army priorities, and the old MACH has yet to be demolished. How would including the old MACH in the FRP allow for the most efficient use of Army resources while also providing better service to the soldiers and community at Fort Benning, and what resources and authorities does the Army need to complete demolition of the hospital and recapitalize the surrounding land for the base's use?

Response: Removal of the old MACH would clear a prime location that lies in the heart of the community hub of Fort Benning between the new hospital and the Commissary/PX/Dental Clinic. This location was identified in the garrison's master plan as the site of a transportation center that would link traffic and commuters from off post with an internal transportation system to circulate in the immediate vicinity as well as links to the primary cantonment areas. This hub would facilitate carpooling and relieve crowded traffic conditions along Marne Rd and across the entire Garrison. Once the old MACH is removed, the bulk of the work required would be ground work and paving. The Army has all the authorities/clearances needed to demolish the old MACH. The rough order of magnitude for demolition is \$14M-\$20M.

Port of Savannah

44. General McConville, the U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced the awarding of an additional \$34.6 million grant for critical infrastructure improvements at the Port of Savannah, building on the President's budget request of \$93.6 million in Federal funding in support of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. The Port of Savannah is the third largest container port in North America and is a strategic seaport within the National Port Readiness Network. Your posture statement cites our Nation's ports as Strategic Power Projection platforms that are key components in maintaining the Army's strategic readiness. To what extent does the expansion of major commercial ports like the Port of Savannah improve the Army's readiness, and support the Army's mission, by quickly transporting large U.S. troop formations in times of war and national emergency?

Response: The ability to project the force rapidly and at scale and sustain the force during conflicts are key measures of our strategic readiness. Sufficient ports for national defense enable the Army's ability to deploy in time to meet combatant commander requirements. I understand the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project will increase the shipping channel depth to accommodate the large container vessels transiting the Panama Canal. DOD will continue to rely on the Large, Medium Speed, Roll-on/Roll-off vessels from the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command and Fast Sealift Ship vessels from the Maritime Administration's Reserve Fleet. The current channel depth is sufficient for these vessels. The Army is very closely linked with USTRANSCOM and their periodic assessments of the existing Strategic Seaports, and their current assessment is that we have sufficient seaport capacity on each coast (East/West/Gulf) to meet the Army's rapid deployment needs

Senator Martha McSally

COVID-19

45. General McConville, given the Army's mission to organize, train, and equip soldiers, what efforts is the service taking to ensure it completes this vital mission while simultaneously working to combat the spread of COVID-19 within its ranks and do you foresee any impacts to readiness as a result of efforts to combat COVID-19 within the force?

Response: It is too early to measure any significant impact to readiness, but the longer the pandemic lasts, the greater the possibility there will be a degradation in readiness. In an effort to protect the force, we have migrated to virtual recruiting efforts to sustain the Army's end-strength. Although modified for health protection measures, we are continuing initial entry training, and Commanders at all levels are assessing their local conditions and modifying training to minimize risk to our force while maximizing our readiness.

Family Readiness – Child Development Centers

46. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, I appreciate the value you placed on people being the greatest strength of the U.S. Army. I agree with the Army People Strategy that the "People First" philosophy is critical when assessing readiness. In your statement, you assessed 5 Quality of Life priorities which included improving and adequately resourcing Child and Youth Services. When looking at this particular priority and family readiness, what was the process for assessing Child Development Centers (CDCs), specifically, how did you assess the current conditions or maintenance needs of each CDC and how did you assess the capability of the CDC to meet the demands and readiness needs of each community?

Response: The quality of life for our Soldiers, their families, and our civilian work force is of utmost importance. Child and Youth Services, which incorporates our CDCs, is one of the five pillars of our Quality of Life campaign plan. As such, I'm prioritizing funding for our CDCs over the next five years. GEN Perna and Army Material Command hosted a Facility Investment Strategy Wargame in January to assess the condition of every Army facility, to include all 184 of our CDCs. We are now prioritizing these CDCs for renovation and increased maintenance (if needed). We've also identified those locations that need new CDC facilities due to deterioration or increased Soldier and family demand. AMC is developing a plan to fix all of our CDC challenges over the next ten years; we look forward to presenting that plan to Congress during upcoming sessions.

Great Power Competition

47. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, you mention deterrence a few times in your statement – that the Army must "compete with and deter near-peer competitors" or "deter highly capable adversaries". With the rise of emerging technologies such as AI, 5G, quantum information systems, biotechnologies etc, what does deterrence look like under

great power competition, and how is the Army utilizing these technologies to create new deterrence mechanisms?

Response: The strength of the NATO Alliance and our partners in Europe, our ability to integrate and conduct combined operations, and the ability of the U.S. Army to deploy significant forces in support of our Allies is the bedrock of our deterrence strategy. The Army conducts frequent rotation of forces in support of INDOPACOM and elements of our Multi-Domain Task Force will be incorporated into the Defender Pacific exercises to demonstrate U.S. capability and commitment to deterrence in the region. The Army is also planning to employ modernized capabilities such as those that you highlighted, as well as Long Range Precision Fires and Air and Missile Defense, in the Western Pacific to reinforce deterrence of Chinese aggression and coercion of regional states.

Senator Rick Scott

Efficiencies

48. Secretary McCarthy, the Department of the Army under Secretary Mark Esper made great strides in becoming more efficient and redirect spending for new priorities. What more do you see that can be done and what are the lessons learned that could be shared across the Pentagon?

Response: The Army continues to aggressively pursue reforms focusing on the divestment of lower priority programs and investment in higher priorities. Secretary Esper has worked with all the Military Services to establish a similar process focused on prioritizing spending. The Night Court process is being established across the other Services as well as other Department of Defense Agencies. The first two years of Army “Night Court” program reviews were driven top-down, resulting in over \$30B realigned to our priorities; for the FY21 Budget, program managers led these fiscal reviews in a bottom up approach, resulting in another almost ~\$10B realigned over the FYDP to Army modernization and readiness priorities. We are also improving the way we do business – ex. the Command Accountability and Execution Review (CAER) shifted the culture towards commander and senior leader involvement in the stewardship of their fiscal resources, resulting in reduced O&M deobligations by 37% compared to historical norms, reducing lost purchasing power.

COVID-19

49. Secretary McCarthy, as training continues, what precautions is the Army taking to prevent servicemembers from contracting the Coronavirus, as it continues to plague our country?

Response: We continue to train, but the Army has suspended or scaled back military exercises to include DEFENDER-Europe 20 and combat training center rotations, implemented travel restrictions and quarantine policies, enhanced screening procedures for new recruits reporting to and processing thru basic training, and published screening and prevention guidance to include social distancing guidelines, management of movements, and workforce limitations.

Senator Marsha Blackburn

Joint Warfighting Concept

50. General McConville, the idea of Multi-Domain Operations (MDO), is still largely driven from within each service. How is the Army supporting a more Pentagon-wide approach that would pull together each military branch and develop tools that function across all services and is interoperability a consideration?

Response: The Army is nested with the Joint Staff on the development of the Joint All Domain Operations concept and well as the development of the Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) system architecture. Each service has a portion the concept development and all efforts are nested and coordinated thru the Joint Staff.

Multi-Domain Task Force

51. General McConville, in October 2019, you mentioned support for Admiral Philip Davidson's request for the stationing of two Multi-Domain Task Forces (MDTF) in USINDOPACOM, which were then listed on USINDOPACOM's Unfunded Priorities List for fiscal year 2021. When considering near-peer competition, where will the MDTFs mentioned in your posture statement be geographically focused and when can we expect to see them stood up?

Response: The Army plans on three MDTFs, two focused on INDOPACOM and one on EUCOM. The first INDOPACOM focused MDTF will be activated by the end of FY20 and the second will be activated by FY23. The EUCOM MDTF is currently undergoing the OSD process for consideration of stationing units overseas.

52. Secretary McCarthy, I've had multiple conversations with military leaders about the importance of Multi-Domain Task Forces, but this year we saw them on USINDOPACOM's unfunded priorities list. What specific, tangible investments will we see in fiscal year 2021 that the Army is delivering to strategic readiness, and are you building out a short, medium, and long-range plan?

Response: The Army is investing to improve its global posture by positioning formations and equipment (APS) in key strategic locations to deter adversaries and assure partners; investing in its Organic Industrial Base (OIB); improving mobilization through MFGI investments and exercises; building proficiency through repetition in deploying/redeploying operations with Dynamic Force Employment (DFE) and Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDREs); sustaining its generating and operating forces; and aligning APS & LOGCAP to NDS priorities. In fiscal year 2021, Army is investing in site surveys and studies to refine the short, medium, and long range plans for expanding Multi-Domain capabilities in USINDOPACOM out through 2030.

Equipment

53. Secretary McCarthy, last year I had the opportunity to visit National Guard soldiers from the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment serving a 9 month deployment in Poland and Ukraine. They were at times the most forward deployed unit of our total force if a conflict were to break out against Russia, but I often heard from these soldiers that their equipment was outdated and difficult to maintain. How are we ensuring that we maintain deployable and interoperable equipment and force structure across the active and reserve components?

Response: As the Army fields modernized equipment, the priority will be to those forces expected to make contact with an adversary first – regardless of component. Nevertheless, there are plans to continue to provide the Army National Guard with modernized equipment in parallel or before the Active Component. Examples of systems being fielded to the National Guard in parallel or before the Active Component include the AH-64E Apache to replace older model Apaches, UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to replace older UH-60A models, the Next Gen Squad Weapon to replace some M4 rifles, IVAS to replace some of their current night vision devices, Stryker double-V hull A1s to replace flat bottom hull Strykers, the M1A2 SEP V3 and V2 Abrams tanks to replace older M1A1 AIM Abrams tanks, and the Soldier Borne Sensor and Short Range Reconnaissance UAVs to add capability at the small unit level.

Space

54. Secretary McCarthy, with the recent creation of the Army Satellite Operations Brigade, we see that the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC) is making deliberate efforts to reorganize the force to support United States Space Command (USSPACECOM). What should we expect to see next from USASMDC, and how specifically does support of the newest combatant command fit in with Army's modernization priorities?

Response: The Army has emerged as the largest integrator of space capabilities in the DOD, and currently leverages space capabilities to enable ground combat operations. As the Army continuously updates its doctrine, organizational designs, training, and capabilities to conduct multi-domain operations, the employment of organic army space capabilities will be a decisive factor in competition, crisis, or conflict. We are working the merger with US Space Force and will divest assets over time. However, we must retain necessary organic space-related capabilities to balance space capabilities across the force and limit operational risk.

Senator Josh Hawley

COVID-19

55. Secretary McCarthy, on March 12, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman tweeted, “It might be [sic] U.S. Army who brought the epidemic to Wuhan.” How do you respond to the allegation that the U.S. Army may have been responsible for delivering the novel coronavirus to the Chinese city of Wuhan?

Response: There is no logical response to such an irrational accusation.

General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital

56. Secretary McCarthy, on January 16, 2020, I asked now-Under Secretary of the Army James McPherson about the Army’s plans to rectify personnel shortages at the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital (GLWACH) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Mr. McPherson said that those personnel shortages were a result of the mishandling of personnel transfers by the Army and assured me that GLWACH would be “fully staffed again” by this coming summer. Can you confirm that the Army is still on track to have GLWACH fully staffed by this summer?

Response: MEDCOM will ensure GLWACH is staffed to required staffing levels pending any impact due to long-term COVID-19 pandemic response, to include in place stop-move policies.

Active Protection System

57. General McConville, the Army budget supports outfitting just four of the Army’s 16 armored brigade combat teams (ABCTs) of M1 Abrams tanks with Active Protection System (APS) kits to defeat threats like rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs). What is the level of risk assumed by not outfitting the remaining ABCTs, as well as the Army’s Strykers, with APS kits, and what would be the impact on the Total Army Force’s survivability if it received additional APS kits?

Response: We have procured five brigades of installation kits and four brigades of Trophy Active Protection Systems (APS) for the Abrams tank. All systems will be installed by third quarter, Fiscal Year 2021, after which the Army has decision points for future APS systems. We are evaluating off-the-shelf systems such as Iron Fist-Light for Bradley and continuing to look for appropriate solutions for Stryker. While additional APS sets would improve survivability, our future APS buys must be able to evolve with the threat and available technology. The Army will continue to request funding to proceed with technology maturation that addresses those future capabilities.

Indo-Pacific Theater

58. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the National Defense Strategy says that the Department of Defense will maintain combat-credible forward forces in order to deter enemy aggression, or if deterrence fails, blunt the enemy's attack until war-winning surge forces arrive. Secretary McCarthy, you seemed to allude to this directive in your recent remarks that "[a]ccess and presence are critical in order to deter conflict...being on the ground matters." What are the Army's most important posture requirements for the Indo-Pacific theater, and how will meeting those requirements support the Army's ability to blunt Chinese aggression, if deterrence fails?

Response: The Army has an important role in the greater Indo-Pacific theater and requires access, presence, and posture to deter and defeat great power competitors in the INDOPACOM theater. The Indo-Pacific theater is a land force centric environment within a larger maritime theater where most of the regional militaries are land force centric. The Army can most effectively advance national interests and contribute to regional stability and the peaceful resolution of conflicts by establishing regional security partnerships in the South China Sea and Southeast Asia. The U.S. Army envisions a robust and resilient presence through and with regional security partners and allies to deter aggression and set the conditions for the Joint Force to flow forces in the event of a crisis. If deterrence fails, the U.S. Army will be postured through expeditionary basing to rapidly transition to conflict, all the while providing theater-level protection and sustainment capabilities for the Joint Force in combat.

59. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army's concept document, "The U.S. Army in Multi-Domain Operations – 2028," includes the following passage: "Russia has increased its investments in anti-access and area denial capabilities and systems intended to deny the Joint Force entry into a contested area and set the conditions for a fait accompli attack." The multi-domain operations concept document subsequently defines a "fait accompli" as an "attack...intended to achieve military and political objectives rapidly and then to quickly consolidate those gains so that any attempt to reverse the action by the U.S. would entail unacceptable cost and risk." It concludes that in order to "provide a credible deterrent," Army forces must demonstrate the "[a]bility to immediately deny a fait accompli attack." While the MDO concept document focuses on the threat of a Russian fait accompli, the Department of Defense's "Indo-Pacific Strategy Report" warns of the threat of a fait accompli in the Indo-Pacific theater, as well. With that in mind, would you agree that China is investing in systems intended to deny the Joint Force entry into a contested area and set the conditions for a fait accompli attack, and if so, would you agree that in order to provide a credible deterrent against China, Army forces must demonstrate the ability to immediately deny a Chinese fait accompli attack?

Response: Yes, it is clear that China is investing in weapon systems and force posture actions intended to increase their anti-access/area denial capabilities in the Pacific and deterrence is a critical component of our National Defense Strategy. The Army's Multi-Domain Operations concept was developed and matured over the course of several years as a result of significant analytical efforts to include wargames, exercises, and experiments. The Army is now applying the existing Multi-Domain Operations concept to the China scenario. As we do so, we will

consider the capabilities and concepts of operations of potential adversaries and well as the operational environment. The Army will conduct a similarly detailed and robust analysis for the Asia-Pacific region as we have done for Europe and adapt our concepts as necessary.

Senator Jack Reed

U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease

60. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in my opening statement, I raised concerns that the Department of Defense has not prioritized the mission performed by U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), and in fact, the Department has cut funding to the program. USAMRIID is at the forefront in research on COVID-19, and this Committee needs to understand immediately what the Army plans do to ensure USAMRIID remains a world class institute.

I understand you have restricted funds for research in the current High Containment Facility at Fort Detrick. What are you doing to expeditiously fix this problem, and what specific actions is the Army taking in order to bring the New High Containment Facility at Fort Detrick online in order to replace the aging one?

Response: The Army implemented an effective and responsive plan of action and milestones that returned USAMRIID to full operating capabilities in a timely manner. USAMRIID is now at Full Operational Capability (FOC). All work objectives in Biosafety Level (BSL)-2, BSL-3 and BSL-4 Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP)-registered space will commence to include priority work associated with multiple other DoD agencies and Cooperative and Development Research Agreement (CRADA) partners. Simultaneously, the Army conducted an extensive review of our medical research capabilities and is in the process of implementing changes that will facilitate the availability of these capabilities in the future.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Border Wall Contracts

61. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, as I mentioned in my opening statement, this week the Army awarded a \$524 million contract for the Tucson Sector Barrier Wall Replacement Project. The United States is grappling with a global pandemic and COVID-19 infections have been reported in all 50 States. Many of the hospital systems across our country may soon be at capacity, and a border wall with Mexico would not have stopped the spread of the novel coronavirus. Please explain why the Army is not redirecting all border wall funding towards COVID-19 support efforts?

Response: Border Security remains an Administration priority and supporting this effort remains a directed mission for the Army. COVID-19 has caused all nations to reexamine their border policies as part of medically-advised efforts to limit spread. As you have seen, the Army is aggressively responding to the COVID-19 crisis on a daily basis. As new requirements appear, the Army continues to coordinate closely with OSD to identify the best funding solution to address all mission requirements.

U.S. Military Academy and COVID-19

62. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) has decided to extend the delay of the return of cadets to West Point until further notice due to

the COVID-19 crisis. The cadets are currently attending virtual classes and using remote learning platforms. Has USMA or senior Army leadership made any decision yet on whether or not the cadets will be allowed to return to finish the academic year?

Response: We have not yet made a decision. LTG Williams is using a deliberate planning process with guidance from Army Senior Leaders to make decisions about the return of the Corps of Cadets, remainder of the academic year, graduation, the impacts to Cadet Summer Training, and entrance of the Class of 2024. The planning process weighs risk to the Academy Mission and risk to protecting the entire West Point Team. Right now, the Corps of Cadets continues to conduct remote education to minimize disruption to the academic year. We will continue to keep you informed as the situation and our planning efforts develop.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

63. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continues the planning and conversion of existing buildings into alternate medical care facilities, is USACE considering acquiring modular capabilities that exist within the industrial base, such as field hospital structures and medical shelters that are rapidly deployable to areas that may not have existing large capacity buildings?

Response: In support of FEMA Mission Assignments and as the COVID-19 situation develops, USACE is working with FEMA and Health and Human Services to rapidly respond to emerging needs. As part of this effort and the anticipated need to supply large scale temporary facilities to communities where suitable existing buildings might not be available, USACE has conducted market research to identify available modular facility manufacturers and to gain an understanding of their capabilities, manufacturing capacity and projected delivery timelines. These facilities could be contracted for by USACE or elsewhere within DoD as well as directly by FEMA or local Governments.

Close Combat Lethality Task Force

64. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis established the Close Combat Lethality Task Force (CCLTF) during his tenure to dramatically improve the effectiveness and survivability of close combat formations through a combination of materiel and non-materiel means, including innovations in recruitment, retention, training, concepts of operation, tactics, techniques, and procedures, and equipment. The CCLTF was designated as a direct report to the Secretary of Defense and as a Cross Functional Team (CFT) under section 911 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017.

Secretary Esper recently decided to reassign the CCLTF to the Army, ending its designation as a CFT under section 911. While the Army has indicated that they remain committed to the vision and success of the CCLTF, it remains to be seen if the Army will pursue both material and non-material initiatives to enable close combat lethality and survivability.

What are your intentions regarding enduring support for the non-materiel initiatives to greatly improve close combat lethality and survivability?

Response: The Army will continue to develop, evaluate, recommend, and implement improvements to U.S. Squad-level infantry combat formations in order to ensure close combat overmatch against pacing threats, and strengthen the combat, lethality, survivability, resiliency, and readiness of infantry squads. This includes determining which material/non-material functions can transition from the CCLTF and to what command/agency. We will accomplish this analysis with the input of all stakeholders (USA, USMC, SOCOM, TRADOC, AFC, FORSCOM, and Congress). This will ensure we develop an executable plan that does not impede the progress made by the CCLTF and supporting agencies. Army and Marine efforts have been integrated since the inception of the Close Combat Lethality Task Force (CCLTF) and we plan to continue that model as the Army takes the lead. Both services will stay involved in the development and testing of new doctrine and concepts, as well as systems like the Integrated Visual Augmentation System and the Next Generation Squad Weapon.

Senator Jeanne Shaheen

COVID-19

65. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, as you are aware, there is an urgent need for assistance in combatting the spread of COVID-19 across New Hampshire and across our Nation. Could you discuss what the Army is doing to fight the spread of this virus, and what the Army is doing to help treat patients infected with COVID-19, including the use of field hospitals?

Response: As of 13 April, the U.S. Army is postured to support and decisively responding to requests for assistance. U.S. Army North has established its Joint Force Land Component Command headquarters in support of NORTHCOM and activated its ten Defense Coordinating Elements and four regional Task Force Headquarters in response to a request from FEMA. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have received 48 FEMA mission assignments totaling over \$1.7B to provide initial planning and engineering support to address possible medical facility shortages in the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. USACE, and their more than 15,000 personnel engaged in the effort, has completed over 1,000 Alternate Care Facility (ACF) site assessments and have 25 ACFs on contract across 14 states to include the Javits Center in New York and the Detroit Convention Center. More than 24,000 National Guard Soldiers have been activated in all states to provide support to state and local governments by delivering food and supplies, assisting at COVID-19 testing stations, and cleaning public buildings. Finally, the Army has deployed three hospitals to support known hot spots in New York and Washington, and deployed 14 Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces (UAMTFs) providing critical capabilities and capacity that will ease the burden of the regional health systems.

Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab

66. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab in Hanover, New Hampshire, is a leader in solving strategically important problems faced when operating in cold weather environments such as the Arctic. Could you discuss what the Army is doing in response to the 2019 Department of Defense Arctic Strategy Published in in June 2019?

Response: The Army has and continues to maintain a significant footprint in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. In ensuring our Nation's defense, the Army trains, performs exercises, and operates in extreme cold weather environments to continue to meet its mission and the challenges of a changing region.

We agree that the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab (CRREL) in Hanover, New Hampshire, is a leader in solving strategically important problems faced when operating in cold weather environments such as the Arctic. CRREL continues to support the Army and the nation in meeting the challenges we face in performing and sustaining operations and in maintaining a well-trained and ready force. We are asking them to focus on obtaining an awareness of the Arctic domain and sustaining all operations.

The Army executes six Arctic exercises annually: Vigilant Shield and Arctic Edge; Ardent Sentry and Vigilant Guard; and Vibrant Response and Guardian Response. The Army is exploring funding options for cold weather clothing and equipment in the Fiscal Year Defense Program to support the five brigades that train for cold weather operations.

Guard and Reserve Military Construction

67. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, according to the 2014 Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan the National Guard needs over \$1 billion dollars annually over the next 15 years in order to meet 80 percent of the space requirements and increase their condition to fair. Could you please explain why our Army Reserve and National Guard facilities are continually funded disproportionately less than our Active Component and well below the amount required to adequately update them?

Response: Over the last 3 fiscal years (FY) the ARNG portion as a percentage of the MILCON budget has increased from 11.9% in the FY19 enacted to 27.2% in FY21 budget request. While this level of funding falls short of the \$1 billion requirement laid out in the Army National Guard (ARNG) 2014 Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan it does, to the maximum extent possible in the current MILCON budget environment, allow the ARNG to program for the replacement of its highest priority Readiness Center projects. In regards to the U.S. Army Reserves, they also had an increase in requested funding when you compare the FY19 enacted to the FY 21 budget request (5% to 7.5% of the MILCON budget).

Active Duty and Reserve Force Structure

68. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, could you explain why there is disparity between Active Duty and Reserve Component force structure? I understand, for example, that an Active Duty HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) battery consists of 27 systems, while a Reserve battery has only 16.

Response: The difference is based on modernization priorities and available systems. For example, all Active and Reserve Component Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) rocket artillery battalions will consist of 27 systems by Fiscal Year 2026. As we modernize the Army, some units will be fielded with fewer or different systems until procurement of modernized systems become available. This is not just a difference between components, we have different mixes within each component while we are changing organizational designs and modernizing the Total Force.

Border Wall Funding

69. Secretary McCarthy, last year the Department of Defense realigned \$6 billion from its budget towards constructing a border wall along the United States' southern border with Mexico. More recently, the administration informed congress that it was going to divert another \$3.8 billion from the Pentagon to the border wall from various programs essential to supporting the National Defense Strategy. Can you discuss the impact of raiding military

construction projects and various equipment and weapons systems accounts on the Army and its ability to support the NDS?

Response: I agree with the CJCS assessment that there is no significant, immediate, strategic negative impact to the overall defense of the United States of America.

Senator Richard Blumenthal

U.S. Army Medical Research & Development Support for COVID-19

70. Secretary McCarthy, I know that the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research has extensive experience studying both severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), two high-profile coronaviruses that caused deadly outbreaks. Can you speak to how you are leveraging this experience to support your civilian counterparts, and elaborate on any additional interagency efforts by U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command to support COVID-19 treatment and vaccine development?

Response: Medical Research and Development Command (MRDC) and its subordinate commands are working across a broad coalition of civilian entities and other federal agencies to research, develop, and acquires treatments and vaccines. A few examples follow:

- a. MRDC is working closely with the Vaccine Research Center/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID; Dr. Fauci) on shared vaccine concepts for COVID-19 including standardized test and evaluation parameters in both animal models and clinical trials;
- b. NIAID, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), and WRAIR are in discussion about tech insertion of vaccine and monoclonal antibody countermeasures developed by others into our combined test and evaluation competencies to speed the fielding of effective capabilities for prevention and treatment;
- c. MRDC is working closely with Harvard Medical School/Mass Gen Hospital/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical center on rapid animal model evaluation of COVID-19 medical countermeasures to prevent and treat COVID-19;
- d. MRDC has an agreement in place with Gilead for access to Remdesivir under an expanded access protocol to make investigational treatment available for Service members in locations where access to clinical trials is not feasible. Indication is for Service members with severe COVID-19 infection;
- e. MRDC has multiple cooperative research and development agreements in place and in process for development, testing, and evaluation of prevention, treatment, and diagnostic technologies emerging from industry, academia and USG partners. Key areas include therapeutic screening, vaccine human safety studies, improved rapid, high-throughput diagnostics tests, and point of care diagnostics.
- f. MRDC coordinates Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Research and Development (R&D) efforts through the U.S. Interagency MCM Task Force, led by HHS-BARDA.

COVID-19 and Army Readiness: Travel Suspension

71. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in recent guidance issued by the U.S. Army, you made the decision to suspend movement and delay travel of soldiers stationed in Italy and Korea, both of which have been identified by the Center for Disease Control as alert level three for COVID-19. Just yesterday, Secretary Esper issued a stop movement order to halt all travel and movement abroad for up to 60 days. How do you plan to keep these soldiers and their families healthy while mitigating any readiness degradation given these travel delay orders?

Response: The number one priority in this crisis is protecting our people. Although the stop move order will have effects on our force, it will significantly reduce the risk of infection or spread of the virus. We have adjusted numerous personnel policies and entitlements to ensure our Soldiers and their families have the information, pay, and resources to get through this pandemic. Although we have curtailed training and exercises, Commanders at all levels will conduct training based within the published Army and CDC guidance to maintain our readiness.

Military Exercise and Training Cancellations

72. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army recently canceled several major joint exercises in both USINDOPACOM and USEUCOM and rebranded them “combined command post exercises.” How does the canceling of these exercises impact the Army’s ability to provide strategic deterrence to combatant commanders, and what metrics are you using to decide what training must continue, and what can be postponed?

Response: At the operational and strategic levels the Army has moved very quickly to respond to COVID-19 in order to protect both the force and the nation. The Army will continue to prioritize force protection in the current environment. Doing so will preserve current readiness and our ability to respond in crisis. We will continue to evaluate the need to scale back planned training based on a rigorous analysis of the risk to force. Commanders at all levels are assessing their local conditions and modifying training to minimize risk to our force while maximizing our readiness. Additionally, the Army has initiated planning on how to adjust our planned training and exercises through the remainder of the year when the conditions exist to execute. The longer the pandemic lasts, the greater the possibility there will be an impact to readiness, but to what degree is yet to be determined. As regular GFMAP rotations are postponed we are consuming readiness by not utilizing the BCTs/units that are/were prepared to deploy. The length of the delay in deployments for GFMAP rotations will determine - unit specific - what is needed to refresh training on prior to deployment.

COVID-19 and Military-to-Military Partnerships

73. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, given the cancelation of major joint exercises for the near future, what actions are you taking to ensure we maintain strong strategic military-to-military partnerships across the globe?

Response: While a number of major exercises have been canceled in the near-term, we remain committed to strengthening our partnerships, and building capacity and capability in the mid- and long-term. We are exploring positive actions allowing us to test our concept of Dynamic Force Employment. The Total Army is in continuous contact with allies and partners at multiple levels, and will continue to reassure them of our commitment. As the Army continues to support the U.S. Government response to COVID-19, Army Senior Leaders are in regular contact with allies and partners through phone calls and email to keep lines of communication open, share best practices and lessons learned, and discuss any impacts on strategic readiness. The Army has also directed the Multinational Fusion Cell within HQDA to seek COVID-19 SITREPs from their respective countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, S. Korea, and New Zealand) and exchanges on the impact and actions being taken by their Armies.

Senators Blumenthal and Warren

COVID-19 and Army Readiness

74. General McConville, recent guidance issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) provided specific recommendations to effectively execute social distancing, and many U.S. cities have issued shelter-in-place orders to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. What guidance are you providing to your commanders to implement social distancing and other protective measures as recommended by the CDC in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Response: The Army has followed CDC and the Commander in Chief's guidance with respect to social distancing. This information was provided to the force via three Army Orders/FRAGOs (#7 published on 14 Mar, #8 published on 15 Mar and # 11 published on 20 Mar). Additionally, the Army directed installations, camps, and posts to increase their Health Protection (HPCON) to protect our Soldiers and their Families, our Civilians, and Contractors and ensure we can continue our mission by minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

Senator Mazie K. Hirono

Coronavirus Response

75. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army Garrison in Hawaii now has four diagnosed cases of COVID-19. Two individuals are assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center and cases on the island continue to increase every day. How have the Army, Army National Guard, and Tripler Army Medical Center prepared to respond to an uptick in coronavirus cases and assist the local civilian response?

Response: The U.S. Army Pacific is taking all necessary actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our formations through (but not limited to): maximizing telework, social distancing, reducing in-person meetings to six-persons or less and maximizing the use of video-conferencing, physical training is on an individual basis to prevent large groups of Soldiers gathering in one place, and enforcing all post travel quarantine standards. In the last 48 hours, USARPAC, acting as the INDOPACOM TJFLCC, has issued our base Defense Support for Civil Authorities (DSCA) in support of FEMA as the Lead Federal Agency (LFA) for the COVID-19 response. The order includes directives for the INDOPACOM service components to begin planning to provide support to FEMA, including but not limited, to medical resources and sea and air lift. The Hawaii based Defense Coordinating Officer is in constant coordination with FEMA on emerging requirements. Today, the TJFLCC supported FEMA with a rotary wing mission to Maui that transported a team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to execute site surveys for potential alternate medical care facilities. Over the next 72 hours, TJFLCC is collecting and validating names for the Title 10 DDSC and staff that will support the Dual Status Commander once designated.

The Governor of Hawaii named Hawaii National Guard's Adjutant General, MG Kenneth S. Hara, as the overall incident Commander. MG Hara is also the Hawaii Emergency Management Director, and is in direct coordination with all levels of government in planning, coordinating, and responding to COVID-19 in the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii National Guard's (HING) Joint Staff has stood up a Joint Operations Center to manage the HING's response and is preparing to stand up the HING Joint Task Force and a Dual Status Command, if required. Currently, the HING has 146 Soldiers and Airmen on State Active Duty supporting contingency planning and operational planning (medical support, security, traffic control) and conducting Joint Reception Staging, Onward movement, and Integration (JRSOI). This includes a Ready Reaction Force and one (1) heavy lift aviation asset currently on standby, prepared to support the state as directed.

Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) continues coronavirus preparedness and response efforts through close coordination with all military medical facilities on Oahu and the local community as an active member in the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and Statewide Emergency Management System. TAMC provides drive thru screening and testing on Fort Shafter Flats (Monday-Saturday) to improve access to care. TAMC's drive thru screening and testing eases the demand on TAMC's emergency Department. TAMC continues operational bed expansion planning to maximize capacity. The military medical facilities in the Hawaii Military Health system are identifying, credentialing, and training military medical professionals across the Joint

Force with critical care and emergency medicine training to support an expected increased inpatient demand. TAMC and Regional Health Command - Pacific healthcare facility planners - are identifying military facilities on Oahu that can be repurposed for expanded COVID-19 patient treatment areas.

Army Role in the Pacific

76. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, as you continue to pivot the Army toward the National Defense Strategy defined by great power competition, it is important for the United States to project strength, reassure our allies, and build partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in response to Chinese and North Korean activity. Your Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request specifically notes the importance of funding multi-lateral exercises to meet the goal of strengthening alliances and partnerships. What is the current status of targeted multi-lateral exercises in the Indo-Pacific region given the coronavirus pandemic?

Response: U.S. and partner nation responses to COVID-19 have unfortunately required the cancellation or postponement of a number of near-term exercises with our partners. Exercise TIGER LIGHTNING with Bangladesh has been postponed, as has a South Korean Army rotation to the National Training Center. Exercise COBRA GOLD with Thailand was completed prior to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Planning conferences for exercises KEEN EDGE / ORIENT SHIED and YAMA SAKURA with Japan will continue on in a digital format. We remain in regular and close contact with our Indo-Pacific allies and partners on future exercises, as well as the broader U.S. commitment to the region.

Military Housing

77. Secretary McCarthy, you mention in your posture statement that you have “brought Army leadership back into the housing equation, empowering tenants and holding partners accountable.” Our people deserve safe, high quality housing. How is Army leadership working with privatized companies to provide safe, quality housing to our military families?

Response: The Army and its leaders are fully engaged. The Quality of Life (QOL) for our Soldiers, Families, and Civilians is my top priority; safe and quality housing is integral to QOL efforts. Under the direction of GEN Perna at U.S. Army Materiel Command, the Army has taken the following steps to provide safe, quality housing to our military families:

- We are holding the privatized housing companies to account. We revised their Incentive Fee structure to place increased emphasis on maintenance quality, maintenance response times, and resident satisfaction.

- We’ve established processes to review all privatized housing company investment proposals, to ensure the right amount of money is being applied to fix the right problems (example – upgrading HVAC systems to prevent mold growth rather than just focusing on mold remediation).

- Finally, we’ve increased our holistic analysis of the financial conditions of all seven privatized companies to ensure they have the capital to either fix or fully renovate aging inventories. We are working with the administration to clarify OMB scoring rules, which would allow the Residential Community Initiative (RCI) companies access to more capital.

- In 2020, RCI Companies will invest \$429M in their inventories across our installations, building 106 new homes and renovating more than 1,100. More than \$1B in RCI development funding is programmed through 2024.

Child Development Centers

78. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, I note the request for \$65 million for new childcare facilities and playgrounds at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter in Hawaii in the Army's Unfunded Priority List – since this is a readiness issue, I would have preferred to see them in the actual budget request. Access to safe, affordable childcare is an important quality of life issue for families. I added a provision to the Fiscal Year 2020 NDAA to significantly reduce the lengthy hiring process for qualified childcare providers on military installations by expanding direct hire authority. Has the streamlined direct hiring process for childcare providers been effective without sacrificing any of the quality and background checks for applicants?

Response: The direct hire authority authorized in the 2020 NDAA pertained to General Schedule (GS) employees. Almost 100% of Army child and youth staff are non-appropriated fund (NAF) employees. Current Army policy gives Garrison commanders direct recruitment authority for NAF positions, and may delegate that authority to any level of management deemed appropriate. The Army uses this authority to fill positions with highly qualified child care staff more efficiently than other recruitment systems. Since 2018, on-board staffing increased from 79 percent to 86 percent (Oct 19) and is holding steady. An online NAF transfer system, the Child and Youth Employee Assistance Tool (CEAT), was launched in October 2019 to assist military spouses and civilian direct child care staff by allowing them to request a non-competitive transfer at the same grade level/pay when PCSing to a new duty location. This tool reduces transfer time by two weeks. CEAT has placed 140 military spouses and 107 NAF civilian staff since October 2019. The tool is being expanded to include all CYS staff (CY, and NF-3 and below pay bands) by Oct 20.

Women in Military Service to America Memorial

79. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Fiscal Year 2020 NDAA conference report directed the Secretary of the Army to establish a memorandum of understanding with the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc., to define responsibilities and allocate resources for the operation and maintenance of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial and surrounding grounds. What progress has been made on this memorandum and are there any limiting factors?

Response: ANC and WIMSA have held multiple meetings over the last three months to develop the MOU as directed by the NDAA. A draft License agreement is currently being staffed to formalize WIMSA's occupancy on Federal land. Once this license is complete, the parties will finalize the MOU. These documents will establish and define each parties' responsibilities for operations and maintenance for the memorial.

Senator Angus S. King, Jr.

Acquisition Reform

80. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in your testimony on soldier lethality you referenced a departure from the traditional requirements process as you develop the Integrated Visual Augmentation System. While I am encouraged by the approach, what oversight have you built in to ensure that the Army avoids requirement creep with this evolving strategy?

Response: IVAS is one of the signature efforts under the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team (SL-CFT). The SL-CFT conducts quarterly touchpoints with the Secretary and Undersecretary of the Army, Chief and Vice Chief of Staff, the Army Acquisition Executive, the Commander of Army Futures Command, as well as the commanders of the other Army Major Commands. During those routine touchpoints, the SL-CFT Director and Program Executive Officer Soldier present any recommended requirements adjustments for Army Senior Leader decision. This rigorous process prevents requirements creep and ensures any changes to this high-priority program are approved at the appropriate level. We are ensuring IVAS meets the right requirements by deliberately running each IVAS Capability Set (CS) through Soldier Touch Points (STP). Soldier Touch Points (STPs) are designed to test and validate fight first capabilities in a tactical field environment. Each CS has multiple STPs where Soldiers provide feedback on form, function and capability as they execute their tactical missions. Army Senior Leaders review the feedback from the STPs when making decisions on capability trades in order to impose rigor and accountability in the requirements decision making process.

Personnel

81. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, while I support your efforts in talent management and talent-based recruiting I would like to understand the Army's plan to target areas around the country to keep it a force that is representative of the United States as a whole? For example, with the many base closures in the New England region over the last 30 years much of the region has lost its connection to the military and has been a significant reduction in military accessions from that area and I would like to see that changed.

Response: In October 2018 the Army began a process to prioritize our recruiting efforts and synchronize the Army's focus in twenty-two cities across the country to improve our connection to the country, and increase the diversity of the force by going into areas that we had not previously emphasized. Led by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, we selected these twenty-two cities based upon their high population of qualified military applicants and low propensity to serve. The Focus 22 cities in the northeast region of the U.S. are Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore. Over the past eighteen months, the Army has conducted hundreds of accessions events in these Focus 22 cities varying from key leader engagements with civic leaders, Meet Your Army events, teaming up with the NFL, MLB, and college sports, and participation in community events. We are supporting these accessions events with Army bands, drill teams, marksmanship units, and the Golden Knights, and more recently with our newly developed 'e-Sports' and functional fitness teams. The collaboration of

multiple Army organizations and the renewed focus to prioritize these communities has resulted in the Army reconnecting with the communities in these Focus 22 cities, which is contributing to meeting our accessions goals.

82. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, what plans does the Army have to combat the increasing numbers of active and veteran suicides? Also, please summarize the standard process a soldier goes through when transitioning from Active Duty to veteran status, how that process helps the service member prepare for civilian life to include dealing with the mental and emotional stress of the transition, and where you think that process needs to improve.

Response: One suicide is one too many. We are committed to significantly reducing suicides in the Army. We enhanced mandatory suicide prevention training for every Soldier and Army Civilian. We invested in resilience training and performance enhancement capabilities, which are available to each member of the Army Team. We also developed visibility tools to provide leaders with insight to develop targeted prevention and intervention plans to both identify and assist at-risk Soldiers. All Soldiers are required to attend the Transition Assistance Programs' initial counseling NLT 12 months prior to their end of service date. In that 12 month period, they are assessed and determine (with the help of trained counselors) their best transition plan and career track to help them achieve their individual goals. They then follow that plan through a series of counseling gates like resume and budget development. Finally, NLT 3 months prior to their end of service date, they sit with a counselor and conduct a final review of their transition preparation. If the Soldier does not feel prepared for their transition off of active duty, or their Commander/counselor does not think they are prepared for their transition, the Soldier receives a 'warm hand-off' to the Veteran's Administrations (VA) or Department of Labor (DOL). On average, about 100,000 Soldiers a year go through this process. The hand-off to the VA/DOL is where can improve the most by confirming the hand-off and later obtaining a report on transition.

Missile Defense

83. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, what is the Army's strategy for developing the air and missile defense capabilities required to defend U.S. Forces against the increasing threat posed by cruise missiles and short and medium range ballistic missiles, also, how does the Army plan to address and defend against the emerging theater-level hypersonic weapon threats? Iran's attacks against the Aramco facilities in Saudi Arabia last September and against U.S. Forces in Iraq in January should serve as a wake-up call for those threats.

(RCCTO) The best defense against hypersonic and supersonic cruise missiles is to have robust offensive and defensive capabilities. From an offensive perspective, we are placing significant emphasis and investment into our own hypersonic capability. The current schedule of delivering a road mobile prototype hypersonic battery in FY23 remains in place. We must also attack the munition once launched. The Missile Defense Agency is exploring defenses against hypersonic threats, and we are evaluating Patriot against the supersonic cruise missile threats. Supersonic

threats are also an Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) objective requirement, while subsonic remains a threshold requirement.

Senator Martin Heinrich

Army Test Range Infrastructure

84. Secretary McCarthy, I was encouraged to see the types of investments the Fiscal Year 2021 President's Budget proposed in Army modernization in technologies of the future like directed energy, hypersonics, and artificial intelligence. As you know, investments like these are only of use to our service members in the field if we are able to transition them out of the laboratories. What kind of investments does the Army's budget make in our Nation's test and range infrastructure to speed up the tech transition process?

Response: Investments in Army test and range infrastructure are fully aligned to meet the demands of Army Modernization and enable the rapid transition of new technologies from the lab to the battlefield. Investments are underway in critical test range infrastructure, such as wireless and fiber optic networks. Major families of range instrumentation, including radar, telemetry, and optics, are being modernized to support hypersonics and long-range fires testing. New instrumentation and targets for directed energy testing are being built. Computing resources, tools, and techniques for testing artificial intelligence systems are being developed. Commensurate investments are underway to support all Army Modernization priorities.

Army Long Range Precision Fires

85. Secretary McCarthy, over the past few years, the Army has tested capabilities for Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) at White Sands Missile Range. As you know, LRPFs are a critical part of the 2018 National Security Strategy's modernization goals. Of the \$1.7 billion in funding proposed in Fiscal Year 2021 for LRPFs, is any funding dedicated to testing and sustaining testing infrastructure or is this funding all research and development (R&D) and procurement and is the \$1.7 billion sufficient to meet the Army's modernization timeline?

Response: Yes, I believe the \$1.7 billion submitted as part of the President's budget to support the Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) portfolio is sufficient to meet the Army's modernization timelines. Funding in the FY21 budget requests does support tests and infrastructure activities across the LRPF portfolio. For example, \$7.1 million is allocated to support Precision Strike Missile Engineering Development Flight Tests that are currently scheduled to occur in 3QFY21.

Army Directed Energy-Maneuver Short Range Air Defense

86. Secretary McCarthy, the Army is testing its Directed Energy-Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (DE-MSHORAD) at White Sands Missile Range. How does DE-MSHORAD fit into the Army's overall directed energy program and what is the timeline for fielding this capability?

Response: Yes, DE-MSHORAD is part of the Army strategy for Air Defense support to maneuver units. The DE-MSHORAD capability is intended to protect Divisions and Brigade Combat Teams from Unmanned Aerial Systems, rotary-wing aircraft, and Rocket, Artillery, and

Mortar threats. The Army is leveraging past S&T investments and the progression of the Multi-Mission High Energy Laser (MMHEL) Technology Maturation Initiative to rapidly prototype DE-MSHORAD systems and field to a platoon in 4QTRFY22. DE-MSHORAD is one of three directed energy efforts the Army is pursuing. The second is Indirect Fire Protection Capability-High Energy Laser (IFPC-HEL), which will provide a 300 kW-class laser system by FY24. Finally, the third is the IFPC-High Powered Microwave, which uses electrical pulses designed to disable/destroy electrical components of threat equipment, also to be delivered by FY24.

87. Secretary McCarthy, what can this Committee do to better support the Army's Directed Energy programs?

Response: The Army is pursuing a variety of Directed Energy (DE) weapons, including both lasers and High Power Microwave (HPM) systems, to address near-peer threats as part of its modernization strategy. The Army has made Directed Energy a modernization priority in the Department and we would ask Congress to support our FY21 budget request for all associated efforts. The Army FY21 president's budget request for DE includes: DE-Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (DE-MSHORAD) demonstration for a down select in our competitive approach in FY21 and the funds for three additional 50 kW-class lasers integrated onto Strykers to be delivered to a platoon (four vehicles) in FY22; and the Indirect Fire Protection Capability-HEL (IFPC-HEL) funding for 300 kW-class laser system design, integration, and demonstration in FY22.

MILCON Cancellation

88. Secretary McCarthy, I am encouraged by the Army's investment R&D and procurement for next-generation weapon systems, but remained concerned that we are not sustaining the test infrastructure needed to rapidly field these capabilities.

In Fiscal Year 2020, \$40 million in military construction funding for an information systems facility at White Sands Missile Range was redirected to fund the President's ineffective border wall. Funding for that facility was not included in the Fiscal Year 2021 President's Budget. What is the plan to fund this critical facility?

Response: The Army continues to work with the Office of the Secretary of Defense on a viable strategy to fund all the military construction project that were deferred; this includes the information systems facility project at White Sands Missile Range.

Senator Elizabeth Warren

COVID-19

89. General McConville, the Army has reportedly moved to virtual recruiting exclusively in order to protect recruiters and recruits from potentially COVID-19. What is your best assessment of the impact this will have on the Army's monthly recruiting goals?

Response: As COVID-19 continues to impact the country, we are continuously assessing the environment to ensure we are making the necessary adjustment. USAREC was already focused on virtual recruiting as that is where today's youth market lives. Prior to COVID-19, digital and social media have been the top lead generating tools, producing 50,000 leads ahead of last year. Army recruiters post career opportunities using online job postings, which has made it one of the largest lead production platforms. Virtual recruiting has produced a 40% increase in contracts from this time in FY19 to FY20. Further, 63% of all virtual recruiting contracts are quality applicants. While we are still analyzing virtual recruiting in today's environment, we are optimistic that we have put the conditions in place to ensure continued success in recruiting the force.

In order to set conditions for when recruiting can turn to normal operations, USAREC recruiters will virtually process applicants using a "soft contract" methodology.

Recruiters will gather leads using 100% Virtual Prospecting to identify interested applicants. Once the applicant is contacted, if the applicant expresses an interest in receiving more information on career opportunities with the U.S. Army, the Recruiter will conduct a virtual Army interview (Facetime or Skype) to provide them more information. If the applicant is still interested the recruiter will administer the Pending Internet Computerized Adaptive Test (PiCAT), which is a Virtual ASVAB. The PiCAT score is now valid for 45 days increased from 30 days due to COVID-19.

If the applicant achieves a PiCAT score that enables them to enlist, the recruiter will begin working with the applicant to virtually obtain all required documents. Further, recruiters now have the ability to virtual witness signing of Parental Consent Forms. The applicant will complete the Career Explorer app thus allowing Recruiters to build the applicant's record virtually. The recruiter will then generate a Temporary Reservation that guarantees the applicant their MOS and incentives for 45 days, which was increased from 7 days due to COVID-19. The applicant will then be considered a "soft contract." The determination of when to continue applicant processing is dependent on the level of risk in the area in which the applicant resides. Once an area is determined to be safe to continue processing, the applicant will be taken to a Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPs), which is part of Military Entrance Processing Command (MEPCOM), to continue processing of the Physical and Enlistment Contract. Once an applicant has been cleared by MEPs, the applicant will be given a report date for reporting to Basic Combat Training.

The goal of the "soft contract" process is to enable USAREC to complete 90% of the applicant processing virtually to ensure the safety of the applicant and our recruiters. Further, we will be

able to inform MEPCOM of "soft contract" applicant totals, so when recruiting operations return to normal, the processing will be in place to efficiently and effectively move applicants through the final stages of enlistment.

90. General McConville, what are the Army's contingency plans should it fail to meet its monthly recruiting goals?

Response: In order to protect the nation, we must first protect our force. We are prioritizing the health of the Army over any accessions goal. Army end strength is the cumulative product of accessions, retention, and attrition. If we are short on monthly recruiting (accessions) goals, we can adjust retention and attrition. For example, we are offering enlisted service members the option to extend their current contract for a period of 3 months to 11 months under the Response to COVID Outbreak Extension (RCOE) policy. This new policy not only takes care of Soldiers in a time of uncertainty, but we also expect it to bolster the Army's operating strength in the coming months. In addition, we are working to reduce Soldier attrition from basic training.

91. General McConville, when do you expect to know if these contingency plans will need to be executed?

Response: We are already starting to execute some of these contingency plans, partly because we know that retention and attrition management are crucial to maintaining the force that the nation needs. We also monitor accessions results on a monthly basis. We will continue to evaluate the need for and potential timing of other personnel-related policies and levers that we may need to pull.

92. General McConville, are recruits being tested for COVID-19 before or after shipping out to basic training and what steps is the Army taking to ensure that the disease is not spreading amongst recruits and staff at recruit training facilities?

Response: The Army is only shipping new recruits from areas of the country that are not high-risk; have been pre-screened; and exhibit no signs of COVID-19 to Army Training Centers. Trainees are continuously screened at each stage of the reception and transport process and then throughout their training. Upon arrival at an Army Training Center, trainees are screened before in-processing and enter into the 14-day restriction-of-movement / limited contact protocol where they complete administrative tasks and socially-distanced academic training. Army Training Centers have implemented measures to maximize social distancing, limit the potential for spreading, and reduce risk. These measures include: filling classes to less than 50% to maximize social distancing; adjusting POIs to reduce close-proximity training (e.g., combatives training is postponed); reducing the size of groups (e.g., on bus transportation, in barracks and classrooms, etc.); maximizing the use of outdoor locations; modifying dining facility procedures; and continuously monitoring drill sergeants, cadre, and trainees for health issues and temperatures. Additionally, family days are cancelled and graduations are closed to the public.

Senator Gary C. Peters

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

93. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army is responsible for multiple PFAS contamination sites in Michigan, including at Camp Grayling and the Grand Ledge Army Aviation Support Facility. How is the Army working to address PFAS contamination that it is responsible for, including how is the Army cooperating with state and local governments and impacted communities?

Response: The Army has initiated response actions to assess the source and potential impacts of PFAS under the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) at both Camp Grayling and Grand Ledge Army Aviation Support Facility (Grand Ledge). Drinking water has been sampled both on and off installation at Camp Grayling. There are 17 drinking water wells above the EPA lifetime health advisory (HA) of 70 parts per trillion, where the Army is providing bottled water and is in the process of providing whole-house filtration systems or connection to public drinking water systems. The Army has been collaborating with state and local health departments, Michigan's environmental regulator (Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)), and the local county and city governments to coordinate Camp Grayling actions. The Army is meeting regularly with these stakeholders who freely share information among organizations, and with the general public through a series of joint public meetings. The Army is working closely with EGLE in an ongoing investigation to assess if PFAS from Army Guard activities at Grand Ledge has reached drinking water wells. Sampling has occurred both on and off the installation. There have been no drinking water wells found to exceed the lifetime HA on or around Grand Ledge.

Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle

94. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, a January 16, 2020, the Army canceled the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle (OMFV) program. This was the Army's third attempt to replace the Bradley. OMFV is part of the Next Generation Combat Program, the Army's second modernization priority. What additional requirements or characteristics do you expect of OMFV that weren't included in the original program and what do you expect to be different in submissions from industry?

Response: OMFV characteristics will be refined through a series of industry engagements, digital design competitions, and Soldier touch points to inform and sharpen OMFV final prototypes for testing yielding requirements for production. This approach will enable us to explore the solution space in an environment of rapid and inexpensive learning leading to verification through physical prototypes, Soldier input, and testing. These encounters are also intended to challenge biases and confirm state of the art technologies available to support the ABCT commander on the modern battlefield. This approach will deliver innovation, maximize competition, and ultimately produce a vehicle that will dominate in multi-domain operations for generations. We are not releasing a prescribed set of requirements – we are describing the problem set and giving industry the freedom to be creative and innovative in its approach.

Advanced Combat Engine

95. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in December 2019 the Army held a demonstration of the Advanced Powertrain Demonstrator, including the Advanced Combat Engine, at the Ground Vehicle Systems Center in Warren, Michigan. This demonstrator is developing capabilities which may be integrated into future systems the Army is developing, including those under the purview of the Next Generation Combat Vehicle Cross Functional Team. Can you please describe the need for the Army to improve its existing powertrain options, including the capability advantage offered by the Advanced Combat Engine over existing engines or commercial-off-the-shelf options?

Response: The Army began development of an Advanced Combat Powertrain in 2015 based upon a market survey and analysis that showed available combat powertrains are not sufficient to meet anticipated requirements and that engines developed for commercial applications were not sufficient for military operating conditions without further development. Specifically, a gap in the market existed for combat vehicle platforms in the 45-60 ton weight range. Additional power was needed within the restricted under armor volume of combat vehicles to maintain pace with the force and provide electrical power to support protection, lethality, and communications systems. The Advanced Combat Powertrain, including the Advanced Combat Engine, has the objectives to improve the power density by 1.5 to 2.0x, increase fuel efficiency by 25%, increase electrical power available by 10x, increase mobility (range by an additional 100 miles, speed on grades by 50% and accelerate 30% faster), and improved thermal management, with the Bradley powertrain as the baseline.

Army in USINDOPACOM

96. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army has begun expanding its role in the USINDOPACOM. Recently, Secretary McCarthy announced “five-month extended rotations to countries like Thailand, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea” and the first deployment of a Security Forces Assistance Brigade to USINDOPACOM. What long-term role do you envision for the U.S. Army in USINDOPACOM and what is the risk of an expanded role for the U.S Army in USINDOPACOM including the impact of shifting Army resources from more land-centric theatres like Europe and the Middle East?

Response: The Army has an important role in the greater Indo-Pacific region based on the ideas of all-domain warfare and great power competition. The Indo-Pacific theater is a land force centric environment within a larger maritime theater where most of the regional militaries are land force centric. The Army can most effectively advance national interests and contribute to regional stability and the peaceful resolution of conflicts by establishing regional security partnerships in the South China Sea and Southeast Asia. The Army is currently exercising with regional security partners and plans to employ security force assistance formations. The Army must demonstrate the ability to converge warfighting capabilities across domains at scale to prevail in adversarial competition. The Army will globally posture forces in support of strategic priorities and joint force requirements.

Senators Peters and Manchin

COVID-19 Response

97. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, there are more than 10,000 National Guard servicemembers responding to COVID-19, as of March 25, 2020. Guardsmen in several States have been moved to Federally-supported Title 32 orders. How is the Army ensuring that frontline National Guard servicemembers responding to this national emergency have access to the personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to safely and effectively carry out their COVID-19 response mission and what is the Army's plan to ensure National Guard servicemembers who may have been exposed to the virus have access to unique healthcare service which may be required because of this virus?

Response: We are concerned about the health and well-being of all of our Soldiers. Our Soldiers are executing missions in support of FEMA and HHS in coordination with their respective State Departments of Health. As a supporting entity to both HHS and FEMA, ARNG Soldiers are being provided PPE by HHS in accordance with CDC guidelines. For the few states that are using CSTs to execute certain missions, those personnel have specialized PPE optimized for CBRNE environments. We have issued directives to Commanders to ensure that no Soldiers are being asked to conduct any mission for which they are not properly equipped.

ARNG Soldiers that are federally funded under 502(f) authorities, while serving under the state orders and guidance are authorized and would receive medical care through Tricare. Army National Guard Soldiers responding in a State Active Duty (SAD) must submit a state Workman's Compensation claim for medical care.

Senator Joe Manchin III

COVID-19

98. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, we are all disappointed that key parts of DEFENDER-Europe 20 are being postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19. Do you have any data at this time about both the financial and readiness impacts caused by these cancellations and postponements?

Response: The Army is moving very quickly to respond to the COVID-19 to protect both the force and the nation. Due to parts of Defender and other events being postponed or cancelled, we have funds that have not been executed. We are working to understand the financial impact once the accounting is complete. We have not seen significant impact to readiness yet, but are concerned the longer the pandemic lasts the greater the possibility there will be a degradation. We are continuing to train at lower levels and Commanders at all levels are assessing their local conditions and modifying training to minimize risk to our force while maximizing our readiness.

Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A)

99. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the advanced testimony sent to this committee places an emphasis on the people that make up the Army. IPPS-A is one effort that is discussed as a way for the Army to refocus on its people. The IPPS-A fielding plan begins with the National Guard before moving on to the other components. With any type of app or software that stores personal data, it is vulnerable to cybersecurity issues. What measures are being taken by the Army and your partners to ensure the cybersecurity of this program?

Response: The Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army (IPPS-A) Increment II has instituted both Army and Joint measures across its system design, development, testing, deployment, and sustainment lifecycles to continuously assess, test, and validate the cybersecurity controls implemented to protect the system. These measures are tested by the Systems Integrator (CACI), the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), and DOD's Director Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E). There are many Cybersecurity approvals, certifications, and tests that have been performed on the IPPS-A Increment II system. The IPPS-A Cybersecurity Strategy, Incident Response Team, Continuity of Operations Plan and the Cybersecurity service provider ensures that IPPS-A Increment II is employing a secure, defense-in-depth posture through the integration of people, technology, and operations.

Reprogramming

100. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the National Guard is playing an ever-growing and vital role in the COVID-19 response. This is in addition to their already significant contributions to national security alongside their Active and Reserve Component counterparts. Many Members of Congress were frustrated by the recent reprogramming action which moved funds to go to the wall because of its significant impact to the Guard, particularly the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. Do you believe that the

reprogramming of the \$3.8 billion overall, and specifically the \$600 million in Army-impacted NGREA [National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account] funds, will affect the Army's ability to respond to the current crisis while continuing to safeguard our Nation's security?

Response: No, it will not impact the Army's current ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis or safeguard our Nation's security. Congress has provided funding for our National Guard forces in the recent supplemental package which will enable the National Guard to respond to the current crisis.

Concurrent and Proportional Fielding

101. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, according to the testimony received by this committee prior to this hearing, readiness has been and still is the Army's top priority. Programs such as the UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopter, the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, AH-64E Apache Helicopter, and many future programs and efforts are examples of ways the Army is working to do this while refocusing on great power competition. The National Guard represents approximately one-quarter of the total Army forces, both uniformed and civilian, and one-third of the total uniformed soldiers in the Army. The National Guard and Reserves combined represent over half of the Army's forces. When the National Guard and Reserve represent such a significant portion the Army's forces and capabilities and often perform the same missions, side-by-side with the Active Component, do you feel that they should be organized, equipped, and manned in the same manner as their Active Component counterparts?

Response: The Army National Guard and Reserves are critical components of the Total Army Force. As the Army fields modernized equipment, the priority will be to those forces expected to make contact with an adversary first – regardless of component. Nevertheless, there are plans to continue to provide the Army National Guard with modernized equipment in parallel or before the Active Component. Examples of systems being fielded to the National Guard in parallel or before the Active Component include the AH-64E Apache to replace older model Apaches, UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to replace older UH-60A models, the Next Gen Squad Weapon to replace some M4 rifles, IVAS to replace some of their current night vision devices, Stryker double-V hull A1s to replace flat bottom hull Strykers, the M1A2 SEP V3 and V2 Abrams tanks to replace older M1A1 AIM Abrams tanks, and the Soldier Borne Sensor and Short Range Reconnaissance UAVs to add capability at the small unit level.

Senator Tammy Duckworth

Future Vertical Lift

102. Secretary McCarthy, Congress recently added \$76 million to the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bill for the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) program to reduce risk and accelerate delivery of the platform. Both platforms chosen in the recent downselect, the V-280 Valor and SB-1 Defiant, have significant test flight data from the technology demonstrator phase available for use. In your view, does the Army have enough flight data on these two platforms to alter or accelerate the competitive demonstration and risk reduction (CDRR) phase in order to field this platform earlier than projected and if additional resources were available, could the program absorb them in a productive manner this year?

Response: As you identified, the Army recently awarded two Competitive Demonstration and Risk Reduction (CD&R) OTA agreements, and initiated Phase I with FY20 funding. Under these OTA's, the Army will be working with industry to refine the requirements and conceptual designs, through a digital engineering approach. This work with industry is vital to understanding the performance, cost, affordability, schedule risks, and trades needed to successfully execute the FLRAA program. The program is currently on schedule and the Army is not looking to accelerate it.

National Guard Full-Time Support

103. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, as of March 24, 2020, the National Guard activated over 9,000 Guardsman in support of COVID-19 efforts in the United States. I've long been concerned about Guard readiness and continue to be so as activation levels continue to rise. It is my understanding that full-time support (FTS) levels in the Air National Guard are around 80 percent yet the Army National Guard FTS level is only at 64 percent. Given the importance of the Army National Guard's role in supporting the Total Force, and in particular their critical role during the COVID-19 crisis, would you support an increase in Guard FTS billets meets at least 80 percent of their validated requirements?

Response: We are committed to maintaining readiness in the ARNG. We are tracking the status of ARNG FTS levels and the impact of FTS funding to ARNG readiness. This is an area we will review in our FY22 budget.

COVID-19 Quarantine

104. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, I read several news article last week documenting the experiences of soldiers going through COVID-19 quarantine at Fort Bliss and Fort Bragg upon return from deployments to Afghanistan. I have to be frank, the descriptions I have read are not what I would expect from the Army. I get the sense that the Army's return from deployment quarantine planning was rushed and shoddy and may have compromised soldier safety and added to the worries of families awaiting the return of their loved ones. Will you commit to looking into reports that aspects of the return quarantine

have been inadequately planned and haphazardly executed and communicating back to the Committee what you have found and how you plan to correct any deficiencies?

Response: We have looked into all of these reports and have taken immediate action. In these cases, the commands immediately investigated and took corrective actions to remedy any deficiencies. Although we stood these facilities up quickly in response to the Army's order to house Active, National Guard, and US Army Reserve Soldiers redeploying from Level 2 and 3 countries, we can assure you that the safety and comfort of our Soldiers is our paramount concern. This does not absolve our Commanders of ensuring the health and welfare of our Soldiers. In the case of Fort Bliss, the sites selected for our initial quarantine housing are three standard Army barracks on main Fort Bliss plus two training areas frequently used for post-mobilization training. Soldiers are housed in the barracks buildings; each room is 17' by 15' in size, and hosts 4 Soldiers. These 4 Soldiers share a common area with kitchenette and bathroom (8 1/2' x 15') with 4 Soldiers in an adjoining 17' by 15' room. Soldiers are housed with other Soldiers arriving on the same day and are separated from Soldiers with different quarantine start dates to avoid commingling the distinct quarantine cohorts. The Soldiers are allowed to move among their quarantine cohort, but we maintain each quarantine site in a manner designed to protect the safety of the force during their quarantine period. The command at the 1st Armored Division has made several improvements to our quarantine locations, including additional fitness facilities, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR), and Army and Air Force Exchange (AAFES) services. We encourage Soldiers to raise concerns about their living conditions to the chain of command.

Indo-Pacific

105. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the Army has made efforts in the last several months to bolster our military presence in the Indo-Pacific region. As you both look at the INDOPACIFIC region I would like to hear from each of you what your thoughts are on opportunities in the region. In the next year, what region, sub-region, or country should the Army's primary focus be on to further build partnerships and strengthen the position of free nations in the region.

Response: The U.S. Army is very committed to strengthening alliances and attracting new partners in the Indo-Pacific region. Since January of 2020, we have been actively working to strengthen Army-to-Army relations with Indonesia and Thailand, and will continue to build on the success of recent engagements over the coming year. The U.S. Army is also committed to continuing our close relationship with the Philippine Army through engagements and exercises. Building partnerships in South Asia is also a priority of the Army, particularly with India and Bangladesh where we are working to expand the scope and scale of our exercises, and build interoperability and capacity through education, training, and security assistance. The Army will also maintain strong relationships with traditional allies and partners (Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore) by enhancing interoperability and modernizing together through high-end exercises, security assistance, and armaments cooperation.

Mobile Long Range Fires

106. General McConville, I recently reviewed an Urgent Needs Statement from the 173d Airborne Brigade out of Italy. As you know the 173d is one of our premier light infantry units and, given its position in Europe, would likely be one of the first to respond to any crisis in Europe. They are outgunned and outranged against their potential Russian opponents and have requested the fielding of a light, wheeled mobile 105mm howitzer system. As I understand it, this request has not been acted on pending an Army wide review of long range precision fires systems. While I understand the need for measured decision making regarding equipment it baffles me that when such a system is currently available the Army doesn't seem to be moving rapidly to field it to our forward deployed units who are in great need of more lethal and mobile fire support. Can you commit to me that you will take a look at this needs statement and consider the rapid fielding of such a system? I think it is critical that when we have the tools available we should get them into the warfighter's hands.

Response: Yes, we review all urgent needs statement and you have our commitment to look into the specifics of this request.

Senator Doug Jones

Army Combat Fitness Test

107. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, the services were congressionally mandated to become gender integrated, and I believe the Army has made great progress in incorporating women into the ranks. I am concerned, however, that the Army's new Combat Fitness Test may have an unintended effect on women soldiers. The gender and age neutral physical standards don't account for the different advantages of pound for pound strength that mostly men benefit from, though the Army does take that into account at other times, such as when calculating combat load. How is the Army going to ensure that the new fitness standards don't reverse the gains the Army is making in gender integration?

Response: The Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) is a predictor of a Soldier's readiness for the demands of the modern battlefield. The assessment requires all Soldiers, males and females, to meet basic minimum physical standards. These standards ensure that all Soldiers are best prepared to survive and win on a gender-neutral battlefield. The ACFT drives balanced and focused physical training that will reduce overuse injuries and unplanned attrition. All research protocols to develop the ACFT reflected the Army's male to female ratio. An appropriate number of males and females, corresponding to the Army ratio, participated in ACFT event validation. Although the biological sex differences between males and females are unequivocal, there is no physiological reason any Soldier cannot pass the ACFT at the Black, Gray, or Gold level with appropriate time, motivation, and training. Soldiers are improving their performance over time, with many Soldiers, regardless of gender, achieving passing scores on each event of the ACFT at BCT and AIT. These results stem from appropriate physical training time and proper instruction. Army Senior Leaders will utilize the next year to determine how ACFT performance impacts personnel policies and we are conducting numerous internal training studies to optimize training opportunities for Soldiers.

People

108. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in your opening statement submitted for the record, you stated that, "One example of investments into our people are the five focused Quality of Life priorities, which include housing, both family and barracks, transforming healthcare, improving and adequately resourcing Child and Youth Services." In examining your budget documents, I noticed that while the total military child population and required child care spaces increased from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021, your request funds fewer Child Development Service spaces, resulting in a drop of 9 percent (78 percent in fiscal year 2020 to 69 percent in fiscal year 2021) of children able to access care. Can you explain how you are "improving and adequately resourcing Child and Youth Services" if you are funding them at lower levels in fiscal year 2021?

Response: The Army is taking steps to focus on investments in our people in various ways, to include utilizing the Unfunded Priority List (Unfunded Requirements) process authorized by Congress which includes three Child Development Centers in both Hawaii and Alaska. While the Army programs and builds increased capacity, the Army intends to retain a higher percentage

of child care professionals by increasing pay to be competitive with civilian care providers and providing support through the Army Fee Assistance program which already covers 14,000 children. While the Army appreciates the \$50M support from Congress to support Child and Youth Services in the FY20 Enacted Budget, we were not able to adjust the request in time to effect the FY21 President's Budget. Additional emphasis is underway in the POM 22-26 development to improve and resource Child and Youth Services.

Depots

109. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, in your opening statement submitted for the record, you stated: "Moreover, the Army's Organic Industrial Base (OIB) – 26 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants – manufacture, repair, upgrade and modernize the Army's equipment, and are absolutely critical to both Strategic and Tactical Readiness. We are optimizing the OIB to three primary end states: support current unit readiness across the force; maintain the ability to meet wartime surge requirements; and modernize and retool to sustain the next generation of Army equipment. Through implementation of Repair Cycle Float, a new methodology that links OIB production and workload to Army readiness, we will fundamentally change and improve the way we resource and manage these critical facilities." Anniston Army Depot is in Alabama. They have expressed to me a concern that they will soon have no workload to repair M1 tank turrets or conduct full assembly of the tank. What is the Army doing to ensure full weapon system repair and upgrade skills are workloaded and retained?

Response: Our depot workload is a balance of modernization and sustainment requirements that meet the National Defense Strategy priorities. The current workload allows the Army to meet near-term readiness goals and the Organic Industrial Base to remain postured to surge in support of any contingency. We have the correct skills and workload to meet the Army's readiness requirements at Anniston Army Depot. OIB Sites have programs in place to cross-train personnel across multiple platforms, which enable us to maximize utilization of our current force, balance and retain skill sets and meet workload requirements, and ensure a breadth and depth of technical expertise is readily available. The skills required across our OIB sites are very dynamic and AMC is continuously evaluating them against the current force and future force requirements.

The Army will continue to address weapons system repair and upgrade capability at the depots by requesting and obtaining access to technical data as weapon systems are upgraded and modernized. The Army will also continue to engage in Public-Private-Partnering agreements with the Original Equipment Manufacturers to ensure that the required skills sets are maintained at the depots and to maximize the capabilities with our long-standing industry partners.

Army Aviation

110. General McConville, the Army continues to report a critical shortage of pilots and stated that it will increase the pilot training throughput in fiscal year 2021. Do you have sufficient funds in the fiscal year 2020 President's Budget level to allow you to set the conditions in

terms of additional instructor pilots and increased maintenance capability to accept additional students in fiscal year 2021?

Response: Congress fully supported the requested aviation training budget for FY20. The requested aviation training budget in FY20 is not sufficient to increase the throughput of Aviator training. The Army is in the process of funding the final \$122.6M of an overall \$331M UFR. \$171M was funded in FY19, \$37.4M was saved thru AH-64 modernization efforts at the training base, and the remainder will be funded in FY20. This additional funding will enable the training base at Ft. Rucker to meet the required throughput of 1272 initial entry Aviators, and 1555 graduate Aviators to meet Army requirements. The increased throughput at the training base coupled with multiple retention efforts will address the current pilot shortage. We continue to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on our training infrastructure and ability to move students to training.

Missile Defense

111. Secretary McCarthy and General McConville, gentlemen, Alabama is the arguably the home of Army missile defense. Lieutenant General Daniel Karbler, USA met with my office just a couple weeks ago, and I'm excited with the progress the Space and Missile Defense Command is making in developing new systems and working to integrate them into existing formations across the Army. I am, however, concerned with the Army's missile defense capacity. According to your budget request, you are asking for \$202 million to convert two Patriot battalions to the new Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS). I know that our Air Defenders are the most deployed units in the Department. Can you speak to the impact that this transition will have upon the operations tempo (OPTEMPO) for the rest of the Patriot units?

Response: The impact of IBCS modernization on the OPTEMPO of the Patriot Force in FY23 and beyond will depend on the Geographic Combatant Commander demand for CONUS-Based Patriot Forces. This Patriot Force consists of 11 CONUS-Based Battalions and 4 Forward Stationed Battalions. The Army planned for 2 Patriot Battalions in IBCS modernization while supporting up to 2 Battalions Forward Deployed. If the deployed steady state exceeds 2 Battalions, an impact to modernization and Deploy to Dwell will occur.