

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF:
DR. DAVID A. HONEY TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING;
MS. BRENDA S. FULTON TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS; AND
MS. COREY A. HINDERSTEIN TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
FOR DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, NATIONAL
NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Washington, D.C.

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3 FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING;

4 MS. BRENDA S. FULTON TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
5 FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS; AND

6 MS. COREY A. HINDERSTEIN TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR
7 DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY
8 ADMINISTRATION

9
10 Thursday, October 7, 2021

11
12 U.S. Senate

13 Committee on Armed Services

14 Washington, D.C.
15

16 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:29 a.m. in
17 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed,
18 chairman of the committee, presiding.

19 Committee members present: Senators Reed [presiding],
20 Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King,
21 Warren, Peters, Rosen, Kelly, Inhofe, Wicker, Fischer,
22 Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Scott, Blackburn,
23 Hawley, and Tuberville.
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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JACK REED, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 RHODE ISLAND

3 Chairman Reed: Let me call the hearing to order.

4 Good morning. The committee meets today to consider
5 the nominations of Dr. David Honey to be Deputy Under
6 Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering;
7 Ms. Brenda Sue Fulton, to be Secretary of Defense for
8 Manpower and Reserve Affairs; and Ms. Corey Hinderstein to
9 be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear
10 Nonproliferation, the National Nuclear Security
11 Administration.

12 I thank the nominees for their willingness to return to
13 public service.

14 I would also like to welcome the family members who are
15 with us today. Dr. Honey, I welcome your wife, Cynthia and
16 son, Jonathan; Ms. Fulton, I welcome your cousin Rachel; and
17 I thank Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, who will introduce
18 you, via Webex; and Ms. Hinderstein, I welcome your family
19 members, Evan, Laura, and Rachel; and I thank Senator Sam
20 Nunn for joining us to introduce you via Webex.

21 Dr. Honey, you are nominated to be Deputy Under
22 Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. You have
23 an extensive technical and professional background from your
24 career at DARPA, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the
25 Strategic Capabilities Office, and in other positions

1 working on research and advanced technology programs and
2 issues. If confirmed, you will support Under Secretary
3 Heidi Shyu in shepherding the Department's modernization
4 activities.

5 We are in a competition with China for technological
6 superiority in areas like quantum computing, artificial
7 intelligence, robotics, and biotechnology, and you and your
8 team will be responsible for ensuring that the Department
9 has the right budget and policies in place to win that
10 competition.

11 You will have also a role helping to ensure that DOD's
12 acquisition programs are managed with solid, technical
13 foundations, mature technologies, and robust developmental
14 testing in systems engineering approaches.

15 Too many of our systems skip important early
16 engineering steps, leading to test failures, costs and
17 schedule overruns, and worst of all, delays in deploying new
18 capabilities to our forces. In your role, you will serve as
19 a technical conscience of the Department to ensure that
20 acquisition programs proceed prudently and expeditiously
21 from research into deployment. I look forward to hearing
22 how you will address these challenges.

23 Ms. Fulton, you are nominated to be the Assistant
24 Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. As
25 the principal advisor on all matters relating to civilian

1 and military personnel policies, you will be responsible for
2 Reserve integration and military community and family
3 policy, as well as day-to-day supervision of the Department
4 of Defense Education Activity and the Defense Commissary
5 Agency.

6 Your extensive leadership experiences in the public,
7 private, and military sectors should serve you well. One
8 of Secretary Austin's priorities is to eradicate extremism
9 within the ranks. While we continue to believe that the
10 number of extremists in the ranks remains very small, even
11 one is too many. I hope you will share your views on how
12 you will approach this issue, especially as the lines
13 between actions, thought, and speech becomes more difficult
14 to define each day.

15 As we know from the President's Independent Review
16 Commission that studied sexual assault and harassment in the
17 military, there has been a dangerous erosion of trust and
18 faith within the ranks in leaders' ability to effectively
19 address this issue. While reforming how we prosecute sexual
20 assault, harassment, and related crimes under the UCMJ, it
21 is important, prevention is paramount. I would ask that you
22 share your views on how we can reduce the incidents of
23 sexual assault and harassment across the force.

24 Ms. Hinderstein, you are nominated to be the Deputy
25 Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation of the

1 National Nuclear Security Administration. I would note your
2 expertise in this area from your previous work at NNSA and
3 the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

4 If confirmed, you will be responsible for leading
5 NNSA's nonproliferation efforts across a broad, important
6 portfolio, which ranges from supporting the verification of
7 current and future arms control treaties, securing the loose
8 nuclear material around the world, safeguarding the sale of
9 U.S. nuclear technology overseas, and technically supporting
10 the interagency in any future negotiations with Iran on
11 their nuclear capability. As part of these duties, you will
12 be responsible for overseeing the disposal of excess weapons
13 plutonium, including working with the State of New Mexico to
14 dispose of the 34 metric tons of excess plutonium at the
15 Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

16 And on the international stage, you will be charged
17 with leading technical efforts for any follow-on nuclear
18 weapons agreements with Russia after New START, as well as
19 technical efforts to verify and secure North Korea's nuclear
20 capabilities if a freeze agreement is reached. These are
21 complex challenges and I am going to ask that you discuss
22 how you would address them.

23 I want to, again, thank the nominees for their
24 willingness to serve. I look forward to your testimonies.

25 And now, let me recognize the ranking member, Senator

1 Inhofe.

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

3 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Chairman Reed.

4 And thanks to our witnesses for being with us and their
5 willingness to serve the nation. The world is a dangerous
6 place and America is under a greater threat than at any
7 point in our lifetime; threats from China, Russia, and North
8 Korea, Iran have all worsened since 2018.

9 As we learned over the last 2 weeks of hearings, threat
10 of radical Islamic terrorism is growing, now that
11 Afghanistan is the safest place in the world for terrorist
12 planners. Now, while the world is focused on Afghanistan,
13 we saw concerning developments in other places, too. In the
14 last 2 months, revelation about the new Chinese nuclear
15 silos has completely changed the nuclear environment.
16 Russia continues to test nonstrategic nuclear weapons and
17 its recent exercise was the largest in 4 decades. Iran's
18 stockpile of fissile material continues to expand and the
19 North Koreans continue to make surprising technological
20 leaps. It more important than ever that we complete our
21 nuclear modernization on time and continue to encourage
22 innovation at the Department of Defense.

23 It is clear to me that the old ways of doing business
24 just no longer work. Our government requires strong
25 civilian leaderships and leaders of competence and

1 character, if we hope to preserve and defend our way of life
2 from those who would do us harm.

3 And that is why these areas are so important because
4 they help us understand our potential leaders and the values
5 that they would bring to the job. So, we look forward to
6 the hearing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

7 Chairman Reed: At this time, it gives me great
8 pleasure to introduce the former Chairman of the Senate
9 Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn, so he can introduce Ms.
10 Hinderstein.

11 Chairman Nunn?

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. SAMUEL NUNN, FORMER U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM GEORGIA

3 Senator Nunn: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Am I unmuted? Can you hear me?

5 Chairman Reed: We can hear you, Mr. Chairman, and see
6 you.

7 Senator Nunn: Good.

8 Thank you, Chairman Reed, Senator Inhofe, members of
9 the Armed Services Committee. I am honored to appear before
10 this important committee and, of course, it is familiar and
11 I understand the job and the awesome responsibilities that
12 all of you have.

13 I am joining you today from California at Stanford,
14 where I will be attending the memorial service for George
15 Schultz. As you know, our nation lost George earlier this
16 year at the age of 100. He had a remarkable record of
17 public service from serving as a captain in the U.S. Marine
18 Corps to the U.S. Secretary of State and a lot of important
19 jobs in between.

20 George believed that the Committee and the Senate
21 should be in on the takeoff, as well as, in on the landing
22 on important national security and foreign policy issues,
23 and he made a point of keeping us informed.

24 Mr. Chairman and Senator Inhofe, in that spirit, I am
25 honored to introduce Corey Hinderstein to the committee. I

1 am confident that our nation's security will be greatly
2 strengthened by Corey's expertise, her leadership skills,
3 and her sound judgment in this crucial role, if she is
4 confirmed.

5 Corey has worked for 25 years in the areas of nuclear
6 nonproliferation and security. She has strong leadership
7 and analytical skills and a commitment to pragmatic
8 problem-solving. Corey has a great understanding of the
9 history of these issues that she will be involved in and she
10 develops innovative and creative paths forward, as well as
11 anyone I have seen.

12 Corey is an extraordinarily qualified nominee. Her
13 previous work at the National Nuclear Security
14 Administration, NNSA, and her experience working with us at
15 the Nuclear Threat Initiative have prepared her very well
16 for this important position.

17 Mr. Chairman, if you compare Corey's list of
18 experiences with the areas of responsibility that you
19 outline for the job that she will hold, if confirmed, they
20 line up almost perfectly, from international safeguards to
21 arms-control verification, to nuclear security, to
22 minimization of enriched uranium; all enormously important.

23 Corey was the key staff member responsible for scoping
24 and standing up the World Institute for Nuclear Security.
25 This is an international, nongovernmental organization,

1 focusing on security for people who are handling nuclear
2 materials all over the world; almost 5,000 members now from
3 more than 140 countries and Corey played the key role there.

4 She also played a critical role in the creation of the
5 International Atomic Energy Agency's Low Enriched Uranium
6 Bank, which I think is enormously important going forward in
7 the future. In both of these projects and many others,
8 Corey worked with governments and international
9 organizations and across Republican and Democratic
10 administrations.

11 If confirmed, Mr. Chairman and Senator Inhofe, I am
12 confident she would bring this spirit of cooperation to her
13 work and NNSA and in her dealings with this committee and
14 the Congress. For 3 years, Corey took a leave of absence
15 from our organization, NTI, to serve in the same NNSA office
16 she is now nominated to lead.

17 During that time, she worked closely with the Secretary
18 of Energy, the NNSA administrator, and her international and
19 interagency colleagues to strengthen global nuclear
20 security, including work to deliver strong risk-reduction
21 commitments at the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, held by
22 President Obama.

23 She was also part of the team implementing the Iran
24 nuclear agreement with a focus on monitoring, as well as the
25 all-important job of verification.

1 In conclusion, Chairman Reed, Senator Inhofe, and
2 members of the committee, I am confident that Corey is fully
3 prepared to serve in this critical role and I support her
4 nomination by President Biden. I urge the committee's
5 support, and I urge your confirmation by the full Senate.

6 Thank you very much.

7 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, not
8 only for your introduction today, but for your extraordinary
9 service to the nation.

10 And now I would like to introduce, via Webex,
11 Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, who will introduce Ms. Fulton.

12 Congresswoman?

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. MIKIE SHERRILL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
2 CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

3 Ms. Sherrill: Well, thank you, Chairman Reed, Ranking
4 Member Inhofe, and members of the committee, for holding
5 this hearing today. It is also wonderful to be here today
6 with the legendary Chairman Nunn, so that is quite an honor
7 for me.

8 Senator Nunn: Thank you.

9 Ms. Sherrill: I am so glad to be before you to
10 introduce my friend Sue Fulton and I am incredibly proud she
11 has been nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary
12 of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

13 I have admired Sue for many years. As a graduate of
14 the first class at West Point that included women, she is
15 certainly a trailblazer. In the Army, she served our
16 country with distinction as a platoon leader and as a
17 company commander, but as with so many of our veterans, her
18 service did not end when she left active-duty. She has
19 continued to be a tireless advocate for our servicemembers,
20 their families, and our veterans.

21 After she left the Army, Sue had a successful private
22 sector career, but stayed connected to the military;
23 continually finding ways to support her community and her
24 country. That includes the work she did for 8 years on the
25 West Point Board of Visitors, including 5 as chair or vice

1 chair, working in a nonpartisan manner to center character
2 development as a way to deliver the best possible Army
3 leaders. And it includes decades of improving the
4 military's ability to fight and win wars by increasing the
5 pool of talented men and women who served. She did this
6 through expanding opportunities for women, LGBTQ Americans,
7 and black Americans. She ensured we continued to provide
8 our nation with the world's very best fighting force.

9 Most recently, Sue took on the challenge, and it truly
10 was a challenge, of heading the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
11 Commission, the MVC, and led a charge to modernize and
12 transform a broken hidebound system where customers stood in
13 land to stand in line. Under her tenure, she moved to a
14 primarily analog system for in-person services to a system
15 where about 80 percent of transactions are available online.

16 Sue is knowledgeable, passionate, and she gets results.

17 I am going to just highlight, briefly, something I
18 think is abundantly clear across Sue's resume. By virtue of
19 who she is, Sue has achieved a remarkable number of firsts
20 and I can tell you firsthand, that in the best of us, people
21 like Sue Fulton, those experiences breed not only toughness
22 and courage, but also compassion and empathy.

23 Sue has spent her life fighting to help others achieve
24 their own firsts and to make sure they have supporters by
25 their side when they do so. That would be admirable in its

1 own right, but what makes Sue special is that she has led
2 with the broader mission in mind, whether it was readiness,
3 preparing the next generation of leaders, or innovating the
4 MVC.

5 Sue exemplifies the type of leadership that we prize in
6 the military. She doesn't care what your political ideology
7 is but focuses on bringing people together and leading them
8 to achievements that benefit everyone. Let me assure you
9 that Sue understands the importance of working in a
10 bipartisan and even nonpartisan manner. She has an
11 impressive track record for doing so and would bring that
12 with her into the Department of Defense. She knows how to
13 work with a broad array of people to get the job done. And
14 if you need proof, look no further, here I am; a hardcore
15 Navy fan introducing an Army grad in glowing terms.

16 So, I will end by expressing my sincere hope that you
17 all support Sue Fulton's nomination, because I cannot wait
18 to see what she will accomplish for our servicemembers, for
19 their families, and for our country. Thank you so much.

20 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Congresswoman.

21 Now, let me recognize the witnesses for their opening
22 statements.

23 Dr. Honey, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF DR. DAVID HONEY, NOMINEE TO BE DEPUTY
2 UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

3 Mr. Honey: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and
4 distinguished members of the committee, it is a pleasure to
5 be here.

6 I would also like to thank President Biden, Vice
7 President Harris, Secretary Austin, Deputy Secretary Hicks,
8 and Under Secretary Shyu for the trust they have placed in
9 me throughout this nomination process. I would also like to
10 thank my wife, Cynthia, and the rest of my family for their
11 support and understanding of the many demands I have
12 encountered during my career.

13 Today, I am humbled to sit before you to be considered
14 for the role of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for
15 Research and Engineering. Bringing the best innovations and
16 technologies to our servicemembers and civilian workforce is
17 paramount to protecting our way of life.

18 I take this charge seriously and have devoted much of
19 my career to the defense of our Nation. I received my first
20 security clearance as a federal employee in 1974 and have
21 seen firsthand the evolution of many of the issues that
22 concern us today.

23 While the global competition and challenges we face
24 seem daunting, I know from my experiences that there is much
25 that we can do to overcome them. For example, while serving

1 as a B-52 pilot, our combat capabilities benefited greatly
2 from a series of aircraft modernization efforts, and as a
3 result, the B-52 remains a formidable weapon system.

4 Having served as a scientist in the Air Force Research
5 Laboratory, I have participated in the struggle to push
6 research and development across the "Valley of Death" and
7 deliver a competitive edge to our warfighters. While I have
8 often tapped into the significant capabilities of large
9 companies in the Defense Industrial Base, I am also a strong
10 proponent of our highly innovative small business sector and
11 have actively participated in the SBIR program.

12 My commitment to pursuing innovation has deepened during
13 my two tours at DARPA, where I learned how a small agency
14 can pursue high-risk/high payoff research, and repeatedly
15 change our world for the better. During my time as the
16 Director of Science and Technology in the Office of the
17 Director of National Intelligence, I gained additional
18 perspective on the nature of today's threats to our national
19 security and the role of S&T leadership in meeting those
20 challenges. Having served previously in R&E, I am keenly
21 aware of what it takes to ensure that R&E will be a valued
22 contributor, and I believe that my experiences have
23 well-acquainted me with the demands this position requires.

24 As Under Secretary Shyu has stated before this
25 Committee, "the mission of furthering science, technology,

1 and innovation across the Department of Defense could not be
2 more important than it is today."

3 We face wide-ranging threats from across the globe and
4 meeting these challenges takes teamwork and collaboration.
5 It is critical that we leverage the research being done by
6 experts in academia, industry, and DOD laboratories. Our
7 future success will require a new wave of diverse STEM
8 talent, robust investments in advanced technologies and
9 manufacturing, and enabling a culture that allows us to take
10 risks in search of reward. It is critical that we continue
11 to modernize in areas such as microelectronics, 5G, directed
12 energy, and hypersonics. We must also take real steps to
13 partner with and support the acquisition community to
14 transition our most promising technologies into programs of
15 record.

16 I do not take these obligations lightly, and if
17 confirmed, it would be an immense honor to continue to serve
18 our Nation, the Department of Defense, and the United States
19 of America within the Office of the Under Secretary of
20 Defense for Research and Engineering. Thank you.

21 [The statement of Mr. Honey follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, very much, Dr. Honey.

2 Ms. Fulton, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF BRENDA FULTON, NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT
2 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS

3 Ms. Fulton: Thank you, Chairman Reed, Ranking Member
4 Inhofe, distinguished members of the committee.

5 I also want to extend my thanks to Congresswoman Mikie
6 Sherrill, a fellow veteran, and a New Jerseyan for that
7 generous introduction.

8 I am honored to come before you as President Biden's
9 nominee for Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and
10 Reserve Affairs.

11 I am joined here today by my cousin, Rachel Fulton
12 Gray, who was a great support to my wife Penny and me during
13 Penny's illness. I know that Penny, along with my parents,
14 is looking down on me today. They are largely responsible
15 for me being here today, and I miss them terribly.

16 Across my career, I have accumulated a breadth of
17 leadership experience, having served in the military, worked
18 in the private sector, launched and led nonprofit
19 organizations, and, in my current job, served in state
20 government.

21 The thread that unites my experience is a desire to
22 serve. I was 17 when I first raised my right hand and swore
23 a solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution of the
24 United States, as a new cadet at West Point.

25 My father served in the Navy in the Korean conflict, on

1 the USS Lewis which saw significant action. As a proud
2 sonarman, he would always tease me about being an officer
3 and not having to work for a living, a saying all of you who
4 are military veterans will recognize, but his love of this
5 country and for the military lives deep in me.

6 I have worked with military leaders on multiple
7 initiatives to increase diversity in the force. In every
8 case, my guiding light was an effort to improve our ability
9 to fight and win wars.

10 On the West Point Board of Visitors, I had the good
11 fortune to work with Lieutenant General Bob Caslen and my
12 friend Rep. Steve Womack, and other board members in
13 fighting sexual harassment and assault; expanding the
14 diversity of our entering classes; and most of all,
15 centering character and character development as a way to
16 deliver the Army the best leaders possible.

17 Our military faces an incredibly dynamic threat
18 environment, with disruptive technologies and powerful
19 adversaries. If confirmed to the role of Assistant
20 Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, I
21 would focus on ensuring the Department can attract and
22 retain a lethal and effective force to meet those
23 challenges.

24 That means attracting the best talent. We know that
25 smart, innovative people will seek out and thrive in an

1 environment that is challenging, inclusive, diverse, and led
2 by leaders of character. Whether in the civilian workforce,
3 the Guard, the Reserves, or the active force, leadership
4 rooted in our essential core values: selfless service,
5 personal courage, honor, respect, and integrity, plays an
6 important part in growing our overall talent.

7 We also have to retain that talent. Where it makes
8 sense, we should look at broadening opportunities, reviewing
9 standards to ensure they align with the needs of the service
10 and increasing flexibility in our talent management systems,
11 and always, we must take care of our families.

12 If I am confirmed, our core values will guide my
13 efforts in support of Secretary Austin, all of our military
14 services, and in my work with this Committee to deliver a
15 smarter, stronger, more resilient, more capable total force
16 for our country.

17 Senators, I look forward to your questions.

18 [The statement of Ms. Fulton follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Ms. Fulton.

2 Ms. Hinderstein, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF COREY HINDERSTEIN, NOMINEE TO BE DEPUTY
2 ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, NATIONAL
3 NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

4 Ms. Hinderstein: Thank you, Chairman Reed, Ranking
5 Member Inhofe, and distinguished members of this committee.

6 I am honored to appear before the Senate Armed Services
7 Committee today. I want to begin by expressing my
8 appreciation to President Biden and Secretary Granholm and
9 Administrator Ruby for the confidence they have shown in
10 nominating me for this position.

11 I would like to take this opportunity, also, to
12 recognize my husband, Chase, who was not able to be with me
13 here today, but who has supported me for more than 27 years
14 through long days in the office and many weeks on the road.

15 I would also like to thank my father, Evan, his partner
16 Laura, and my sister Rachel for being with me today.

17 Finally, I would like to acknowledge my mother, Sheila,
18 who passed away in 2005, but who I know would be very proud
19 to see me here today in your company.

20 I would also like to thank Senator Nunn for his kind
21 words of introduction. Senator Nunn is a model of public
22 service, dedicating his life to his fellow Georgians and to
23 the security of this country. He has been a mentor and a
24 role model to me and to so many. I have learned from his
25 example of vision with pragmatism, strength with

1 flexibility, and leadership without ego. His great respect
2 for the Senate and this Committee makes it even more of an
3 honor for me to be here today.

4 There is no more important role for government than to
5 protect the security, health, well-being, and opportunity
6 for the United States and its residents. For this reason,
7 the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation has an
8 enormously important mission. As a technical office, DNN
9 works to protect nuclear material wherever it exists in the
10 world; reduce and eliminate nuclear material wherever
11 possible; preserve American leadership by enabling us to
12 meet our international obligations, while holding others to
13 their commitments; reduce the opportunities for nuclear
14 weapons to spread; develop verification and monitoring
15 technology and approaches for current commitments; and to
16 inform negotiations of future agreements, to increase the
17 chance that we will be able to detect if nuclear activities
18 pose a threat to the United States and our allies and to
19 focus now on the tools and technologies to meet future
20 threats.

21 While addressing these foundational obligations of the
22 National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department
23 of Energy, DNN must also work collaboratively across the
24 interagency and build partnerships in the international
25 community, the nuclear industry, in academia, and with

1 nongovernmental organizations.

2 If confirmed, I would seek to strengthen and expand
3 these connections in service of our collective goals. Good
4 ideas and good partners can be anywhere, and we need diverse
5 viewpoints to meet the challenges ahead.

6 I had the pleasure of working with the DNN team for
7 nearly 3 years. From the career civil servants to the
8 professional support contractors, to the scientists and
9 technicians at our national laboratories, plants, and sites,
10 you won't find a more dedicated group of public servants.
11 They work on nuclear nonproliferation and security because
12 it is important and rewarding, and certainly not for the
13 fame and fortune. This is a job that is never done. In the
14 world of nuclear terrorism, for example, those protecting
15 nuclear materials and facilities must get it right every
16 day, while our adversaries only need to succeed once.

17 The technical and political landscape is constantly
18 shifting. Each new accomplishment is followed by a new
19 challenge. If I am confirmed, I would commit myself to
20 sustain today's investments, while also innovating
21 tomorrow's solutions.

22 I have worked for more than 25 years on nuclear
23 nonproliferation and security, and much of that time has
24 been in civil society. I have always wanted to dedicate
25 myself more to public service and I am humbled by this

1 opportunity to do so at a critical time for our nation's
2 future.

3 Thank you for inviting me to appear before the
4 Committee today and I look forward to your questions.

5 [The statement of Ms. Hinderstein follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much for your testimony.

2 Before we proceed to questions, I have a series of
3 questions which all nominees must respond to. So, together,
4 you can respond as appropriately.

5 Have you adhered to applicable laws and regulations
6 governing conflicts of interest?

7 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you.

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

12 [All three witnesses answered in the negative.]

13 Chairman Reed: Exercising our legislative and
14 oversight responsibility makes it important that this
15 committee, its subcommittees and other appropriate
16 committees of Congress receive testimony, briefings,
17 reports, records, and other information from the Executive
18 Branch on a timely basis.

19 Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear and testify
20 before this committee, when requested?

21 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

22 Chairman Reed: Do you agree to provide records,
23 documents, and electronic communications in a timely manner
24 when requested by this committee, its subcommittees, or
25 other appropriate committees of Congress and to consult with

1 the requestor regarding the basis of any good faith delay or
2 denial in providing such records?

3 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

4 Chairman Reed: Will you ensure that your staff
5 complies with deadlines by this committee for the production
6 of reports, records, and other information, including timely
7 responding to hearing questions for the record?

8 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

9 Chairman Reed: Will you cooperate in providing
10 witnesses and briefers in response to congressional request?

11 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

12 Chairman Reed: Will those witnesses and briefers be
13 protected from reprisal for their testimony or briefings?

14 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

16 Now, Dr. Honey, what first struck me was your
17 extraordinary experience in so many fields that are directly
18 applicable to the position you have been nominated to, so I
19 think that should be noted up front.

20 As you know, we have been very concerned about the
21 production of microchips, the supply base. As you know, we
22 passed the CHIPS Act, working to provide funding for the
23 development of domestic microelectronics manufacturing. And
24 the key effort is ensuring that the U.S. has capabilities
25 that support both, state-of-the-art commercial needs and

1 DOD's needs.

2 It has been the history, though, that DOD has tried to
3 go it alone too many times by using Trusted Foundry, which
4 doesn't really work out because they are not commercially
5 viable and they don't have the technological edge that some
6 of our commercial entities can get.

7 So, I would like your assurance that you will support
8 efforts to develop commercially viable domestic
9 microelectronics and not retreat to the foundry approach.

10 Mr. Honey: Yes, Senator, I agree. The DOD needs, you
11 know, are very important to me and while Trusted Foundry has
12 had great utility for Department in the past, in my
13 experience, keeping that up to the commercial state-of-the-
14 art standards and making that available to the Defense
15 Industrial Base and, thus, to our warfighters, just hasn't
16 worked out. So, new models are needed and I am committed,
17 if confirmed for this position, to work those issues and
18 ensure that we are on a path to get commercial, state-of-
19 the-art available to our performers and, ultimately, into
20 our weapons systems.

21 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Dr. Honey.

22 Ms. Fulton, Secretary Austin implemented the
23 Independent Review Commission at the direction of the
24 President. There was a series of recommendations, in
25 response, of course, to the scourge of sexual assault and

1 harassment we have already witnessed.

2 First, I would assume, and I ask for your confirmation
3 that you will make this your top priority or one of your top
4 priorities.

5 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator. We have to address the
6 blight of sexual harassment and sexual assault if we expect
7 to attract, continue to attract, and retain talent. If we
8 expect to build effective teams, we have got to address
9 this.

10 And a big part of my job, if I am confirmed, will be
11 building a prevention workforce and addressing the leader
12 challenges that were highlighted by the Independent Review
13 Commission.

14 Chairman Reed: Thank you.

15 Many of the Commission's recommendations do not require
16 legislation, so I assume and expect that you will
17 immediately begin to do what you can do administratively. I
18 know there has already been some changes. We have a
19 civilian head now at the CID, but we have to be much more
20 aggressive, and prevention is really the goal; it is not
21 simply adjudication.

22 Are you committing to that effort?

23 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator, I am completely committed.
24 There is an urgency around this issue, and if confirmed, I
25 would definitely put that as one of my top priorities.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you.

2 Ms. Hinderstein, and I have probably pronounced your
3 name three different ways, so give me --

4 Ms. Hinderstein: Hinderstein is correct. Thank you,
5 Senator.

6 Chairman Reed: Hinderstein. So, it is --

7 Ms. Hinderstein: There are a few options.

8 [Laughter.]

9 Chairman Reed: As Meatloaf would say, two out of three
10 ain't bad, so anyway, forgive me.

11 [Laughter.]

12 Chairman Reed: In July of 2019, you told CNBC News
13 that, quote, I see no indication that Iran is rushing toward
14 a nuclear weapon and they are taking steps that can be
15 reversed.

16 Can you clarify those remarks in regard to your
17 assessment at the time.

18 Ms. Hinderstein: Thank you, Senator, and I appreciate
19 you bringing up this really important issue of Iran's
20 technical capability.

21 The purpose of my comments at the time and others,
22 similarly, was not to minimize the threat posed by Iran, but
23 to differentiate the increasingly uranium enrichment
24 activity from the broad suite of activities that would be
25 required for them to actually produce a nuclear weapon.

1 My comments were consistent with what I was seeing from
2 the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's
3 unclassified annual threat assessment, which said that Iran
4 was not currently undertaking the activities that would be
5 required to produce a nuclear device. So, I think that is
6 the context. It was really a technical assessment on the
7 weaponization issue, but it is certainly not to undermine
8 any concern about the progression of the uranium enrichment
9 activities.

10 Chairman Reed: Well, how have you seen Iran's nuclear
11 program advancing since you made those remarks?

12 Ms. Hinderstein: Iran's nuclear program has certainly
13 advanced as they have increased both, the scope and scale of
14 the uranium enrichment activities, and I think it is going
15 to be very important, if confirmed, that I understand what
16 the current assessment is of those activities and how that
17 might have changed our underlying understanding about their
18 program.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

20 Senator Inhofe, please?

21 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 Ms. Fulton, in 2017, you were quoted by the New York
23 Times, and I have the article right here, saying, quote,
24 what people fail to understand is that chaplains give up
25 some of their rights as ministers when they become military

1 chaplains.

2 Now, the DOD policy for chaplains doesn't say anything
3 at all about this. In fact, it says, I believe, quite the
4 opposite. It says, and I am quoting right now, and I am
5 going to ask that this be part of the record.

6 Chairman Reed: Without objection.

7 [The information follows:]

8 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Inhofe: That if a chaplain is unable to
2 support a specific request because of his or her religious
3 endorsing organization's teachings, they all, the chaplains
4 have these procedures that they go through with
5 organizations, then the chaplain must offer referral to
6 another chaplain or professional.

7 Now, first of all, I would ask the question, do you
8 still stand by your statement?

9 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I --

10 Senator Inhofe: The quote I am talking about is the
11 quote where you said what people fail to realize is that the
12 chaplains give up some of their rights as ministers when
13 they become military chaplains.

14 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I was referring to -- thank you
15 for allowing me to clarify -- I was referring to that clause
16 where a chaplain is required to find support for that
17 individual one way or another; either support them,
18 themselves, or find that support, whereas, you know, a
19 civilian could turn someone away and say, not my job. Our
20 chaplains are bound and do a remarkable job addressing all
21 of the needs, one way or another, of our servicemembers.

22 Senator Inhofe: Well, Ms. Fulton, that is not as I
23 would understand the context that we are talking about this,
24 but let me ask you, do you think that there are some of
25 their rights, are any of the rights that they have given up

1 in the context that we would look at those rights?

2 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I think anyone who wears the
3 uniform of this country has certain constraints on what they
4 can say in public and certain requirements to serve others
5 and to serve without regard to some of whatever personal
6 feelings they may have.

7 Senator Inhofe: Let me --

8 Ms. Fulton: So, in that context, I would say, you
9 know, our chaplains do a tremendous job serving everyone,
10 but that may take them --

11 Senator Inhofe: My time is disappearing, as you well
12 know, right now. Let me just ask you, do you intend to
13 change any of the longstanding DOD policy regarding the
14 rights of chaplains to minister in accordance with their
15 tenets and their faith, just yes or no?

16 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

17 Senator Inhofe: Okay. You have referred, and I have
18 several documents here I can use, to conservative people,
19 primarily, as radicals. Do you consider me to be a radical
20 because I don't support abortion?

21 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

22 Senator Inhofe: All right. Ms. Hinderstein and thank
23 you for giving me that --

24 Chairman Reed: Thank Meatloaf.

25 [Laughter.]

1 Senator Inhofe: I appreciate it very much.

2 Last month the International Atomic Energy related a
3 report stating that Iran's refusal to allow inspectors'
4 access seriously compromised the agents' technical
5 capability to monitor Iran.

6 I think that I would join the chairman in just wanting
7 some clarification in terms of your feelings about Iran.
8 And you did explain this thing on reversible, but I would
9 like to have you elaborate just a little bit there on that
10 because it is my understanding that you feel maybe you know
11 some things I don't know, and I am hoping you are right and
12 I am wrong, but how do you see that as reversible?

13 Ms. Hinderstein: Senator, thank you so much for the
14 question.

15 Let me state, unequivocally, that I am extremely
16 concerned about Iran's nuclear program and about the
17 progress that they have made, in particular, in the last few
18 years. I have been paying attention to Iran's nuclear
19 program for more than 20 years and, if confirmed, I would
20 expect that it would have a high priority for me going
21 forward, as well.

22 Regarding the question of reversibility, I think it is
23 important to separate the technical reversibility related to
24 the equipment and materials. We can downblend uranium. We
25 can remove, uninstall, put in storage, or even destroy

1 uranium enrichment equipment. And I think that is important
2 to note when we ask ourselves, could Iran come back to the
3 technical constraints of the deal. Those activities are
4 possible.

5 But I will also say that the knowledge that they have
6 gained in the last few years is not reversible. We can't
7 eliminate knowledge and experience, and so I do believe
8 that, if confirmed, I would need it understand how their
9 basic capacity has changed and whether there needs to be any
10 change to our approach to accommodate that.

11 And I would note that Secretary Blinken even just said
12 this last weekend that the terms of the JCPOA, at some
13 point, will not be sufficient to recapture the benefits of
14 the agreement because of the progress that is made and I
15 would agree with his statement and seek to understand more,
16 if confirmed.

17 Senator Inhofe: Okay. Well, I appreciate that.

18 My time has expired, but I would like to, if you are
19 confirmed, have an opportunity to visit with you at some
20 length and we could exchange some ideas. I would appreciate
21 that.

22 Ms. Hinderstein: I would appreciate that, too,
23 Senator. Thank you.

24 Senator Inhofe: And Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't have any
25 questions for Dr. Honey. He is going to be in good shape.

1 I can't think of a better team than for him to be with than
2 Heidi Shyu and I look forward to working closely with him.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

4 Senator Shaheen, please?

5 Senator Shaheen: Good morning and congratulations to
6 each of you on your nominations and for your willingness to
7 serve the country at this critical time.

8 Ms. Fulton, in your opening statement, you talked about
9 one of the challenges of your job would be ensuring that
10 military families are taken care of. In 2019, as a result
11 of hearing from military spouses, Congress passed
12 legislation that authorized DOD to use federal funds to help
13 states come up with universal standards for professional
14 licenses, so that military spouses, as they are moving from
15 place to place, can start work at soon as they arrive at a
16 new assignment and they don't have to go through a whole
17 extended licensure process.

18 If confirmed, will you commit to bolstering these grant
19 programs, that I am pleased that DOD has already started
20 work on this, but there is a lot more than needs to be done.

21 Ms. Fulton: Senator Shaheen, I want to thank you for
22 those efforts. We say all the time that we recruit the
23 servicemember, but we retain the family. And this is a very
24 important benefit for spouses who take advantage of those
25 professional licenses.

1 If I am confirmed, I would do anything I could to make
2 sure that that program is working for our military families.

3 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. We are still hearing from
4 some folks that it is a challenge, so I know that they will
5 appreciate that.

6 Continuing with another issue that this committee has
7 been very concerned about, our anomalous health incidents,
8 also known as Havana Syndrome, which have been in the news a
9 lot in the last few years, I was pleased to see Secretary
10 Austin release a memo that details DOD's commitment to the
11 issue and urges employees to track and report any symptoms.

12 But, if confirmed, do I have your commitment that you
13 will review the Department's training and reporting process
14 for anomalous health incidents, so that we ensure that
15 people who may be affected, understand what to do in case of
16 attack?

17 Ms. Fulton: Senator, we have to get on this issue.
18 Anywhere within my area of responsibility, where we can
19 review and support that effort, I commit to do so. Thank
20 you.

21 Senator Shaheen: Thank you very much.

22 Dr. Honey, I am sure that you are aware that PFAS is a
23 big issue on our military bases across the country and the
24 2020 NDAA. This committee directed that by January 1 of
25 2023, the military would come up with specifications to

1 replace aqueous firefighting foam, which is the current
2 biggest contributor to that on military bases, and then
3 after October 1, the DOD will be prohibited, October 1 of
4 2024, will be prohibited from using aqueous firefighting
5 foam.

6 Can you talk about what you think needs to be done in
7 terms of research, to ensure that we can meet those
8 deadlines.

9 Mr. Honey: Senator, the problem of what is also called
10 "forever chemicals" is a serious issue. In fact, my wife and
11 I were stationed at, while I was stationed at Pease Air
12 Force Base, we took our kids back for a visit on vacation
13 and I got to see the areas of the base that we used to
14 occupy and go to were closed off for environmental
15 remediation. So, the environmental impact has been huge and
16 it does need to be taken care of.

17 I am not presently engaged in that area of research,
18 but if confirmed, I do commit to you that will be get
19 briefed on what the activities are, are there any obstacles
20 and communicate back to you where we are with this program
21 and what needs to be done to meet those deadlines.

22 Senator Shaheen: Well, thank you.

23 If you were at Pease, you know that there has been a
24 major cleanup effort there dating back to 2014, and the Air
25 Force has been very responsive, but to replicate that at

1 every base across the country that has PFAS, we have got a
2 lot more work to do. So, thank you for that commitment.

3 Ms. Hinderstein, as you know, the U.S., Australia, and
4 the United Kingdom just signed an agreement to transfer, to
5 provide nuclear submarines to Australia, and in order to do
6 that, we are going to have to transfer some fissile material
7 to Australia, despite the fact that it signed a 123
8 Agreement on the use of that material.

9 So, can you talk about some of the challenges that will
10 be involved in that, what we need to do to help work with
11 the Australians, whether there is any conflict with their
12 123 Agreement.

13 Ms. Hinderstein: Thank you, Senator.

14 I want to say up front that I support the President's
15 effort to shore up Australia's capabilities in the Pacific
16 and I understand the contribution that the submarine deal
17 makes to that arrangement.

18 But there are also some challenges that come with it,
19 including the nuclear safeguards challenges, as Australia is
20 a non-nuclear weapon state and has an obligation for
21 international safeguards. I would say that Australia has
22 been a leader on nuclear nonproliferation. And while this
23 doesn't mean that we can transfer any technology or material
24 capriciously, it means that I believe we will have a good
25 partner in addressing any concerns that come and I believe

1 that we can use the 18 months that has been announced to
2 actually define the arrangements to our benefit to make sure
3 that whatever the arrangement is with Australia, that it
4 doesn't set a bad precedent for any other country that may
5 seek nuclear capability.

6 And I would commit, if confirmed, to addressing this
7 issue, as well as coming back and consulting with the
8 committee.

9 Senator Shaheen: Thank you very much.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

12 And now, via Webex, let me recognize Senator Fischer.

13 Senator Fischer: Dr. Honey, this committee has made a
14 number of changes, including creating the R&E Division, in
15 order to improve DOD's ability to deliver innovative
16 solutions to the warfighter. But one thing that Congress
17 cannot legislate is culture of the workforce, which
18 witnesses have testified to is generally risk-averse.

19 Can you talk about the importance of culture and risk
20 tolerance, in particular, when it comes to innovation?

21 Mr. Honey: Yes, Senator.

22 A culture of risk tolerance really begins with
23 leadership and it is very important as senior leaders that
24 we communicate continuously to the workforce, risks that are
25 acceptable, risks that may be going too far, and how we can

1 work together to ensure that we are taking risks
2 appropriately.

3 During my two tours at DARPA, which have spanned a
4 total of 14 years, it is an agency which is really a master
5 at the art of how do you take risks intelligently and lead
6 the world in delivering capabilities to the warfighter.

7 So, if confirmed, in R&E, that was one of the things
8 that I would undertake to work with the workforce to
9 understand what is the current risk-tolerance culture and
10 what can be done to ensure that we have an environment where
11 the workforce there feels comfortable in taking risks and is
12 supported by leadership.

13 Senator Fischer: What role do you think that R&E can
14 play to help encourage this? Do you have any specific
15 examples in mind how you would approach that?

16 Mr. Honey: So, one of the things that I think is very
17 important in the early process of creating a risk-tolerant
18 culture is helping people think about objectives that they
19 would like to achieve. What are the big things that if they
20 had the resources and the commitment of leadership to follow
21 through with, what could they undertake.

22 And at that point, you know, when leadership buys in,
23 they, similarly, are also taking part and taking on the
24 risk. One way that has been done, for example, is through
25 the use of grant challenges. That has been very effective

1 at trying to really take the leading edge out there in a
2 risk-tolerant culture.

3 And then there are tools, such as other transactions,
4 which have been very helpful in engaging non-traditional
5 parts of the community, which for many people, has been a
6 big leap forward in risk-taking.

7 Senator Fischer: Okay. Thank you.

8 Ms. Hinderstein, while some proliferation challenges
9 such as North Korea and Iran remain constant, the expanding
10 arsenals of both, Russia and China, as well as their
11 development of new and novel nuclear systems, they are
12 dramatically changing the threat landscape.

13 How do you see DNN's role adapting to the new
14 environment and what area of focus to you intend to
15 prioritize if you are confirmed?

16 Ms. Hinderstein: Thank you, Senator.

17 I agree that the reports, in particular, of China's
18 nuclear buildup are profoundly concerning. I would
19 certainly need, if confirmed, to get a full briefing on what
20 the changes are with regard to China's nuclear arsenal.

21 But in any case, we need to have a meaningful dialogue
22 with China. I support the President's interim National
23 Security Strategy, in which he calls for such a meaningful
24 dialogue, and to me, that dialogue means that it would have
25 to benefit U.S. national security interests, first and

1 foremost.

2 Similarly, with Russia, their expansion into new and
3 novel deliver platforms does change the scope of activity,
4 potentially, for future arms-control agreements. So, from a
5 DNN perspective, if confirmed, I would want to focus on what
6 the needs would be for verification and monitoring and
7 technical support to any future arms-control agreement,
8 making sure that they take into account the changes that
9 have happened since our last negotiation with Russia and
10 support the State Department's process. Thank you.

11 Senator Fischer: When we look at Russia's arsenal,
12 especially, the nonstrategic nuclear weapons and you are
13 talking about an arms-control process, that is going to be
14 really complicated and you alluded to that in your answer,
15 when we look at those verification challenges for weapons
16 that are far more complicated than the strategic nuclear
17 forces.

18 Do you anticipate that we have enough knowledge right
19 now in order to address that, and if we don't, how are we
20 going to be able to have the facts at our fingertips?

21 Ms. Hinderstein: Senator, I completely agree with you
22 that if we were to pursue an arms-control agreement with
23 Russia that started to touch on nonstrategic nuclear
24 weapons, we would need to take that into account into the
25 verification system and we wouldn't be able to simply apply

1 all of the existing system to that new reality.

2 This is why I think it is extremely important that we
3 work now and invest now, and that is my commitment, if
4 confirmed, to look at those longer-term needs when it comes
5 to verification, monitoring, and detection, to look at
6 nonstrategic nuclear weapons, novel delivery platforms, and
7 even looking at warheads as treaty limited items. These
8 verification techniques do not come off the shelf when you
9 need them, unless you invest in their development in
10 advance, and I think that is what I would commit to do if
11 confirmed.

12 Senator Fischer: Thank you very much.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer.

15 Let me recognize, via Webex, Senator Gillibrand.

16 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Ms. Fulton, I really appreciated reading your written
18 answers and you specifically said that sexual harassment and
19 assault are barriers to recruiting and retaining the best
20 workforce. I share your opinion that the Nation's
21 brightest, most innovative individuals want to work in an
22 inclusive environment and for leaders of character.

23 The DOD has to make some substantial improvements in
24 preventing sexual assault and harassment and prosecuting
25 perpetrators. We have previously heard from President Biden

1 that he believes that the decision-making of whether to
2 prosecute these crimes should be removed from the chain of
3 command for serious crimes, such as rape, murder, and child
4 abuse.

5 Do you share the President's commitment to removing
6 these serious crimes from the chain of command?

7 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I fully support the Secretary and
8 the President in removing the sexual assault crimes from the
9 chain of command. I would like to know more and understand
10 more before I commit. You know, I would follow the lead of
11 Secretary Austin. I would follow the lead of Under
12 Secretary Cisneros in supporting whatever the decision is
13 regarding what crimes remain with the commander and what
14 crimes go to a different prosecutor.

15 Senator Gillibrand: One of the challenges with regard
16 to Secretary Austin's view is that it doesn't include
17 murder, and so in the case of Vanessa Guillen from Fort
18 Hood, she would not have had the benefit of a special
19 review. There had been no evidence reported that she was
20 harassed or assaulted, even though, in fact, she was,
21 according to her family. But her murder would not be
22 included and her murder may not have been investigated as
23 carefully as a sexual harassment or a sexual assault case.

24 And so, my concern is that if you limit it to just two
25 crimes, you are going to miss other related crimes, such as

1 murder, such as arson, such as financial fraud, which are
2 typically used in domestic violence cases against the person
3 in the relationship who is being abused.

4 So, I would like your commitment that you will look
5 into the benefits that include bright-line felonies, not
6 only for simplicity so that servicemembers can follow it
7 appropriately, but also to make sure these, sometimes
8 unseen, domestic violence cases and sexual assault and
9 harassment cases that end in murder are included.

10 Ms. Fulton: Senator, it is a legitimate and extremely
11 important question and you have my commitment to explore as,
12 in every way, that if I was confirmed -- if I am confirmed,
13 I would explore in every way that is appropriate in my area
14 of responsibility.

15 Senator Gillibrand: Good. And I don't expect you to
16 follow the leadership's views on this in this current
17 position that you are going to be given. I expect you to
18 make recommendations, to actually review the issues, perhaps
19 in a more in-depth way, in a more thoughtful, nuanced way
20 and make your recommendations up the chain of command,
21 including to the President, and to really stand by your
22 views and opinions because the position you are about to
23 undertake is very important from the perspective of
24 servicemembers.

25 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I understand and, if confirmed, I

1 will take that responsibility very seriously.

2 Senator Gillibrand: And then related to that, Ms.
3 Fulton, how will you support the President's view that
4 transgender servicemembers should be able to serve openly?

5 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I fully support that.

6 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. Well, I look forward
7 to working with you.

8 Dr. Honey, I would like to ask you a little bit about
9 some New York assets. During my most recent visit to Rome
10 Labs, I saw firsthand the incredible innovations New York's
11 defense equities had to offer. The Innovare Advancement
12 Center is particularly impress it to me in how it will
13 bridge the private and public sectors in one space.

14 How do you intend to improve this notion that the
15 Valley of Death or Death Valley that a lot of entrepreneurs
16 and innovators find, when they have technological
17 breakthroughs and they develop technological breakthroughs
18 but getting it to the warfighter and getting it into
19 production is often very difficult, so I would like your
20 thoughts on how to eradicate or rectify that, especially for
21 the information directorate of the AFRL.

22 Mr. Honey: Senator, I agree, the Valley of Death
23 problem is one that is pervasive and is a very difficult
24 challenge. I first encountered the notion of the Valley of
25 Death and those issues, actually, when I was stationed at

1 Rome Lab at Griffiss Air Force Base and saw a lot of great
2 research going on, but it was very challenging to get it
3 through the various wickets that it needed to go through to
4 get it into a program of record.

5 Areas where I have had success in this regard and where
6 I would try and help R&E lead the Department is conducting
7 the planning for tech transition from the very beginning.
8 It is very important and R&E has the ability to do this, in
9 my opinion, to bring together all the stakeholders, the
10 developers, the acquisition community, the Defense
11 Industrial Base, the users and other parts of the community
12 to understand from the very beginning, what technology is
13 being developed, to make sure that the developers have the
14 right information they need, that they are going to go down
15 the right path, but also that the experimentation and
16 prototyping that needs to be conducted along the way
17 happens, and then, ultimately, that the programs and the
18 performers who are going to adopt and acquire the technology
19 and integrate it, have the information they need in order to
20 do so in an effective manner. Thank you.

21 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 And thank you to all our witnesses.

23 I will submit additional questions for the record.

24 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Gillibrand.

25 Now, let me recognize Senator Rounds.

1 Senator Rounds: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Thank you to all of you for appearing before us today.

3 Ms. Hinderstein, I would like to begin by just asking a
4 question, but I am going to ask that you would answer it for
5 the record afterwards. I am really concerned about
6 preventing nuclear proliferation within the entire Middle
7 East and I know that most of the discussion will be on Iran,
8 but I think we have other players, as well, there.

9 And the cascading effect of one nuclear power simply
10 seems to add to another, and so I will asking down the
11 nuclear Iran problem or the Iranian nuclear problem, what
12 are your next, biggest, and nuclear proliferation concerns
13 in the Middle East, but I would ask if you would follow up
14 with me and I will get that as a question for the record,
15 okay?

16 Ms. Hinderstein: Of course, Senator.

17 Senator Rounds: Thank you.

18 Dr. Honey, it would appear to me that you are very well
19 qualified for the position that you are before us as a
20 nominee for. One area that I think you could be very
21 helpful to us on is with regard to your experience in DARPA
22 and the opportunities provided for some very, very advanced
23 research in a very classified way. A number of the areas in
24 which we could very well fall behind other nations with
25 regard to AI and so forth is if we are not able to find a

1 way to bring into a commercially viable program, new
2 technologies.

3 And I would ask for your cooperation in finding
4 appropriate ways to declassify some of our research in such
5 a fashion that it could be commercialized in a more
6 expeditious manner.

7 Would you be willing to work with us to see if we can
8 do that?

9 Mr. Honey: Yes, Senator, absolutely.

10 There is tremendous benefits to getting the right
11 technologies out into the commercial world. When the
12 commercial world takes on some of these technologies, their
13 ability to produce them at scale gives us yield, uniformity,
14 and reliability that we just can't get any other way, so I
15 do commit to work with you on that.

16 Senator Rounds: What we do find here right now is in
17 many cases, because of the classification of so many of the
18 projects that we find success in, even other committees that
19 help to fund other areas, such as in healthcare and so
20 forth, we can't get connectivity between the Department of
21 Defense and some of the others because of the classification
22 necessary. So, I do appreciate that and I think it is an
23 area in which we can work together to really bring some new
24 technologies to the forefront and I thank you for that.

25 Ms. Fulton, thank you for your service to our country.

1 I have to admit, I start out these processes in which I
2 believe that a President has, should have the right to
3 appoint individuals they believe are appropriate to
4 positions, but then I also believe we have a strong
5 responsibility here to both advise and consent. Sometimes
6 we give consent. Sometimes we are able to give advice if we
7 disagree.

8 I have serious questions about some of the inflammatory
9 social posts which you have provided, and in particular, any
10 concern is this, in the Department of Defense, we really do
11 our best to try to keep inflammatory or partisan activities
12 to a minimum. Your posts are pretty tough on Republicans
13 and, in fact, you go out of your way in many, many cases to
14 really attack Republicans on a very personal level. This is
15 concerning to me. You have got 27,000 members that you
16 would oversee. They are going to be Republican and
17 Democrat, and independent.

18 Can you share with us, let me just give you an example
19 and perhaps you can respond to it. Let me pull out the
20 right piece of paper. This is your quote from 2008 and this
21 is on social media.

22 Let's be real, when one of our two national political
23 parties is unable to call out racism, our system is broken.
24 It is not a political statement to say the GOP is racist; it
25 is a moral statement, and one backed up by an increasing

1 mountain of evidence.

2 Ms. Fulton, can you explain this tweet to me.

3 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I want to take the opportunity to
4 apologize to you and to all the members of the committee for
5 that tweet. My intent was to say that racism Democratic or
6 Republican, that it is not a political issue; it is a moral
7 issue and the parties should make a statement, because a
8 whole group of people should never be tarnished with the
9 actions of one, but I went about it all wrong. The words
10 are muddled and confused and I deeply regret them.

11 The idea that my words, that people I love and respect
12 would be hurt by my words, especially Republicans,
13 especially those Republicans, the people that I have worked
14 with throughout my career to do work to benefit the Armed
15 Forces, to make our military stronger and more effective,
16 the people I have worked side-by-side with, the idea that I
17 had hurt them with these words is devastating to me and I
18 regret it.

19 I know when we talk about race, we have to do it in a
20 way that opens and expands the conversation, instead of
21 shutting it down. And by that standard, I failed miserably,
22 and I deeply apologize.

23 Senator Rounds: Well, Ms. Fulton, thank you for the
24 apology, but I do think further explanation is necessary,
25 because you wrote that in a very offensive and truly an

1 incorrect statement for the world to see on the internet and
2 you did that a few years ago and yet, as of Sunday, this
3 tweet was still up on your Twitter page. So, look, I mean,
4 I think you have got some explaining to do here and this is
5 a very serious issue, because this is a time in which we are
6 trying to take and bring people together, this type of an
7 approach, an inflammatory approach, doesn't work,
8 particularly, not within the Department of Defense. So, I
9 think you have got some more explaining to do, but I do
10 thank you for your apology.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Rounds.

13 Senator Hirono, please?

14 Senator Hirono: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

15 I have long held that racism is never far below the
16 surface in our country and it pops up way too often. I will
17 leave it at that.

18 Congratulations to all of our nominees. Thank you for
19 your commitment to service. I ask the following two
20 questions of all nominees that come before any of the
21 committees on which I sit. So, I will ask you, since you
22 became a legal adult, have you ever made unwanted requests
23 for sexual favors or committed any verbal or physical
24 harassment or assault of a sexual nature?

25 [All three witnesses answered in the negative.]

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

3 [All three witnesses answered in the negative.]

4 Senator Hirono: Dr. Honey, there has been a
5 recognition that at times, a current acquisition process in
6 the Department of Defense does not provide combatant
7 commanders with the required resources to fulfill critical,
8 operational needs arising from cross-service missions. This
9 is especially evident in the INDOPACOM area of
10 responsibility, as they struggle to bring on the new
11 technologies they need to compete with and deter China.

12 This committee has attempted to remedy this issue in
13 the pending NDAA, through a pilot program at the Strategic
14 Capabilities Office, SCO.

15 If confirmed, how would you support SCO in the
16 implementation of this program to ensure it is successful?

17 Mr. Honey: Senator, thank you for your support in this
18 area.

19 In my experience, I have also, you know, had to work
20 the issues of the services and the responsibility for train
21 and equip. The combatant commands have the responsibility
22 for combat operations and I have worked with INDOPACOM on
23 these very issues.

24 Senator Hirono: Uh-huh.

25 Mr. Honey: For 7 months, I was the acting director of

1 the Strategic Capabilities Office, so I deepened my
2 understanding at that time of what INDOPACOM needs and what
3 the issues are that they face.

4 So, I am very grateful for what you have done in
5 the NDAA. I believe that R&E, even though SCO is a direct
6 report to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, SCO does have a
7 strong relationship with R&E, and I would do everything I
8 could to support the director of SCO and that organization
9 in meeting their commitments in that area.

10 Senator Hirono: Well, I think that you understand that
11 the importance of ensuring that the technologies and
12 capabilities, that the services align with the requirements
13 identified by the INDOPACOM AOR. It is good to know that
14 you have some familiarity with the INDOPACOM AOR because
15 your position has wide-ranging responsibilities, including a
16 responsibility to oversee the DOD labs and test ranges, and
17 that includes Pacific Missile Range Facility.

18 Have you ever visited PMRF on Kauai?

19 Mr. Honey: No, Senator, I have not visited.

20 Senator Hirono: I would welcome your visiting that
21 facility should you be confirmed because PMRF is the world's
22 largest instrumental, multidimensional, testing, and
23 training missile range in the world. So, I would welcome
24 your visiting.

25 In addition, you also oversee the Missile Defense

1 Agency and one of the concerns that I have had is that the
2 DOD and the administration continues to not support funding
3 for the Homeland Defense Radar-Hawaii and this committee,
4 through NDAA, has been putting back the money for that.
5 Considering that the North Korea missile threat is not
6 abating anytime soon, if confirmed, how would you ensure
7 Hawaii is protected from missile threats from North Korea
8 and elsewhere, going forward?

9 As I said before, if the administration can come up
10 with some other way to defend Hawaii, other than through the
11 Homeland Defense Radar-Hawaii, I am all ears, but up to now,
12 I have not been given that kind of assurance. So, I just
13 want to point that out to you, that that is an area that I
14 welcome your input and support for Hawaii.

15 One more thing. I am really glad that you mentioned
16 your support for the SBIR and STTR programs. I am have a
17 big supporter of these programs and you have said that you
18 are a strong proponent of highly innovative small businesses
19 through these programs, and much of the innovation comes
20 from small businesses, but there is the issue of the Valley
21 of Death that you have mentioned.

22 And as part of the Valley of Death issue, one of
23 resources, these innovative small businesses need money to
24 get past the Valley of Death. Is that something that we can
25 address in a more fruitful way?

1 Mr. Honey: So, Senator, to your first question about
2 the MDA and the issue of missile defense. I am not currently
3 briefed on some of the details of the MDA efforts, but I do
4 commit to you that I will get fully briefed, if confirmed.
5 And, you know, I am very concerned about the missile threats
6 and would appreciate the opportunity to get back to you
7 after I have been briefed and, you know, explain what I see
8 the situation as and what we need to do in that regard.

9 In the case of SBIR, one of the things I know that
10 would be helpful, you know, if the reauthorization goes
11 through that is always a concern. When I was at a small
12 business, we worried about that quite a bit.

13 And I do think that there is a lot that can be done to
14 try and help promote within the programs of record and the
15 larger defense contractors where there are opportunities to
16 leverage the investments that we have made into the small
17 businesses that are then ready to transition into those
18 programs. And, if confirmed, and I am working in R&E again,
19 that is an area that I would focus on.

20 Senator Hirono: I know my time is up, Mr. Chairman,
21 and I look forward to working with all of you.

22 And Ms. Fulton, thank you for your commitment to make
23 sure that we more effectively address the issue of sexual
24 assault and sexual harassment in the military, which is a
25 continuing scourge. Thank you.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hirono.

2 Senator Blackburn, please?

3 Senator Blackburn: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Dr. Honey, Senator Hirono wants you to Hawaii. I want
5 to get you to Oak Ridge National Lab and the quantum
6 computing project there, I am sure you are aware, is
7 something that is national lab-wide collaboration. And Oak
8 Ridge is doing some really solid work to develop the next
9 generation of computing systems. So, I would like to have
10 you on a trip to visit there, so thank you.

11 Ms. Fulton, my fellow Tennesseans and I are very
12 concerned about the current values of our nation's defense
13 officials in their commitment to securing our nation. It is
14 my hope that if you are confirmed, that you would act in a
15 manner that would represent all Americans, even those that
16 disagree with you.

17 I won't sugarcoat this. The inflammatory rhetoric and
18 the claims that you have made on Twitter and in interviews
19 are very concerning. Your language is not representative of
20 the way a top policy official at the Pentagon to write about
21 policy or refer to her fellow Americans, including
22 Republicans.

23 And Senator Rounds approached the January 2018 tweet
24 with you. I have got a stack of your tweets here. We have
25 got a poster with your tweets on it. Let me go to your

1 March 2014 tweet.

2 What about calling Republicans, right-winged,
3 anti-everyone nutjobs, falling in love with a dictatorship?

4 Or what about tweeting, this is from June 2017, that
5 most Repubs still shamefully quiet on lies, corruption,
6 incompetence, treason, they betrayed their oath to the
7 Constitution?

8 And would you consider that Republican Reservists and
9 Guardsmen whose interests you will be representing at the
10 Pentagon, would you consider them to be nutjobs? Would you
11 consider them to be racists?

12 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

13 Senator Blackburn: You would not, okay.

14 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator. I don't think any, in any
15 case that a whole group of people should be tarnished with
16 the actions of a few --

17 Senator Blackburn: Okay. What about the Republicans
18 within the 25,000 employees that you would oversee as
19 Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve
20 Affairs? If they are Christians, do you think that they are
21 racist and nutjobs?

22 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I am a Christian, and no, I
23 don't. I will, as I have throughout my career, work
24 side-by-side with Republicans, with Democrats, with
25 independents, with anyone, regardless of their political

1 beliefs for the mission, for what is best for Armed Forces.

2 Senator Blackburn: Why should we believe that if you
3 were confirmed, that you would actually build a team that is
4 diverse in fact and thought, rather than just diverse in
5 appearance?

6 Ms. Fulton: Senator, throughout my career, I have
7 worked side-by-side with Republicans, with everyone. My
8 closest partner on the Board of Visitors --

9 Senator Blackburn: And did you form an opinion that
10 they were nutjobs and racists --

11 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator. One --

12 Senator Blackburn: -- and that the Christianity that
13 the religion that they practiced didn't team with what you
14 thought it ought to be?

15 Are you a leader of character, a theme you focus on in
16 your public speeches, and how do leaders of character behave
17 on Twitter?

18 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I strive to be a leader of
19 character every day. I strive to uphold our values --

20 Senator Blackburn: Okay. Let me move on to Ms.
21 Hinderstein. Nuclear proliferation is something that I have
22 focused on. When we did the NDAA, I had an amendment on
23 that. I was concerned about your statement that you saw no
24 indication, this is from July 2019, you saw no indication
25 that Iran is rushing toward a nuclear weapon.

1 We know from the IAEA reports that they have stockpiled
2 approximately 10 times the amount of total uranium that they
3 were allowed under the JCPOA. So, have you changed your
4 opinion on Iran and do you acknowledge that Iran has made
5 irreversible gains toward a nuclear arsenal?

6 Ms. Hinderstein: Senator, I am extremely concerned
7 about Iran and I will clarify that my comments were about
8 the technical capability to produce the nuclear weapon but
9 were not intended to minimize the consequence of their
10 dangerous and increased uranium enrichment activities.

11 My statement about the rush to the bomb that you so
12 accurately quoted was really intending to be consistent with
13 the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's public
14 national threat assessment that said that there wasn't an
15 indication that they were pursuing the activities related to
16 the weaponization.

17 Senator Blackburn: Okay. I will come to you with a
18 written question to delve further on this. If you are
19 confirmed, then I would want to work with you on this issue.

20 Ms. Fulton, my time has expired, but I have a couple of
21 other questions I will send to you. Your rhetoric and your
22 conduct is incredibly disturbing to me.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Blackburn.

25 Let me recognize Senator King, please.

1 Senator King: Thank you. I have got a lot of
2 questions, so I am going to try to cover a lot of material
3 very quickly.

4 Ms. Fulton, I have recently seen data that the military
5 is being more and more geographically concentrated in the
6 South and the West. In 1985, it was about 50/50 between the
7 South and the West and the Northeast and the Midwest. Today
8 is 70/30.

9 It concerns me our framers were very concerned about a
10 standing army. We have crossed that Rubicon and now we are
11 developing a regional basis to our army. I hope you will
12 address this in terms of recruiting and just being cognizant
13 of this growing regionalization, if you will, if our
14 professional military.

15 Will you commit to me that you will pursue that issue?

16 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I will. All kinds of diversity
17 are important; geographic diversity, no less than others.

18 Senator King: Thank you.

19 Second, we are in a whole new set of conflict. The
20 beginning of whatever conflict we enter into, and hopefully
21 there won't be one, will be cyber. So, the question is, do
22 we use the same kind of recruiting tools, the same kind
23 standards, the same kind of physical standards for people
24 that we need to fight the cyber war, as opposed to the
25 people that need to fight the kinetic war?

1 I think we need to face the reality that we are in, at
2 least, a partially different kind of conflict. Do you
3 agree?

4 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I do agree. I think we have to
5 do everything we can to make sure that we are getting the
6 best cyber talent and that includes being creative.

7 I have to say the committee has done an incredible job
8 granting special authorities to be able to recruit and
9 retain that talent. I think we have to make sure, while we
10 have very high standards, we want to maintain those high
11 standards, but make sure that we --

12 Senator King: Well, the standards should match the
13 requirements of the job; that is what I am suggesting.

14 Ms. Fulton: The standards should align with the needs
15 of the service.

16 Senator King: Thank you.

17 Ms. Fulton: Yes, sir.

18 Senator King: Thank you.

19 Mr. Honey, a couple of just comments and a couple of
20 questions. One is, I know this is not strictly in your
21 field but it is close, and that is, I believe strongly that
22 when we are acquiring complex, technological weapon systems
23 platforms, we should be also acquiring the IP. We should
24 not have to pay extra for being able to 3-D print a part,
25 for example. So, I hope that is something that will inform

1 your discussion.

2 Secondly, I am very worried about smaller, more agile
3 and innovative companies being de facto excluded from the
4 Department of Defense process simply because of the
5 overwhelming nature of the forms and what is necessary. We
6 have done a lot here to try to encourage working with
7 smaller companies, but we have testimony from Silicon Valley
8 saying, we don't even go to the Pentagon anymore, we don't
9 answer the RFPs, because the process is so cumbersome and
10 burdensome. So, I hope that is something else that you will
11 follow-up on.

12 You mentioned hypersonics. I believe that is one of
13 our great strategic problems right now. Our posture, with
14 regard to China involves aircraft carriers and naval power
15 and unless we develop a counterforce to hypersonics, that
16 force can be diminished dramatically at the early stages of
17 a conflict, hypersonics.

18 Cyber, of course, and directed energy, you mentioned
19 all of those, directed energy, in particular, where we are
20 talking about missile defense using 75,
21 hundred-million-dollar missiles. Directed energy could be a
22 lot more efficient if we can deal with the technological
23 problems.

24 Are you interested in and believe that we should be
25 pursuing greater research into directed energy?

1 Mr. Honey: Yes, Senator. The issues of missile
2 defense and other applications for directed energy is one
3 that I have worked in and around for a number of years. The
4 technologies have gotten much better. There has been,
5 tremendous advances have been made, still more to be made,
6 but it is an area of research of which I continue to
7 support.

8 Senator King: Thank you.

9 Ms. Hinderstein, deterrence doesn't work with
10 terrorists. My nightmare is terrorists getting ahold of
11 nuclear weapons. We had a display here recently of nuclear
12 warheads. They are about the size of a beer keg. They are
13 not room-size; they are not very big.

14 And how do we deal, and perhaps you should take this
15 question for the record, rather than try to answer it in 25
16 seconds, how do we deal with the issue of proliferation and
17 the danger of terrorists getting ahold of nuclear material
18 and, eventually, either an entire nuclear weapon or the
19 technology to make a nuclear weapon?

20 I think that is one of the great sort of, undiscussed
21 challenges that is coming at us. If the terrorists on
22 September 11 could have killed three million people, instead
23 of 3,000, they would have. Give me just a brief discussion
24 of that and then hopefully a longer discussion for the
25 record.

1 Ms. Hinderstein: Yes, Senator. And thank you for the
2 question. I would be happy to take a longer answer on the
3 record, but I would just say that I agree that nuclear, the
4 potential for nuclear, radiological terrorism is a major
5 concern. I support an "all of the above" approach to
6 nuclear security, meaning, secure, remove, convert, prevent,
7 detect, and then if anything were to happen, be able to
8 attribute and prosecute. And so, I do think we have to look
9 at nuclear security as a significant and, frankly,
10 persistent threat to the United States.

11 Senator King: Thank you.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 [The information follows:]

14 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King.

2 Senator Cotton, please?

3 Senator Cotton: Ms. Fulton, in your written answers to
4 advanced policy questions, you were asked if troops that are
5 part of religious group or advocate for socially
6 conservative changes to the law should be punished. You
7 respond that as long as they are, quote, acting within the
8 confines of federal law and DOD policy, they should be
9 allowed to exercise their First Amendment rights of free
10 speech and to observe the tenets of their religion.

11 However, on June 30, 2014, you stated, once again,
12 religious freedom, which you put in quotes, is twisted to
13 mean conservative Christians can dictate their views to the
14 rest of us. I suppose this was in response to the Supreme
15 Court's Hobby Lobby decision.

16 You also advocated for the repeal in that statement of
17 the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which I presume you
18 know, was passed almost unanimously by this Congress. It
19 was signed by President Clinton, and it was voted for by
20 President Joe Biden. That law requires the Government to
21 demonstrate a compelling government interest before it
22 burdens any person's individual right to freedom of exercise
23 of religion.

24 So, if you were confirmed for this position, you will
25 be in charge of DOD religious policies. You would have

1 responsibility for overseeing chaplains and religious
2 accommodations, yet you believe the Religious Freedom
3 Restoration Act is apparently being twisted by conservative
4 Christians to dictate their views to the rest of us.

5 So, which is it, Ms. Fulton, are you actually going to
6 protect the religious freedom of troops and chaplains, or
7 are you going to ensure that they can't dictate their views
8 to the rest of us under the guise of religious freedom?

9 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I support religious freedom and I
10 would support religious freedom for all of our troops, all
11 of our civilian employees, consistent with the law.

12 Senator Cotton: Do you believe that the Religious
13 Freedom Restoration Act should be repealed?

14 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

15 Senator Cotton: Why did you say so on June 30, 2014?

16 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I support religious freedom and I
17 would support religious freedom for our troops.

18 Senator Cotton: Are you disappointed with Joe Biden
19 that he voted for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act?

20 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

21 Senator Cotton: Let's turn to a statement that you had
22 in 2017, where you said the vast majority of white
23 evangelical leaders are utterly unmoored from the gospel of
24 Jesus Christ. The vast majority of white evangelical
25 leaders.

1 What percentage do you mean by the vast majority,
2 obviously, something more than 51 percent of white
3 evangelical leaders are unmoored from gospel of Christ,
4 could you put a number on it?

5 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

6 Senator Cotton: Vast means of great extent or
7 quantity, immense.

8 Do you think 95 percent of white evangelical leaders
9 are unmoored from the gospel of Christ?

10 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

11 Senator Cotton: Eighty percent?

12 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

13 Senator Cotton: Seventy percent?

14 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

15 Senator Cotton: Fifty-one percent? It has to be 51,
16 right? It has to be at least 51; you said the majority.

17 Ms. Fulton: Understood, Senator.

18 Senator Cotton: Let me ask you this, why is it white
19 evangelical leaders? There are a lot of black evangelical
20 leaders. There are a lot of Hispanic evangelical leaders.

21 Are black evangelical leaders unmoored from the gospel
22 of Christ?

23 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I am not sure the entire context
24 of that, but I would say that there are a wide variety of
25 beliefs. We don't all have the same beliefs. We don't all

1 have the same understanding of the gospel.

2 Senator Cotton: Of course we don't, that is why we
3 have things like the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
4 That is why we respect the freedom of exercise of all of our
5 troops and all of our fellow citizens, whether they are
6 white, black, Hispanic, Asian, or any other race or
7 ethnicity, or whatever their religion is, yet here you are
8 saying in public that the vast majority of white evangelical
9 leaders are utterly unmoored from the gospel of Jesus
10 Christ.

11 Do you think it is appropriate to claim that anyone is
12 unmoored from the gospel of Christ, any believing Christian,
13 even if you disagree with this or that view they may have on
14 a political controversy?

15 Ms. Fulton: Senator, while it is consistent with free
16 speech, it is unwise.

17 Senator Cotton: So, Ms. Fulton, I think you will
18 understand why so many members of this committee and the
19 Senate do not think that you are fit to take over this
20 position. You are going to be in charge of military
21 chaplains. You are nominated to be the Assistant Secretary
22 of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and you have a
23 long history of offensive, inflammatory accusations against
24 Bible-believing Christians.

25 I will oppose this nomination, and I certainly hope the

1 entire Senate will oppose it, as well.

2 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cotton.

3 Let me recognize Senator Sullivan, please.

4 Senator Sullivan: Mr. Chairman, I am going to defer to
5 one of my colleagues. I am still prepping here if that is
6 okay?

7 Chairman Reed: That is fine.

8 Senator Scott, at the deferral of Senator Sullivan, you
9 are recognized.

10 Senator Scott: Thank you, Chairman Reed.

11 Ms. Fulton, I have read a number of your tweets and
12 re-tweets about Republicans, white persons, Christians,
13 voters, Americans, and sitting U.S. senators who will be
14 voting on your confirmation. I simply cannot ignore the
15 callous, hateful, divisive, and absolutely untrue things
16 that you have said over the years.

17 First off, do you want to apologize for any of the
18 things you have said as we brought them up? Is there
19 anybody, anything -- what I have watched of your testimony,
20 you are not apologetic for anything that you have said in
21 the past; is that right?

22 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I have deeply apologized to, and
23 I do, again, deeply apologize to all of the members of the
24 committee for the tweet that we discussed earlier, where,
25 you know, my feeling is that the parties should have made a

1 statement about racism, because I feel that no group of
2 people should be tarnished with the actions of one, but I
3 went about it all wrong and I am deeply sorry for that.

4 My entire career, I have worked in a nonpartisan and
5 bipartisan way, regardless of people's politics, worked to
6 support the Armed Forces and make our military stronger --

7 Senator Scott: Let me interrupt you for a second.

8 Let's go back to what Senator Cotton said. The vast
9 majority of white evangelical leaders are utterly unmoored
10 from the gospel of Jesus Christ.

11 Then you told the Windy City Times, the United States
12 has a powerful, right-wing, antigay, anti-abortion lobby
13 that purports to represent Christians. These radicals, I
14 can't bring myself to call them Christians, since their
15 language and actions hold no resemblance to the Jesus I know
16 from the Bible.

17 If confirmed, you are going to lead, as the Assistant
18 Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs,
19 27,000 people and you will be doing policy for the entire
20 military and civilian DOD workforce. You know, there are
21 going to be some evangelical Christians in there and there
22 are going to be Catholics who would work for you, if you
23 were confirmed. Obviously, some of your potential
24 subordinates are going to be pro-life.

25 Some of us actually believe that we shouldn't be

1 killing children. Obviously, this person would know that
2 you have called their deeply held views, which they are free
3 to hold, in this country, you are free to hold these things,
4 you have called them radical. And they are going to have to
5 wonder about their ability to do their jobs or get promoted
6 when their boss has such hateful, and it is hateful what you
7 have said, and divisive language. So, how would you think
8 that anybody, a conservative would ever move up after the
9 things you have said?

10 And you supposedly, you said, oh, you spent a career
11 advocating for diversity and demanding intolerance, but you
12 struggle with intolerance, right, of anybody who has a
13 different view.

14 Now, let's go back to what Senator Cotton talked about,
15 chaplains. You said what people fail to understand is that
16 chaplains give up some of their rights as ministers when
17 they become military chaplains.

18 That is not true. The DOD policy for chaplains doesn't
19 say anything like that; in fact, it says quite the opposite,
20 quote, if a chaplain is unable to support a specific request
21 because of his or her religious endorsing organization's
22 teachings the chaplain must offer referral to another
23 chaplain or professional.

24 That is totally different than what you said. So, why?

25 You obviously believe these things because you have

1 said it a lot of times. You clearly lack sufficient
2 self-control to show respect for other people and what they
3 believe in, completely. You don't show any respect for
4 them.

5 There is good, productive public discourse. We have it
6 here. We disagree a lot up here. But what you have said is
7 hateful and you have done it a lot of times.

8 So, I think when we review a nominee, I think it is
9 important that we review their qualifications, but you are
10 going to manage 27,000 people. I can't imagine those
11 individuals that have a differently held belief are going to
12 believe anything other than the fact that you will never
13 give them a shot.

14 So, I don't know why you did what you did. I am
15 disappointed that you didn't -- you should have started off
16 by saying, I have made a lot of mistakes and let me go
17 through them, and here is the reason why I said it, and I
18 apologize, and it will never happen again. You are not
19 willing to do that.

20 So, I am in the same position Senator Cotton is. I
21 hope this committee rejects your nomination, because I don't
22 think you deserve to be able to be a manager over 27,000
23 people and especially over the chaplains of the military.

24 Thank you, Chairman Reed.

25 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Scott.

1 Senator Hawley, please?

2 Senator Hawley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 And thanks to the nominees for being here.

4 You know, we have heard from a lot of nominees who have
5 come before this committee from this administration a lot
6 about equity and about fairness being top priorities in
7 today's DOD, but I have to say, that just doesn't seem to
8 bear out to be the facts, and, Ms. Fulton, your nomination
9 is the perfect example of it.

10 What we have actually seen is targeting political
11 opponents, targeting people who the administration doesn't
12 agree with, trying to silence folks who they don't like.
13 Clearly, it is a priority for this administration, because
14 they have been focused on that, rather than doing things
15 like, oh, I don't know, managing the evacuation from
16 Afghanistan, where we have, let me remind this committee,
17 yet again, 13 servicemembers dead, hundreds of civilians
18 dead, potentially thousands of Americans left behind enemy
19 lines.

20 Why?

21 Because the DOD is focused on their radical left
22 agenda, rather than on actually saving Americans and doing
23 their jobs.

24 Now, Ms. Fulton, I am astounded, frankly, that you have
25 been nominated. And, listen, you are entitled to have

1 whatever views you want. Look, I am a constitutional
2 lawyer. I am actually a religious liberty lawyer by
3 training.

4 Your faith is your faith. Your views are your views.
5 You can say whatever the heck you want. This is the United
6 States of America, but you are asking to be appointed to a
7 very important position in the DOD.

8 Let me come back to some of these statements that you
9 have made. Religious freedom is twisted to mean
10 conservative Christians can dictate their beliefs to the
11 rest of us, hashtag, Hobby Lobby, repeal RFRA.

12 When did you change your view on RFRA?

13 You told Senator Cotton you are not in favor of
14 repealing it. You were on June 30, 2014. When did you
15 change your mind?

16 Ms. Fulton: I couldn't tell you exactly, Senator.

17 Senator Hawley: Why did you change your mind?

18 Ms. Fulton: I couldn't tell you exactly, Senator.

19 Senator Hawley: You are choosing not to tell me or you
20 don't want to engage or you don't like this line of
21 questioning or you don't think you need to be responsive?

22 Ms. Fulton: Oh, I am sorry, Senator.

23 Of course I do mean to be responsive. I don't recall
24 the details of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and I
25 want to be clear that I support religious freedom. I

1 support the rights of our troops and our civilian employees
2 to their religious freedom to the entire extent that the law
3 allows within their employment in the Department of Defense
4 and I support that in every way, yes, sir.

5 Senator Hawley: Why is it that you think that the vast
6 majority of white evangelical leaders are utterly unmoored
7 from the gospel of Jesus Christ? Can you explain that to
8 me.

9 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I am a Christian. I am a
10 follower of Jesus Christ. I have had differences of opinion
11 from people who don't believe in full equality for all, but
12 I will say it is wrong, it was wrong for me in that moment
13 and I believe it is always wrong to tarnish an entire group
14 of people with the beliefs or actions of one or a few, and
15 for that, I apologize.

16 Senator Hawley: You said that if getting a Supreme
17 Court judge who would outlaw abortion makes all of this
18 worth it to you, referring to evangelicals, your religion
19 has nothing to do with Jesus. You also say 86 percent of
20 those who consider themselves white evangelicals support
21 Trump.

22 So, which part of it is, disqualifies these people as
23 Christians, is it that they are opposed to abortion or they
24 supported Trump or both? Help me understand your thinking.

25 Ms. Fulton: I am so sorry, Senator. Could you read

1 that again.

2 Senator Hawley: On September 4, you said, 2017, 86
3 percent of those who consider themselves white evangelicals
4 support Trump. You said in the same tweet thread, if
5 getting a Supreme Court judge who would outlaw abortion
6 makes all this worth it to you, your religion has nothing to
7 do with Jesus.

8 So, is it because that they supported Trump that they
9 are not followers of Jesus or is it because they oppose
10 abortion? Is it both?

11 Ms. Fulton: I am trying to, Senator, I am trying to
12 put myself back in that moment. I know there were several
13 points at which I felt that the President had made
14 statements or taken actions that I felt were in direct
15 contradiction with the way that I understand Jesus'
16 teaching, and I am expecting that I was reacting to that.

17 And, again, I don't believe we should ever tarnish a
18 whole group of people for the actions of one.

19 Senator Hawley: Do you think that it is your position
20 to tell people when they are and aren't followers of Christ
21 or truly --

22 Ms. Fulton: No, sir.

23 Senator Hawley: -- Christians or not, just because
24 they don't disagree with you?

25 I understand you disagree with these folks but saying

1 over and over that they are not followers of Jesus, you
2 cited Matthew 23 on August 29, 2017, when you said the vast
3 majority of white evangelical leaders are utterly unmoored
4 from the gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 23 applies.

5 Do you remember what you meant by that?

6 Maybe a reference to the brood of vipers; that is
7 Matthew 23?

8 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator.

9 Senator, none of what I have ever expressed on social
10 media was intended to silence others. I believe there is a
11 free expression of beliefs there, but I do believe that I
12 apologized for statements at any time when I tarnished a
13 whole group of people for the actions or statements of one
14 or a few and I --

15 Senator Hawley: Well, it was clearly meant to
16 denigrate others.

17 Listen, my time is expired. I just have to say, Ms.
18 Fulton, it is not just one statement; it is multiple
19 statements over multiple years, running from 2014 through
20 2008, years, I mean, there is just pages and pages of these
21 statements all directed at a particular group of people for
22 whom you appear to have quite a significant amount of
23 animus. You would be expected to oversee many of these
24 folks in the Department of Defense.

25 I mean, that is not fairness. That is not equity.

1 That is targeting. And for those reasons, among others, I
2 can't support your nomination.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hawley.

5 Senator Kelly, please?

6 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Dr. Honey, during our recent meetings, we discussed the
8 risks to national security created by America's reliance on
9 foreign-made microelectronics, including microchips. As you
10 know, this is a major concern of mine and countries like
11 China are investing heavily to try to outcompete us, which
12 is why I have been working with my Republican and Democratic
13 colleagues to ensure our nation has the resources it needs
14 to increase American microelectronics manufacturing and
15 development. I led the effort to include \$52 billion in the
16 competitiveness bill towards this goal with \$2 billion
17 allocated for efforts within DOD.

18 And I appreciated your opening comments about the need
19 to leverage research from experts across academia, industry,
20 and DOD. And in your written responses to the committee,
21 you indicated strong support for the establishment of a
22 national network for microelectronics research that can
23 bring those three parties together.

24 In your view, what are the advantages of having
25 academia and industry working in direct partnership with the

1 Department of Defense as the national network model
2 proposes?

3 Mr. Honey: Senator, I thank you for your support in
4 microelectronics and for these types of initiatives.

5 My support for this and my interest in it actually
6 stems from my previous experience at DARPA, having run a
7 very similar type of effort in optoelectronics, where we did
8 bring together industry, academia, and the Department to
9 solve some very profound challenges over a number of domains
10 in optoelectronics.

11 And so, having seen that before and the tech transition
12 and the impact that that has had on the commercial world and
13 to then feed back new capabilities to the Department that we
14 could get out of the commercial world, I believe that this
15 area of microelectronics is ripe for this type of activity
16 again.

17 Senator Kelly: Well, thank you.

18 And can you explain a little bit why domestic, R&D
19 testing, production, and packaging is so critical for our
20 nation's ability to leverage to the next generation of
21 technologies.

22 Mr. Honey: Senator, yes, these, as you have just
23 identified, these are a group of technology areas that are
24 very important to have here onshore and available to our
25 university students for learning how to design and make

1 parts that will feed into that part of the supply chain, and
2 that is part of the testing environment, but it is also
3 important for industry to have resources to go to when they
4 face a production problem.

5 I had some experience in doing that previously when I
6 was at Rome Lab in our test facility there when some folks
7 from industry and, again, the optoelectronics world, faced
8 challenges like that. They could come to us and leverage
9 our expertise, and because we were working with so many
10 different parts of industry and academia at that time, we
11 were able to give them a much broader perspective on solving
12 problems. And, again, I think that activity would be
13 replicated in this environment.

14 Senator Kelly: Could you give an example, maybe, how
15 currently when we need to test microelectronics and we have
16 to do that offshore, why that is a risk to our national
17 security.

18 Mr. Honey: Senator, these types of activities, when
19 they are done offshore, are a risk because it exposes the
20 intellectual property, it exposes the circuit design,
21 capabilities, and our intent when we do that, or there is
22 the possibility of having that happening, for certain.

23 So, having the ability to do that here in the U.S.
24 gives us the ability to have those layers of protections
25 that we need for our microelectronics that we are using in

1 various applications or weapons systems and other places, as
2 well.

3 Senator Kelly: And I want to highlight, just for the
4 record, that some of that testing is done in China, which is
5 not in the interests of our national security.

6 Under Secretary Shyu has identified microelectronics as
7 a priority, modernization area for DOD. You know, what are
8 some of the challenges that the Department will face going
9 forward, if we do not create a robust, domestic
10 manufacturing capability?

11 Mr. Honey: The challenges that I see, based on, you
12 know, my experience at DARPA, my time in the Air Force, and
13 working these issues is that we have to have the ability to
14 work at the leading edge. We need to be able to have
15 security for our designs. We need to have the environments
16 where our Defense Industrial Base can collaborate with
17 commercial partners on the leading edge and know that the
18 intellectual property is properly being protected. And we
19 need to be able to ensure that, you know, all parts of that
20 ecosystem that we need to master, we have the ability to do
21 that here or, you know, we have already seen the
22 democratization and spread of technology and how it impacts
23 us. This is a way to help ensure that when we want to let
24 that information out, we can, but when we need to protect
25 it, we can keep it here in the U.S., as well.

1 Senator Kelly: Well, thank you, Dr. Honey.

2 And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 And Ms. Fulton, I have got to tell you, I am very
5 concerned about your nomination. I am very concerned about
6 the politicization of our military. I think if you are
7 confirmed, you are going to add to that. It is very
8 dangerous.

9 So, let me go into some questions. You served on the
10 Board of the U.S. Military Academy, didn't you?

11 Ms. Fulton: Yes, sir, I did.

12 Senator Sullivan: You were chairman?

13 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator.

14 Senator Sullivan: You enjoyed it, you got a lot out of
15 it?

16 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator.

17 Senator Sullivan: I serve on the Board of the Naval
18 Academy. I love it, actually.

19 You served until 2019, if I recall, correct,
20 December 2019?

21 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator, that is correct.

22 Senator Sullivan: So, when President Trump came
23 onboard as a new President, he didn't fire you or any of the
24 other members appointed by President Obama, correct?

25 Ms. Fulton: That is correct, Senator.

1 Senator Sullivan: So, you weren't fired.

2 So, Joe Biden gets elected, this is what I am talking
3 about politicization of the military, he purges everybody
4 nominated by President Trump off all the service academy
5 boards.

6 Do you think that was a good idea?

7 Ms. Fulton: Senator, that was the President's
8 prerogative.

9 Senator Sullivan: It is not his prerogative.

10 I am asking you, do you think it was a good idea?

11 You served on the Board. You weren't fired by Donald
12 Trump. Do you think it was a good idea that -- do you think
13 any other President in the history of the country has done
14 that?

15 Ms. Fulton: I don't know, Senator.

16 Senator Sullivan: I will answer for you: no. First
17 time ever.

18 Do you think it was a good idea?

19 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I think there is benefit to
20 having people with longevity on the Board --

21 Senator Sullivan: So, Donald Trump should have -- I am
22 sorry, go ahead.

23 Ms. Fulton: There is a benefit to having people with
24 longevity on the Board that, with experience in knowing how
25 the Board works. There is also a benefit in getting new

1 eyes on the --

2 Senator Sullivan: But let me read you the law. The
3 law says that board members designated by the President
4 shall serve 3 years. So, Biden's firing of everybody was
5 illegal. I have no doubt about it. It is right here in the
6 law.

7 So, if you are confirmed, will you work to reinstate
8 those, well, let me give you two examples from the U.S.
9 Military Academy. General H.R. McMaster, the day after he
10 was fired by Biden, he received the Distinguished Graduate
11 Award.

12 Do you think he deserved to be fired?

13 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I have respect for General
14 McMaster, as someone who I know.

15 Senator Sullivan: Do you think he deserved to be
16 fired?

17 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I don't know on what grounds that
18 decision was made.

19 Senator Sullivan: Do you think General Keane deserved
20 to be fired?

21 Ms. Fulton: I don't know what grounds that was made --

22 Senator Sullivan: Well, here is the point. Will you
23 commit to reinstating people like General McMaster?

24 President Biden illegally fired everybody. No one had
25 ever done that in the history of the country before, but he

1 decided to purge every service academy for what reason?

2 The only reason is to politicize the service academy.
3 Do you think it is a good idea, you are a West Point grad,
4 to politicize the service academies?

5 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator, I don't believe it is good to
6 politicize --

7 Senator Sullivan: So, will you work, if confirmed, to
8 reinstate the people Joe Biden fired?

9 Ms. Fulton: Senator, if I am confirmed, I will look
10 into what authorities -- my understanding is that is solely
11 within the President's --

12 Senator Sullivan: It is not. I just read you the
13 statute. It says "shall." That is why you weren't fired by
14 President Trump.

15 Anyway, let me turn to another issue. But this is an
16 important issue, Mr. Chairman, that we haven't done enough
17 to look at. It is an important issue. Politicizing the
18 officer court of our military academies is something nobody
19 should accept and Joe Biden is doing it and you are going to
20 be in charge of this.

21 The Under Secretary of Defense, in his confirmation
22 hearing said one of his goals was to stamp out, quote,
23 systemic racism within the ranks of the military.

24 Do you believe that the military is systemically
25 racist?

1 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator.

2 I have heard different definitions of that term, but I
3 don't believe that the military is fundamentally racist.

4 Senator Sullivan: So, one of your tweets said, it is
5 not a political statement to say the GOP, that is half the
6 country, is racist; it is a moral statement.

7 So, do you believe that every Republican in the GOP,
8 probably a lot of military members, too, are they all
9 racist? That is what you said in 2018.

10 Ms. Fulton: No, Senator. I want to repeat what I said
11 when I apologized for that tweet earlier. My intent was to
12 say that racism isn't Republican or Democratic, that it is
13 not political; it is moral.

14 Senator Sullivan: Okay.

15 Ms. Fulton: And the parties should make a statement,
16 because no group of people, no whole group of people should
17 be tarnished by the actions of one.

18 But my words were muddled, confused. I went about it
19 the wrong way and I deeply apologized for --

20 Senator Sullivan: Let me focus on another group, that
21 for whatever reason seems to get the ire of the far left,
22 and it is the Marine Corps. I love the Marine Corps. I
23 think it is one of the best institutions in America.

24 I remember an Obama administration official, I can't
25 remember, senior in the Pentagon, she called the Marines a

1 bunch of extremists.

2 You were quoted, stated in 2016, quote, so tired of
3 USMC women fighting to keep combat ban because they want so
4 badly for the male Marines to love them; hashtag, co-opted,
5 hashtag, Stockholm Syndrome.

6 That is a blatant insult to the women in the U.S.
7 Marine Corps. Hey, do you want to apologize to them right
8 now, because you are looking to possibly lead them?

9 And why the hell would you say something like that?

10 Ms. Fulton: Senator, the honor, courage, and
11 commitment of the Marine Corps is --

12 Senator Sullivan: How about women Marines?

13 Ms. Fulton: Especially women Marines.

14 Senator Sullivan: So, why are you insulting them?

15 Ms. Fulton: Senator, that was, I never want to tarnish
16 a whole group of people with the actions of one and in that
17 case, it was the action of one and --

18 Senator Sullivan: No, it wasn't. You said the USMC
19 women.

20 Why are you insulting the women in the United States
21 Marine Corps and will you, right now, apologize for that
22 tweet or whatever the heck it was in 2016?

23 Ms. Fulton: I apologize, Senator. I have all respect
24 for the Marine Corps. I know a great deal of Marine men and
25 women who served honorably, continue to serve honorably, and

1 I have served alongside of and worked alongside of, and I
2 have tremendous respect for them. I will continue to work
3 with them.

4 Senator Sullivan: Mr. Chairman, this nominee is
5 clearly unqualified and I hope everybody on this committee
6 votes to not move forward her confirmation out of the Armed
7 Services Committee. It will be an insult, part of this
8 continuing focus on the Biden administration to put
9 officials like you who are disingenuous, condescending,
10 dismissive, and insulting of the very people you want to
11 lead in the military, and I think it has to stop on this
12 nominee. Sorry.

13 Chairman Reed: Senator Peters, please?

14 Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 And thank you to each and every one of you for your
16 willingness to serve in tough and challenging jobs, and I
17 appreciate your willingness to serve the country.

18 Dr. Honey, my first question is going to be for you.
19 If confirmed, you will oversee the Defense Advanced Research
20 Project Agency, DARPA, and certainly in an era of strategic
21 competition against our near-peer threats, there is a
22 renewed emphasis on DARPA, and I think rightly so, because
23 of the critical work that it does.

24 But my question for you is, how do you plan to increase
25 the coordination and bring DARPA closer to industry,

1 academia, and other government agencies to advance our
2 capabilities in areas, particularly, artificial
3 intelligence, microelectronics, quantum science. We know
4 now that a lot of some of the cutting-edge new technologies
5 coming onboard are happening in the commercial sector. They
6 are happening in academia. DARPA clearly plays an important
7 role, but that role has to be coordinated with all of these
8 other entities.

9 If you would elaborate on your thoughts on that, I
10 would appreciate it.

11 Mr. Honey: So, Senator, I agree, these are all
12 important areas, and DARPA's role in, not only leveraging
13 what's going on in industry, but creating new areas of
14 research for industry and academia, has been very important,
15 at least, I have seen it, you know, day-to-day during my two
16 tours at DARPA, over the 14 years that I spent there.
17 DARPA, and I would say that all of the service labs and even
18 more broadly, all of DOD research does need these
19 connections, exactly as you described.

20 And there are a number of ways that can serve to do
21 that. COVID has had an impact on, I know, on all of my
22 colleagues in trying to do that, and so we have been
23 experimenting with a number of ways of, you know, Webex,
24 Zoom meetings, things like that, ways to try and better
25 collaborate and coordinate. I do hope, though, that as

1 COVID recedes, that we are able to, you know, get to more
2 in-person and technical conferences and whatnot. We will be
3 able to have greater participation in those venues, as well.

4 But I think one of the things that is key is from the
5 Government's side from DOD, we need to be very forthcoming
6 with our partners outside of government on what it is we are
7 planning to do and why are we going to do it and what are
8 our thoughts on how to do that, and then have means of
9 communication back in.

10 When I left the Government, I went out to a small
11 defense contractor for 2 years. I had no idea how hard it
12 was to communicate back into Government until I went there
13 and saw it firsthand. So, I commit to you that if I am
14 confirmed, I will tackle these issues, because it is very
15 important to have those lines of communication if we are to
16 succeed.

17 Senator Peters: Well, absolutely. I am glad you had
18 that experience so you know what it is on the other side and
19 how difficult that can be and that certainly can happen. We
20 need a very fluid ecosystem and innovation in our ecosystem.

21 And speaking of that, the defense innovation ecosystem,
22 generally, has been calling for an expansion of DARPA. What
23 are your thoughts of expanding DARPA? Is there a need to do
24 that and, if so, why?

25 Mr. Honey: DARPA's budget has grown over the years and

1 I believe that has been a very worthwhile investment that
2 DARPA does deliver tremendous value to the government.
3 Going forward, of course, you know, I support the
4 President's budget and will look to, if confirmed, when I am
5 in R&E, get a better understanding of the research that is
6 going on, not just across the Department, overseeing, you
7 know, greater opportunities for collaboration with the
8 National Science Foundation, NIH, and other departments, as
9 well.

10 NIST has a great amount of work going on, the
11 Department of Energy with all of its labs. So, figuring
12 out, not just, you know, how much money needs to be spent,
13 but where it needs to be spent. We have to make sure that
14 we are getting the right bang for the buck, deconflicting,
15 where necessary, are all activities that, if confirmed, I
16 commit to support.

17 Senator Peters: Very good.

18 Ms. Fulton, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for
19 Manpower and Reserve Affairs has purview over review boards
20 that deal with bad-paper discharges. Earlier this year, I
21 pressed Secretary Austin to quickly and effectively
22 implement the Fairness for Veterans legislation that I,
23 along with members of this committee, enacted into law.

24 Veterans who have been erroneously given a less-than-
25 honorable discharge from the military, due to negative

1 behavior resulting from mental trauma, such as PTSD or
2 traumatic brain injury that wasn't properly diagnosed while
3 they were in service, certainly deserve to have their
4 petitions for change adjudicated in a timely manner. We
5 find many of these folks, the behaviors they had was a
6 direct result of PTSD that wasn't diagnosed.

7 And while I understand that COVID-19 has added
8 obstacles for veterans getting their records corrected, my
9 question for you is, if confirmed, do you have a commitment,
10 will you make a commitment to me to work with my office to
11 ensure that review boards are making expeditious decisions
12 and to transmit to my office, data and information related
13 to these review boards?

14 It was estimated that we may be talking about 30 or
15 40,000 veterans in this category and, yet, only, roughly, I
16 believe 1,500 to 2,000 have actually had changes in those
17 papers as a result of those boards. Talk to me about that
18 and please offer me your commitment.

19 Ms. Fulton: Senator Peters, thank you for that
20 important legislation that really recognizes the impact of
21 PTSD on behavior, and it is important for our soldiers.

22 If I am confirmed, I commit to move out smartly on this
23 and do whatever I can to move it along.

24 Senator Peters: Thank you.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Peters.

2 Senator Tillis, please?

3 Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 And congratulations to the nominees for your
5 nominations.

6 Very briefly, Dr. Honey, I would be kind of curious to
7 see, with respect to the United States compared to China and
8 Russia, how are we doing in the race for quantum information
9 science and with respect to China, maybe include in that
10 artificial intelligence. Are we ahead, behind, or just
11 keeping up?

12 Mr. Honey: Senator, based on what I see, you know,
13 published and where the activities going on, our adversaries
14 are certainly very interested in these areas and they are
15 competing with us, as best as they can. I still believe,
16 though, that the U.S. does have the best R&E ecosystem and
17 that we are ahead in these areas. But it is a challenge to
18 stay ahead and one that we have to keep focused on to remain
19 there.

20 Senator Tillis: If confirmed, briefly, what would be
21 your top priorities to make sure that we leapfrog ahead?

22 Mr. Honey: Senator, my priorities would be supporting
23 the DOD ecosystem to make sure that we are, you know, making
24 the right investments, that we are getting the value out of
25 it, collaborating with the other agencies, but even more

1 importantly these days, staying in contact with the
2 commercial industry. There is a lot of quantum that is
3 being funded by the venture capital community today that
4 previously never would have been done, so we need to
5 leverage all of these investments to stay ahead.

6 Senator Tillis: Thank you.

7 Ms. Fulton, I have been watching some of the hearing in
8 my office and I was in the Banking Committee hearing with a
9 nominee who had a long history of incendiary and profane
10 tweets about Republicans, about the former President. Yours
11 were not profane, but they are questioning.

12 And I also want to associate myself with some of the
13 comments that Senator Sullivan made about his concerns, but
14 rather than getting into the specifics of the tweets, they
15 are in the record, in an organization that you are going to
16 go into that are going to have thousands, tens of thousands
17 of people across the political spectrum, why would those who
18 would just object to what you have put out there, feel
19 comfortable with you having to lead them?

20 Ms. Fulton: Thank you for the question, Senator.

21 Throughout my career, I have worked side-by-side with
22 people, regardless of their political affiliation. One of
23 the most critical issues that we faced at the Military
24 Academy was a combination of sexual assault and harassment
25 problems and a need to recenter character.

1 And I worked, my closest partner in that was
2 Congressman Steve Womack. I worked probably throughout my
3 time on the Board of Visitors, my closest working partners
4 on getting things done were either appointed by Republicans
5 or were Republican members of Congress. And I have always
6 worked with people, regardless of their political viewpoint.
7 I would continue to strive to do so.

8 And as I did in the military, what we do is we focus on
9 the mission, what is the mission, and we work together to
10 achieve that.

11 Senator Tillis: What is the thought process, and by
12 the way, you have a very impressive career and you should be
13 commended for blazing the trail for women in the Army, but
14 you know, what would motivate you to take it to that level
15 if, on the one hand you just told me that you have worked
16 side-by-side and collaborative, why didn't it give you pause
17 before you pressed tweet, when you are casting an entire
18 political party in the same light?

19 There was one tweet that you had out there that I took
20 personal offense to, because back in 1996 when I became a
21 new partner in Price Waterhouse, I volunteered to create a
22 diversity recruiting practice that went across the entire
23 spectrum that you are obviously, based on your tweet,
24 sympathetic to, and I am too, but just give me an idea of
25 why you felt comfortable with doing that if you also have

1 just said that you worked across a broad spectrum of people.
2 How could that, if they knew that this is what you felt, do
3 you think it would undermine your ability to actually work
4 with them?

5 Ms. Fulton: Senator, I want to apologize for that
6 tweet. My intent was to say that racism isn't Democratic or
7 Republican. It is not political; it is a moral issue.

8 And the parties should make a statement, because a
9 whole group of people should never be tarnished with the
10 actions of one or a few and --

11 Senator Tillis: I just don't recall --

12 Ms. Fulton: -- but it came across completely wrong and
13 I apologize, Senator. It came out completely wrong.

14 Senator Tillis: And if you could submit, for the
15 record, an example of where there is a pattern where you
16 have said that you are calling on everybody across the
17 ideological spectrum, but it seems to me that at least what
18 I have observed, and there could be more that were not
19 submitted to me for preparation before the committee, to
20 demonstrate that balance.

21 Because, you know, honestly, I hired a lot of people as
22 a partner of Price Waterhouse and if this were, and we did a
23 lot of searches on social media, I do that in my office, it
24 is a deal-killer for anybody to have made a political
25 statement about the other party. As a matter of fact, in my

1 office if someone says something that is overheard that is
2 the least bit critical of someone else on the other side of
3 the aisle, it is grounds for termination, based on my
4 business code of conduct.

5 So, the reason I would have a concern with supporting
6 you is it doesn't even live up to my hiring practices in my
7 office, which is highly diverse and, in fact, my nominations
8 to the committees, is one of the top four or five in the
9 U.S. Senate for diversity. So, I actually do it in a way,
10 and in my 20 years in public service, have never taken on
11 the party or said or had a single tweet or a public
12 statement, where we have a record of several.

13 So, it just worries me about your temperament and about
14 the confidence people would have and the side of the
15 political spectrum that you have, at least, some contempt
16 for.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 [The information follows:]

19 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Tillis.

2 Senator Rosen is trying to get to her computer, so I
3 will take the opportunity to begin my second round.

4 Ms. Fulton, you had an extraordinary career: the first
5 class of women at West Point, which was very challenging.
6 Not only did you survive an experience that most people, and
7 I have some experience in this regard, could not have done,
8 and then you went on and throughout your public service, and
9 currently in the state of New Jersey, working with people
10 from all different persuasions, political, theological,
11 ethnic differences, and there has been no complaints by any
12 of your subordinates or any of your superiors about your
13 work.

14 Is that fair?

15 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator, that is true.

16 Chairman Reed: So, that, in the performance of your
17 duties, you have done it in a way that is based on the
18 principles, and I will be somewhat trite, of duty, honor,
19 country, that you have a job to do and you must do that job.
20 And it is other factors which you might, privately, as we
21 all have private thoughts and ideas, do not influence your
22 professional activities.

23 Is that fair?

24 Ms. Fulton: Yes, Senator. I strive to live up to the
25 ideals of duty, honor, country. I do think about that. I

1 am passionate. I am strong-willed. I am a fighter.

2 If I am confirmed, I will strive to prove to you and
3 every member of this committee, every day, that I am the
4 person of my record.

5 Chairman Reed: Well, I, you know, obviously, I think
6 the record bears that out in the sense that everyone is
7 entitled to their opinions, but they have to recognize their
8 opinions and deal in the workplace with facts and with the
9 principles, the fairness, and responsibility and commitment,
10 in this case, to the Constitution and to the laws of the
11 United States. So, I think that point has to be emphasized,
12 so I will emphasize that.

13 I am going to follow-up Ms. Hinderstein, with a
14 question and give you a little more time to elaborate, which
15 is securing of nuclear materials, again, I have the same
16 concerns as my colleagues, with respect to the real danger
17 of these materials flowing into the hands of terrorist
18 groups, which are very difficult, if not impossible, to
19 deter. And what can you add to your previous answer?

20 Ms. Hinderstein: Thank you, Senator.

21 I really am appreciative of this line of inquiry,
22 because I do think that nuclear security and anything that
23 we can do to reduce the risk that terrorists could acquire
24 nuclear or radiological material is extremely important, and
25 it is a risk that threatens to kind of fall below the radar

1 while we deal with other extremely important national
2 security issues.

3 If confirmed, I would seek to support a number of the
4 really important programs that the Office of Defense Nuclear
5 Nonproliferation has not only innovated, but implemented,
6 with partners around the world, because it is not just about
7 telling folks what to do; it is more about giving them the
8 tools, the capability, and the sustainability to continue
9 that mission globally. Because the United States, we can't
10 just protect ourselves here, we have to protect ourselves in
11 any area of risk.

12 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

13 I am informed that Senator Rosen is available. At this
14 point, I will recognize Senator Rosen for her questions.

15 Senator Rosen: Well, thank you, Chairman Reed. I
16 appreciate it. Thank you, Ranking Member Inhofe.

17 And I want to thank the nominees for being here today
18 and your willingness to serve.

19 I want to talk a little bit about Nevada's National
20 Security Site. So, Ms. Hinderstein, the Nevada test site,
21 now known as the Nevada National Security Site, or NNSS, was
22 ground zero for our country's explosive testing between 1945
23 and 1992 with a hundred atmospheric and 828 underground
24 tests conducted at the test site. NNSS is the only facility
25 in the nation equipped to accommodate subcritical nuclear

1 experiments, helping to advance our national security and
2 maintain the integrity of our nuclear stockpile.

3 Under the direction of the Deputy Administrator for
4 Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, NNSS hosts a
5 Nonproliferation Test and Evaluation Complex, the largest
6 facility for open-air testing of hazardous materials and
7 biological stimulants in the world, which trains our first
8 responders for nuclear catastrophes.

9 If confirmed, another Nevada equity, which would fall
10 under your direction is the Remote Sensing Laboratory at
11 Nellis Air Force Base and Joint Base Andrews, providing
12 radiological emergency response teams along the West Coast
13 and the East Coast, respectively. They stand ready to
14 provide emergency radiological response anywhere in the
15 world with deployable teams of experts.

16 RSL has been undergoing a number of upgrades to their
17 equipment, including helicopters, detectors, communications
18 gear. I had the pleasure of touring their headquarters
19 right there at Nellis in July.

20 So, Ms. Hinderstein, can you speak to importance of the
21 Nevada National Security Site and the Remote Sensing Lab and
22 the specialized people and equipment they field, and will
23 you ensure that, if confirmed, that they have the tools and
24 the resources that they need to maintain our nuclear
25 stockpile, to think about any potential radiological events,

1 and prepare and plan for the things that our country is
2 going to need going forward.

3 Ms. Hinderstein: Thank you for your question, Senator.
4 And I agree with you that the capabilities that are resident
5 in Nevada and, in particular, at Nellis and at the National
6 Nuclear Security Site, are unique to our country.

7 Because of the history of the facility, there are
8 capabilities in Nevada that we don't have elsewhere and that
9 would be nearly impossible, if not actually impossible to
10 replicate if we were to try to do so. So, I think it is
11 extremely important that we support the mission at Nevada.
12 There are profound and important activities that go on there
13 that are related to DNN's R&E portfolio.

14 If confirmed, first of all, I hope I would get the
15 opportunity to see some of those facilities directly. I
16 have been to the site once, but I didn't have the
17 opportunity to see some of those. And I would commit to you
18 to an ongoing conversation about the needs of the site to
19 meet our national security missions.

20 Senator Rosen: Well, that is important, because as you
21 mentioned, they have highly specialized nuclear-detection
22 equipment found nowhere else. It does need to be maintained
23 and upgraded, and it is critical.

24 And talking about their infrastructure needs, in
25 general, when I last visited the National Security Site, I

1 saw the ongoing construction project for the Ula facility
2 for enhanced capabilities for subcritical experiments. We
3 call it the ECSE. I am expedited that the NNS will host
4 the most capable weapons and radiographic system in the
5 world.

6 So, again, Ms. Hinderstein, if confirmed, what
7 additional investments in the Nevada National Security Site
8 do you think would be prudent to ensure that the site can
9 continue to fulfill its counterterrorism and
10 nonproliferation missions in the years to come?

11 Ms. Hinderstein: Senator, I think it is extremely
12 important to coordinate with my counterparts at the Office
13 of Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation at NNSA if I
14 were to be confirmed, because there are such specific
15 capabilities that would benefit both our mission spaces.

16 I would not dare to speculate on exactly which
17 investments would be needed now, but I would think it would
18 be extremely important, if confirmed, that I get up to speed
19 on where the capabilities lie, where the gaps may be, and
20 how we can strategically invest in the site to meet all of
21 our needs.

22 Senator Rosen: Well, thank you. My team and I look
23 forward to welcoming you to Nevada, taking you on those
24 tours, and having just these very discussions.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen.

2 That concludes the hearing. I want to thank the
3 witnesses for their testimony. I also want to thank you for
4 your willingness to serve the nation. It is deeply
5 appreciated.

6 And with that, I will adjourn the hearing.

7 [Whereupon, at 11:43 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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