

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF:
DR. CELESTE ANN WALLANDER TO BE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS;
MS. MELISSA G. DALTON TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND HEMISPHERIC
AFFAIRS; AND DR. JOHN F. PLUMB TO BE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPACE POLICY

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Washington, D.C.

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2 DR. CELESTE ANN WALLANDER TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF

3 DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS;

4 MS. MELISSA G. DALTON TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

5 FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS; AND DR. JOHN

6 F. PLUMB TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPACE

7 POLICY

8
9 Thursday, January 13, 2022

10
11 U.S. Senate

12 Committee on Armed Services

13 Washington, D.C.

14
15 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:36 a.m. in
16 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed,
17 chairman of the committee, presiding.

18 Committee members present: Senators Reed [presiding],
19 Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King,
20 Warren, Peters, Manchin, Rosen, Kelly, Inhofe, Wicker,
21 Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Scott,
22 Blackburn, Hawley, and Tuberville.

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

3 Chairman Reed: The Committee meets this morning to
4 consider the nominations of Dr. Celeste Wallander to be
5 Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security
6 Affairs, Ms. Melissa Dalton to be Assistant Secretary of
7 Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, and
8 Dr. John Plumb to be the Assistant Secretary of Defense for
9 Space Policy.

10 I thank the nominees for their nominees for their long
11 careers of service to the United States and a willingness to
12 assume these important roles.

13 I would also like to welcome the colleagues and family
14 members who are here with us today.

15 Dr. Wallander, I welcome your guest, Professor Jeffrey
16 Anderson.

17 Ms. Dalton, I welcome your guest, Jason.

18 And Dr. Plumb, I welcome your parents, John and Marie.

19 Dr. Wallander, you were nominated to be Assistant
20 Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. In
21 this role, you will be the principal advisor to the Under
22 Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Secretary of Defense
23 on international security issues that relate to Europe,
24 Russia, the Middle East, and Africa. I would note your
25 qualifications and experience for this position, including

1 your role as president and CEO of the U.S. Russia
2 Foundation, Senior Director for Russian-Eurasian Affairs on
3 the National Security Council, and Deputy Assistant
4 Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia during
5 the Obama administration.

6 If confirmed, there are several challenges that will
7 require your immediate attention. Most pressing is Russia's
8 increasingly aggressive posture on the Ukrainian border.
9 Diplomatic meetings are being held as we speak, but this
10 relationship is likely to remain a point of contention.

11 I would ask that you share your assessment of U.S. and
12 multilateral efforts to train and equip the Ukrainian
13 Security Forces and what balance the Department should
14 pursue in near term, training and equipping needs, and the
15 longer-term defensive capability development.

16 Iran also remains a complex challenge for the
17 Department. Even as indirect negotiations to return to the
18 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the JCPOA, take place in
19 Vienna this month, Iranian-linked proxies continue to mount
20 drone and rocket attacks in the region, including against
21 bases in Iraq and Syria with a U.S. military presence.

22 I look forward to your testimony on how the Department
23 of Defense should respond to Iranian and malign influence in
24 the region, while preserving our continuing nuclear
25 negotiations.

1 Ms. Dalton, you are nominated to be Assistant Secretary
2 of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs.
3 This position is responsible for supervision of the Homeland
4 Defense activities of the Department of Defense, as well as
5 defense support of civil authorities, Arctic, and global
6 resilience, and also western hemispheric affairs.

7 You have decades of experience, including your current
8 role, performing the duties of Assistant Secretary of
9 Defense to Strategy, Plans and Capabilities, will serve you
10 well in this position. If confirmed, you will be
11 responsible for integrating the Department of Defense's
12 Homeland Defense activities to include efforts to protect
13 critical infrastructure and assisting in Homeland Defense
14 matters for U.S. Northern Command, other combatant commands,
15 and the National Guard.

16 I would like to know what you see as the major
17 challenges in the coming years with respect to these issues,
18 including protection of the Defense Industrial Base.

19 Additionally, you will be responsible for policy issues
20 relating to the Western Hemisphere and the Arctic; regions,
21 that have seen increased attention from Russia, China, Iran,
22 and other recent actors.

23 I look forward to your testimony on the appropriate
24 role of the Department of Defense in competing strategically
25 in these key regions.

1 Dr. Plumb, you are nominated to be Assistant Secretary
2 of Defense to Space Policy. This is a new position that was
3 established in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense
4 Authorization Act to ensure dedicated policy oversight over
5 the newly created Space Force. You are well qualified for
6 this position, having managed Missile Defense and Space
7 Policy issues for the Defense Department during the Obama
8 administration, as well as holding an undergraduate degree
9 in physics and a doctorate in aerospace engineering.

10 As Section 955 of the fiscal year 2020 NDAA outlines,
11 the principal duty of the Assistant Secretary shall be
12 overall supervision of policy of the Department of Defense
13 for space warfighting. I would highlight the word
14 "principal," because the Department has undertaken a major
15 reorganization of the office of the Under Secretary of
16 Defense for Policy and has realigned Nuclear Missile
17 Defense, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, and
18 Cybersecurity to your space portfolio.

19 Although similar in scope to earlier versions of this
20 position, there are major differences for your office,
21 including the disbanding of the Office of Nuclear Missile
22 Defense Policy, significant changes to the former Office of
23 Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, and the movement of
24 Missile Defense to the Office of Space Policy; furthermore,
25 Cybersecurity, with all of its complexity, has been added to

1 your plate.

2 During today's hearing, I will ask for your views about
3 this reorganization and your plan to ensure that nuclear
4 deterrence, the bedrock of our national security, is not
5 lost in the shuffle; especially, as a new Nuclear Posture
6 Review is imminent and we continue to grapple with serious
7 challenges from China and Russia.

8 Thank you, again, to our nominees. I look forward to
9 your testimonies.

10 Now, let me recognize the ranking member, Senator
11 Inhofe.

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

3 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to
4 our witnesses for being with us for this session.

5 In 2021, our top military and intelligence leaders told
6 this Committee that the world is in the most dangerous and
7 complex position that it has been in our lifetimes and I
8 agree with it, and looking at what is happening across the
9 world, you have to agree.

10 In 2018, the National Defense Strategy, there is our
11 book that we, it served us very well as a blueprint. It
12 provides a roadmap to prioritize security to challenge. And
13 I know that they are going to be re-doing this and upgrading
14 it and all of that, and I hope that we don't lose the value
15 that it has been to us before, because it is truly a
16 masterpiece.

17 We have a lot of challenges in areas overseas. China's
18 military modernization continues at an alarming pace and the
19 massive growth in its arsenal of nuclear weapons and
20 hypersonic missiles clearly shows that they are watching in
21 an unprecedented strategy breakout.

22 Russia has built up well over 100,000 troops around
23 Ukraine and is ready for, yet, another invasion if Putin
24 gives the word. Russia also recently tested an anti-
25 satellite missile, creating a cloud of lethal debris that

1 made astronauts scramble for safety. This, again, shows
2 Putin's blatant disregard for established norms.

3 Meanwhile, Iran continues to fund global terrorism and
4 target American personnel and partners, and rampant
5 inflation is eating away at the defense budget. Not only
6 our troops, A, and the benefits, but also funding for
7 training, maintenance, and weapons acquisition. This
8 administration seems unable and/or unwilling to effectively
9 respond to the growing dangers and this paralysis damages
10 U.S. credibility and undermines the trust of our partners
11 and allies.

12 Even know, the administration seems intent on ending
13 decades of all the security guarantees by watering down our
14 United States nuclear policies and exposing allies. And I
15 will have the chance to pursue this a little bit during my
16 time for questioning.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

19 And now let me recognize Dr. Wallander for her
20 testimony. Doctor?

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1 STATEMENT OF DR. CELESTE ANN WALLANDER, NOMINEE TO BE
2 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
3 AFFAIRS

4 Ms. Wallander: Good morning, Chairman Reed, Ranking
5 Member Inhofe, and distinguished members of the Committee.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you
7 today as you consider my nomination to serve as Assistant
8 Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

9 I am grateful to President Biden, Secretary Austin, and
10 Under Secretary Kahl for their trust in my ability to serve
11 in this role. It is also a privilege to appear on this
12 panel with colleagues who have also been nominated for
13 Assistant Secretary roles. If confirmed, it would be my
14 honor to work alongside them and ensure coordination between
15 the regional and functional policy offices within the
16 Department.

17 I would like to take a moment to thank my dad, who
18 served in the U.S. Navy, and is a retired Chicago police
19 officer, and my mom, who immigrated to the United States as
20 a little girl from Europe after World War II. They taught
21 me the gift of American citizenship and the duty to serve
22 our country. I also thank my husband Jeff and our children
23 Nathaniel, Joseph, and Genevieve, for their unshakeable love
24 and support.

25 I am humbled by the prospect of returning to public

1 service. I served at the Pentagon as Deputy Assistant
2 Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia from
3 2009 to 2012, and then on the National Security Council
4 staff as the Senior Director for Russia and Central Asia
5 from 2013 to 2017. These roles equipped me with the skills
6 to manage critical defense relationships, navigate the
7 interagency policy formation process, and develop national
8 security policy in response to complex geopolitical
9 contexts.

10 I have dedicated my career to both, studying and
11 working policy on European and Eurasian security, with a
12 focus on Russian foreign, military, and security affairs.

13 If confirmed, I would work to utilize my scholarly and
14 government experiences in the service of U.S. national
15 security.

16 The Assistant Secretary of Defense for International
17 Security Affairs covers a broad portfolio that includes well
18 over 100 countries. ISA develops security policy and
19 manages defense and military relations. It stewards
20 Department resources to develop military capabilities,
21 support security cooperation programs, conduct foreign
22 military sales, and perform other key activities in those
23 regions. I would be honored to lead the talented
24 professionals supporting this vast portfolio should I be
25 confirmed.

1 The regional portfolio presents some of the most
2 difficult defense challenges facing the United States. I
3 appreciate that members of this committee are closely
4 tracking Russian threats against Ukraine. As a private
5 citizen, I have been deeply concerned about Russian military
6 concentrations.

7 If confirmed, I would develop policy and strategic
8 options for the Secretary to deter Russia, ensure
9 appropriate response to Russian aggression, and safeguard
10 U.S. and Transatlantic security.

11 I support the Biden administration's work to unite NATO
12 on deterrence and diplomacy, as well as provide continued
13 defensive, lethal assistance to Ukraine. I also support the
14 administration's close consultations with European allies
15 and partners on options for deterrence, as well as serious
16 consequences for Russia in the event of escalation.

17 If confirmed, I will be ready and able to advance the
18 Department's preparations for all contingencies. This will
19 be my top priority, if confirmed, and, I would immediately
20 focus on being briefed in detail about the current state of
21 play.

22 I share the goals and commitments advanced in the
23 Global Posture Review, including an effective
24 counterterrorism posture in the Middle East and robust
25 deterrence against Iran. Our force protection mission is

1 also essential, particularly, in the face of attacks by
2 Iranian proxies in Iraq.

3 If confirmed, I will also advance our strategy in
4 Africa to build partner capacity, strengthen African
5 security institutions, and counter violent extremist
6 organizations.

7 I share Secretary Austin's view that China is the
8 pacing challenge for the Department. I also share his view
9 that the strength of our alliances and partnerships is one
10 of our greatest assets in that challenge, and all others.

11 If confirmed, I will prioritize these critical defense
12 partnerships in order to strengthen our security and deter
13 our adversaries.

14 The responsibilities of International Security Affairs
15 require thoughtful and sustained military diplomacy with our
16 allies and partners across the globe. I know that members
17 of this committee recognize the importance of this mission,
18 and I am personally invested in working with Congress to
19 address these shared challenges and opportunities. I
20 appreciate your longstanding bipartisan approach to national
21 security issues and would look forward to working in
22 partnership with this committee and consulting regularly
23 with Congress, if confirmed.

24 Thank you for considering my nomination, and I look
25 forward to your questions.

[The statement of Ms. Wallander follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

2 Ms. Dalton, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF MELISSA G. DALTON, NOMINEE TO BE
2 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND
3 HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS

4 Ms. Dalton: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and
5 members of the Committee, it is an honor to be considered as
6 President Biden's nominee for Assistant Secretary of Defense
7 for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs.

8 I am grateful to President Biden, Secretary Austin,
9 Deputy Secretary Hicks, and Under Secretary Kahl for their
10 trust and confidence in me.

11 I wish to thank my family, friends, and mentors for
12 their encouragement, particularly, my husband and true
13 north, Jason, who is here today; my two amazing children,
14 Jacob and Isabelle; and my parents, Ann and Ravi.

15 My father chose to make this country his own as an
16 immigrant from India. He and my mother imbued within me a
17 deep respect for the foundational values of our great
18 nation. I come from a family committed to public service
19 and have been drawn to it since I was 22 years old. I am
20 honored by the prospect of serving in this new capacity.

21 I began my career at the Defense Department as a civil
22 servant during the Bush administration and served for a
23 decade in several policy and intelligence roles. I then
24 spent 6 years at the bipartisan think tank, the Center for
25 Strategic and International Studies. I was honored to

1 return to OSD Policy last January as Principal Deputy
2 Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and
3 Capabilities as a member of the Biden-Harris administration.

4 If confirmed, I would bring my experience as a defense
5 leader, thinker, and practitioner to the position.

6 As Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense
7 and Hemispheric Affairs, I would look forward to advancing
8 enduring Department priorities and new focus areas, such as
9 Arctic security and climate policy, if confirmed. My office
10 would prioritize issues that impact our homeland defense as
11 the Department's number one priority.

12 If confirmed, my priority would be defeating the COVID-
13 19 pandemic, which remains the most immediate threat to U.S.
14 national security and to the health, safety, and readiness
15 of our servicemembers; in addition, if confirmed, I would
16 ensure DOD maintains resilience to execute our most critical
17 national security functions, and to provide continuity to
18 other parts of Government, in the face of all hazard
19 threats. The resilience of our critical infrastructure and
20 capabilities at home strengthens deterrence of potential
21 adversary aggression and enables a robust foreign policy
22 abroad.

23 If confirmed, I would ensure DOD's unparalleled and
24 flexible capacity is leveraged effectively and appropriately
25 in support of Federal, State, and local leadership, law

1 enforcement, public health, and emergency management.

2 Under the updated OSD-Policy organization, Homeland
3 Defense and Hemispheric Affairs will also focus on Arctic
4 security and global resilience. The Arctic is a complex
5 theater of growing strategic importance. I appreciate this
6 committee's leadership in prioritizing this region.

7 In addition, as Secretary Austin has stated, to keep
8 the nation secure, we must tackle the existential threat of
9 climate change. Climate change already touches most of what
10 the Department does, and this threat will continue to have
11 implications for U.S. national security.

12 Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs is also the
13 office from which DOD supports civil authorities responding
14 to extreme weather events, including wildfires and
15 hurricanes.

16 If confirmed, I would provide oversight of these
17 distinct, but also interrelated issues, as part of a whole-
18 of-government approach.

19 If confirmed, my office would unite policymaking on
20 both sides of the Southwest Border, bringing our defense
21 relationships with Central and South American neighbors
22 under the same policy oversight umbrella as our support to
23 the Department of Homeland Security and local partners on
24 the border. This organization will help us make better and
25 more holistic policy across these issues to address the

1 drivers of migration and effects in the homeland as part of
2 a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

3 More broadly, if confirmed, I would seek to forge even
4 deeper bonds with our Western Hemisphere neighbors, based on
5 principles of mutual respect and equality and a commitment
6 to economic prosperity, security, human rights, and dignity.

7 On the many issues in this portfolio, DOD plays a
8 critical supporting role to other departments and agencies.

9 If confirmed, I am committed to making sure that DOD
10 supports civil authorities to the best of our ability,
11 without compromising DOD's core missions and warfighting
12 readiness. I would also focus on building relationships and
13 trust across Government and reinforcing the strong tradition
14 of healthy civil-military relations in the Department and in
15 our democracy, to do this job as effectively as possible, if
16 confirmed.

17 I have deep appreciation for this Committee and its
18 role in the formation and oversight of our national security
19 policy.

20 If confirmed, I commit to consulting with you regularly
21 to advance our nation's priorities in an active, bipartisan,
22 and cooperative spirit together.

23 Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to
24 your questions.

25 [The statement of Ms. Dalton follows:]

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

2 Dr. Plumb, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF DR. JOHN F. PLUMB, NOMINEE TO BE
2 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPACE POLICY

3 Mr. Plumb: Thank you, Senator.

4 Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, members of the
5 committee, thank you. I am both, proud and humbled, to be
6 testifying before you today. I have always admired and
7 respected the thoughtful, bipartisan work of this committee.

8 I would like to thank President Biden, Secretary
9 Austin, and Deputy Secretary Hicks for their trust in me and
10 in my ability to continue to serve the nation, if confirmed
11 as the first Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space
12 Policy.

13 I would like to thank, also, my parents, who are here
14 today, and my brother and sisters, and my wife and kids for
15 their love and support, that allows me to be here before you
16 today, and being here is, indeed, an honor.

17 I grew up in rural, Western New York, in a family for
18 whom service to country is a proud tradition. Both my
19 grandfathers were in the Army Air Corps during World War 2.

20 My father was in the Army for the first 4 years of my
21 life, at Fort Richardson in Alaska. I have a brother and a
22 sister who serve in the Air Force, and as for me, I joined
23 the Navy and became a submarine officer.

24 Since leaving active duty, I have remained active in
25 the Navy Reserves for two decades. As a civilian, I have

1 served in these very halls as the military advisor to
2 Senator Ken Salazar. I have served in the Pentagon, and I
3 have served on the National Security Council staff.

4 If confirmed, I believe my lifetime of service has
5 prepared me to better advance and defend U.S. national
6 security interests, and to work with this committee while
7 doing so.

8 The ASD for Space Policy position appropriately
9 elevates the space portfolio within the Policy organization.

10 If confirmed, I look forward to working with this
11 committee to ensure space receives the attention, the
12 prioritization, and the resources this critical domain
13 demands. Space, nuclear weapons, missile defenses, cyber,
14 and the ability to detect and stop the proliferation of
15 weapons of mass destruction are all key to U.S. national
16 security, and the integration of these capabilities is
17 essential for the era of strategic competition the U.S. must
18 now rise to meet.

19 As members of this committee are well aware, the
20 security environment facing the United States at this moment
21 in history is a challenging one. Secretary Austin has
22 articulated that China is the pacing challenge for the
23 Department, and China's behavior with its own strategic
24 capabilities is a matter of grave concern. From its kinetic
25 anti-satellite weapon test in 2007 that created a persistent

1 debris cloud, to the uncontrolled reentry of a rocket stage
2 last May, China has yet to demonstrate that it is a
3 responsible spacefaring nation.

4 In the cyber domain, the growing pace and scale of
5 cyberattacks from China far exceeds the bounds of
6 traditional statecraft. The Commander of U.S. Strategic
7 Command has expressed concern that China's nuclear forces
8 are in the midst of a strategic breakout. Reports of a
9 hypersonic glide vehicle test in August, via a fractional
10 orbit bombardment system, if true, are deeply troubling, and
11 maybe most troublesome of all is China's near, total lack of
12 transparency regarding its strategic capabilities, and its
13 demonstrated unwillingness to discuss them.

14 Russia also continues to present a challenge on
15 multiple fronts. Russian activities in space, including its
16 destructive ASAT test just this November, are an ongoing
17 concern. And Russia's reliance on, and integration of,
18 nuclear weapons throughout its forces, from the tactical to
19 strategic, is troubling. Russian cyber activity includes
20 State tolerance of cyber criminals and State-sponsored
21 weaponization of social media.

22 And amid all these problems, North Korea continues to
23 expand its nuclear arsenal and delivery systems, while
24 Iran's uranium enrichment presents both, a nuclear
25 proliferation and a security challenge.

1 I understand the Department is diligently working to
2 strengthen our deterrence posture: modernizing our nuclear
3 deterrent, modernizing our infrastructure, improving our
4 cyber defenses and capabilities, and working to protect and
5 defend our interests, not just on Earth, but in space.

6 If confirmed, I will work to continue these efforts,
7 while seeking to incorporate our allies as fully as
8 possible.

9 I firmly believe our allies provide a mutual, strategic
10 advantage that neither China, nor Russia could ever hope to
11 match.

12 I believe the U.S. is at its strongest and best when
13 national security is a bipartisan effort, and that is, the
14 old adage goes: Politics really should stop at the water's
15 edge.

16 If confirmed, that is how I intend to approach the
17 position and its attendant responsibilities, and if
18 confirmed, I commit to working closely with this committee
19 to ensure U.S. national security interests are advanced and
20 defended.

21 Thank you once more for inviting me to testify. I look
22 forward to your questions.

23 [The statement of Mr. Plumb follows:]
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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

2 I have a series of standard questions, which survey
3 nominees must respond to. You may answer together.

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

6 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

7 Chairman Levin: Have you assumed any duties or
8 undertaken any actions which would appear to presume the
9 outcome of the confirmation process?

10 [All three witnesses answered in the negative.]

11 Chairman Reed: Exercising our legislative and
12 oversight responsibilities makes it important that this
13 Committee, its Subcommittees and other appropriate
14 Committees of Congress receive testimony, briefings,
15 reports, records, and other information from the Executive
16 Branch on a timely basis.

17 Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear and testify
18 before this Committee when requested?

19 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

20 Chairman Reed: Do you agree to provide records,
21 documents, and electronic communications in a timely manner
22 when requested by this Committee, its Subcommittees, or
23 other appropriate Committees of Congress, and to consult
24 with the requestor regarding a basis for any good faith
25 delay or denial in providing such records?

1 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

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

7 [All three witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

8 Chairman Reed: Will you cooperate and provide any
9 witnesses and briefers in response to a congressional
10 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 Ms. Dalton, it was just announced this morning that the
17 President and Secretary Austin have directed the deployment
18 of approximately 1,000 military medical personnel to several
19 states, including the state of Rhode Island, to provide
20 support with the Omicron variant proliferation.

21 One of your responsibilities, as you have indicated, is
22 to cooperate the support, such as this, to states, to
23 localities, to the Northern Command, et cetera.

24 Are you concerned about the strain that the Defense
25 Support of Civil Authorities is placing on our active forces

1 and also our National Guard?

2 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for the question.

3 This terrible pandemic, unfortunately, has taken
4 countless lives over the last 2 years and it is the most
5 immediate threat to the United States and Americans. And
6 so, I believe that the National Guard has played a really
7 important role in supporting local medical authorities and
8 in the development and production of vaccines.

9 If confirmed, I would look forward to building upon
10 these efforts to support civil authorities, as appropriate,
11 but as you indicated, Senator, an important element of
12 determining the appropriate use of the DSCA authority is
13 looking towards warfighting readiness. And the Secretary
14 has made clear that the number one pacing challenge for the
15 Department is China.

16 So, I would look forward to applying that framework, if
17 confirmed.

18 Chairman Reed: Well, thank you very much.

19 Dr. Wallander, you are being nominated for a very
20 critical position at the moment because of the situation on
21 the Ukrainian border. But you were, I believe, in the White
22 House on the National Security Council in 2014 when Russia
23 moved into the Crimea and Donbas.

24 Can you reflect about how those experiences will shape
25 or help your response in your analysis of these issues?

1 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for your focus on
2 this critical issue for American and allied national
3 security at this time.

4 Russia has proven itself to be willing and able to use
5 multiple instruments in pursuit of its national security
6 goals, including preventing Ukraine from continuing the path
7 of its Euro-Atlantic aspirations. I believe that the
8 lessons of 2014 were that the United States needs to be,
9 first and foremost, unified with our allies and partners,
10 not only in Europe, but globally, in order to provoke a
11 unified front to the Kremlin and make them understand that
12 they cannot divide us. And the second lesson would be to
13 rapidly develop ways to impose costs on the Russian
14 leadership and to support Ukraine in defense of its
15 territorial integrity and sovereignty.

16 Chairman Reed: Thank you.

17 Dr. Plumb, the office you are nominated to lead is
18 nearly identical to the Office of Global Strategic Affairs,
19 which was abolished in 2014, except that the Office of
20 Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy has now been abolished
21 with the nuclear policy mission being merged into an Office
22 of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, now renamed:
23 Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Policy.

24 If confirmed, and given our circumstances with Russia
25 and China, can you use this new arrangement to maintain our

1 critical strategic deterrence policy, and in that response,
2 why did we need such a reorganization?

3 Mr. Plumb: Thank you very much, Senator.

4 Just from the top, let me just say our nuclear
5 deterrence mission is absolutely critical. Secretary Austin
6 has called it the Department of Defense's number one
7 priority. I fully agree with that assessment.

8 And if confirmed, I will work to ensure that our
9 nuclear deterrent is safe, strong, effective, and credible.
10 As for the ability to maintain the offices, so inside this
11 office, the Secretary transferred policy, in my experience,
12 there are individual offices. The offices move as a unit.

13 So, the Nuclear Weapons Policy Office remains intact;
14 it is now merged with the Countering Weapons of Mass
15 Destruction Office. I think there is actually some
16 advantage to having those two offices in the same,
17 underneath the same DESI-ship because it requires them to
18 coordinate with each other and be aware of each other at a
19 level that, perhaps, they weren't in previous organizations.

20 The logic to the reorg, I guess, I would say I think
21 there is a good logic to it. I think the functional aspects
22 of Department of Defense need to be integrated as we
23 approach the adversaries. And, you know, our near-peer
24 adversaries are the same in all domains: China and Russia.

25 And so, for that, I think there is good logic in making

1 sure that those plans and approaches are integrated. The
2 adversary clearly sees us as a whole and not stovepiped.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

4 Senator Inhofe, please?

5 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I do have a question for each one of the witnesses, and
7 so I am going to ask for real fast responses and try to get
8 to all three of them, in fact, we will get to all three of
9 them.

10 Dr. Plumb, five of my colleagues and I recently sent a
11 letter to senior administration officials expressing concern
12 that President Biden might pursue changes to a longstanding
13 U.S. nuclear declaratory policy, despite increasingly give
14 moves by China and Russia and the clear objectives,
15 objections that we have had from our allies.

16 Deputy Secretary Hicks agreed with our conclusion at
17 her confirmation hearing, stating, I don't believe that a
18 no-first-use policy is in the best interests of the United
19 States.

20 Do you agree?

21 Mr. Plumb: Senator, thank you.

22 I agree with Deputy Secretary Hicks. I personally, do
23 not believe no-first-use is a good idea at this time, and I
24 would say taking the allies into consideration is absolutely
25 essential. My caveat here, of course, is declaratory policy

1 is the purview of the President.

2 Senator Inhofe: Well, and, yeah, because I think it
3 was pretty specific when she said, I don't believe no-first-
4 use policy is in the best interests of the United States.

5 Thank you very much.

6 Dr. Wallander, China is aggressively modernizing its
7 military and expanding its presence around the world and
8 particularly true in Africa. I can remember it wasn't too
9 long ago we didn't even have an AFRICOM and the continent
10 was divided into three different commands. That was not
11 workable; we didn't correct that, and so we have gotten a
12 lot more attention.

13 However, China is becoming a lot more aggressive in
14 Djibouti and other areas in there. General Townsend called
15 it the number one global power competition concern.

16 This has been a concern of mine for a long period of
17 time. Even at the time that we started its own dedicated
18 command, but nonetheless, the problem is still there. And
19 know that AFRICOM does not have the capabilities and
20 resources to actually address this, and I think that is a
21 problem.

22 Do you agree that it is a problem that we lack
23 resources in taking care of the needs that we have in our
24 allies in that continent?

25 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for your focus on

1 the issue of Chinese and Russian strategic competition,
2 active in Africa. I share your concern.

3 I, if confirmed, look forward to building on the
4 existing defense and security partnerships we have with our,
5 with countries in Africa, and I believe and agree with you
6 that we need to look at the resources, especially as China
7 has pivoted towards seeking military access and presence.

8 Senator Inhofe: All the way down through, and that is true.

9 I may come back if I have a minute, but, regardless, I
10 look forward to visiting with you with regularity on this
11 subject.

12 Ms. Dalton, the year 2021 witnessed the surge in
13 illegal Southwest Border crossings and the Border Patrol
14 recorded 174,000 encounters with illegal immigrants in
15 November. That is a record for that month.

16 President Biden and his spokesperson have both referred
17 to this as a crisis and I believe. I agree that it is a
18 crisis.

19 I would like to ask if you agree that it is a crisis
20 that we are facing right now on our Southwest Border?

21 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting this
22 challenge. And I agree with you that it is a serious
23 situation on the Southwest Border.

24 And if confirmed, I would look forward to working as
25 part of an interagency effort both, in the homeland context,

1 working closely with the Department of Homeland Security and
2 the Department of Justice to address the challenge, and then
3 also working very closely with our Central and South
4 American partners upstream to address some of the drivers of
5 migration, I think.

6 Senator Inhofe: That is fine.

7 So, you agree that it is a crisis?

8 Ms. Dalton: Yes, Senator.

9 Senator Inhofe: Thank you very much.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Senator Shaheen: Presiding.] Thank you, Senator
12 Inhofe.

13 Let me begin by congratulating each of our nominees and
14 thanking for your willingness to serve.

15 I would like to begin with you, Dr. Plumb. I chair the
16 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee
17 and I have supported the effort to transition the civil
18 space situation of awareness from the Space Force's 30th
19 Space Wing to the Department of Commerce. Unfortunately, I
20 have to say that the transition has been challenged by a
21 lack of clarity on the cost of that mission. There has not
22 been a willingness on the part of the agency to be
23 forthcoming on the cost and that puts us in a really
24 difficult position, with respect to how much money we need
25 to try and appropriate for the Department of Commerce.

1 So, if confirmed, will you commit to working with me to
2 improve the Department of Defense's transparency on this
3 issue so that we can better make that transition and ensure
4 that the funding is there that is going to be needed?

5 Mr. Plumb: Senator, thank you for that question.

6 I think space-traffic management is absolutely
7 essential and I do agree that it should be conducted by a
8 civil agency and not the Department of Defense. And I will
9 commit to you to help discover the right amount of resources
10 and training and opportunities needed to make that shift.

11 It is a difficult shift, but I think it is needed.

12 Senator Shaheen: Thank you very much.

13 Dr. Wallander, in your article "NATO's Enemies Within,"
14 you stated that NATO actually faces new vulnerabilities as
15 we see some of its recent members that are drifting towards
16 authoritarianism; Hungary the one that comes most to mind.

17 But that gives Russia more insights into what is
18 happening at NATO at a very critical time.

19 So, can you talk about what your role might be and what
20 the appropriate role of the Department of Defense ought to
21 be as we look at what is happening with some of those
22 countries in NATO.

23 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you. Thank you for
24 reading my article and thank you for highlighting the
25 importance of NATO as a military alliance, but a military

1 alliance of democratic countries. The strength of NATO lies
2 in the defense and military capabilities of its members, but
3 also the quality of its democratic governance of its
4 members.

5 And it is in that regard, if confirmed, I would focus
6 on, as the Defense Department does in its security and
7 defense partnerships with allies and partners, issues of
8 democratic governance, civilian control of the military.

9 And the strong bond of NATO allies, that is part of
10 what keeps it strong, and as you note, limits the influence
11 of Russian corrupt political and business relationships.

12 Senator Shaheen: And would you agree that right now,
13 given Russia's threat to Ukraine, that that is particularly
14 critical. It was disappointing to hear the readout from the
15 meeting yesterday that Russia was suggesting that because we
16 are not willing to give them a veto threat over who joins
17 NATO that it is going to, it sounded like it encourages them
18 to think about invading Ukraine.

19 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I very much share your concern
20 at Russian threats and statements. And I think we see the
21 efforts of Russia to prevent another aspirant country,
22 Ukraine, which seeks that democratic, Euro-Atlantic future
23 and Russia leverages, not just military capabilities, but
24 political and economic influence, to try to prevent that
25 from happening.

1 And, if confirmed, I will focus on, again, not just
2 defense relationships and capabilities, but the quality of
3 the democratic transitions and governance.

4 Senator Shaheen: Thank you very much.

5 This question is really both for you and Ms. Dalton.
6 As you know, the Syrian democratic forces have stated that
7 they are not able to take long-term responsibility for ISIS
8 detainees and for the camps that currently house so many of
9 the families of those ISIS detainees. And the one in Syria,
10 Al-Hol, comes most to mind with 60,000 women and children,
11 who are family members of ISIS fighters. And most
12 assessments of what is happening there suggests that that
13 camp is a hotbed for radicalization of the family members
14 who are there.

15 So, do you believe that addressing the plight of those
16 detainees in Syria should be included in strategic planning
17 processes as we are looking at how we continue to address
18 potential threats from terrorism?

19 Ms. Dalton, I will ask you to respond first.

20 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting this
21 concern. It is an issue that I focused on in my prior
22 affiliation with the Center for Strategic and International
23 Studies.

24 Certainly, in my present position, I do believe that we
25 need to be looking at both, the security and the

1 humanitarian facets of this challenge set, and I am sure
2 that that is the approach that my colleagues working
3 counterterrorism and humanitarian affairs in the Department
4 in the interagency are taking. Thank you.

5 Senator Shaheen: And do you agree with that, Dr.
6 Wallander?

7 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I fully agree with what Ms.
8 Dalton said. I agree it is a combined security challenge
9 and humanitarian problem that we have to take seriously and
10 work through a whole-of-government approach to resolve.

11 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Hopefully, we will see an
12 ISIS detainee coordinator appointed as this Committee and
13 the NDAA in 2020 requested.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Chairman Reed: [Presiding.] Thank you, Senator
16 Shaheen.

17 Senator Wicker, please?

18 Senator Wicker: Thank you very much.

19 To our first witness, Doctor, how should we pronounce
20 your last name?

21 Ms. Wallander: Senator, however you like, but
22 Wallander.

23 Senator Wicker: All right. Okay.

24 Well, Dr. Wallander, you were, you served in the
25 administration as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia,

1 Ukraine, and Eurasia Policy from 2009 to 2012; a very hot
2 issue. And then you moved over as Senior Director for
3 Russia and Central Asia from 2013 to 2017, which means you
4 were right there when Russia invaded the sovereign nation of
5 Ukraine.

6 Do you think our policy, in response to that invasion,
7 at the time, was correct?

8 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for highlighting
9 this extremely important question. And I share your concern
10 about this long track record of Russian aggression against
11 its neighbors, including Ukraine.

12 I believe that our response in 2014 was too slow and
13 too incremental.

14 And, if confirmed, I would apply the lessons that I
15 learned, and I believe others in the U.S. national security
16 community, learned to better address Russia's ongoing and
17 heightened aggression against its neighbors.

18 Senator Wicker: I would go farther than you. You said
19 it was too slow and too incremental.

20 We really didn't provide them with any lethal weapons
21 for quite a period of time; is that correct?

22 Ms. Wallander: That is correct, Senator.

23 Senator Wicker: And I noticed in answer to an earlier
24 question, you talk about a unified approach with Europe and
25 imposing costs. I do think I understand you to say that

1 providing lethal weapons to Ukraine would also be part of
2 your approach, your recommended approach to the President;
3 is that correct?

4 Ms. Wallander: Yes, Senator; that is correct.

5 Senator Wicker: And let me ask you, I appreciate the
6 question that the distinguished senator from Oklahoma asked
7 about no-first-use.

8 Do you think Russia would have invaded Ukraine in 2014
9 if they had retained their nuclear capability, rather than
10 giving it up after the breakdown of the Soviet, the breakup
11 of the Soviet Union?

12 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I think a full answer to your
13 question would depend on the trajectory of how Ukrainian
14 security and defense forces maintain control and
15 modernization of those forces. And I think we have to count
16 concerns about proliferation in our assessment of that
17 trajectory.

18 But I believe that, that was the correct course of
19 action to support non-proliferation at the time. And the
20 focus, if confirmed, of our security and defense cooperation
21 that I would support would be Ukraine's conventional defense
22 capabilities and the enablers it needs to be able to counter
23 the enormous Russian threat.

24 Senator Wicker: You know, Dr. Wallander, I think we
25 all thought that at the time.

1 President Zelensky, the overwhelmingly elected
2 President of the sovereign nation of Ukraine, is in support
3 of a cruise initiative that the Senate may vote on today,
4 which would impose sanctions on Russian entities associated
5 with the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline.

6 It is a fact that Vladimir Putin has amassed some
7 100,000, plus or minus, Russian troops on the border of the
8 sovereign Ukrainian nation; is that correct?

9 Ms. Wallander: Senator, that is correct. And I would
10 add --

11 Senator Wicker: So, they have taken a very aggressive
12 action.

13 And does it seem to you, advisable, to take the advice
14 of the person who is in the hottest of hot seats, and that
15 is the President of the sovereign nation, and say, let's go
16 ahead and respond to this very aggressive action?

17 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I am not fully aware of the
18 proposal that you are referring to, but I agree that the
19 United States needs multiple elements in its toolkit to
20 include sanctions, to include continued and probably
21 enhanced defensive, legal assistance to Ukraine, and to look
22 at NATO posture in Eastern Europe in order to defend and
23 deter against Russian aggression.

24 Senator Wicker: Well, we could do that.

25 Briefly, do you think adding two destroyers based in

1 Rota, to the four that we already have, would also be an
2 effective deterrent to Russia's aggressive ambitions?

3 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I am not briefed on
4 intelligence assessments, but I will say from my
5 understanding of publicly available information, that the
6 Russian presence and activities in the Black Sea, in
7 particular, are of significant concern.

8 And if confirmed, I would want to look at the U.S.
9 naval presence and posture, along the lines of what you
10 suggest.

11 Senator Wicker: If you could supplement that answer on
12 the record, I would appreciate it.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Wicker.

15 Senator Blumenthal, please?

16 Senator Blumenthal: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

17 I join in thanking all of you for your service, your
18 previous service, and your willingness to serve in the
19 future.

20 Ms. Wallander, I would like to continue the
21 conversation that you were having with Senator Wicker. Have
22 there been indications, so far as you are aware in, let's
23 say the last week, of increasing mobilization at various
24 points, by the Russian military in possible preparation for
25 an engagement?

1 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I will repeat. As a private
2 citizen, I don't have access to classified assessments;
3 however, I have been tracking the public information
4 available on the matters that you raise and it is my
5 understanding that there are some signs of continuing
6 Russian redeployment of forces from east in the country,
7 further west, and that is a matter of considerable concern.
8 Not just forces, but heavy, armored forces.

9 Senator Blumenthal: So, there are some indications
10 that this situation may be coming to a head?

11 Ms. Wallander: There is plenty of reason to assess,
12 Senator, that it is certainly not de-escalating and it may
13 be escalating.

14 Senator Blumenthal: Do you think that the United
15 States has sent sufficient arms, particularly, Javelin anti-
16 armor weaponry, Stinger anti-aircraft weaponry? Do you
17 think that we can make clearer, not only our strong support
18 for Ukraine, but also provide the very specific weaponry
19 needed by Ukraine to defend itself?

20 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I thank you for focusing on
21 Ukraine's defense needs to counter the Russian aggression.

22 And I would like to thank this Committee and the
23 Senate, actually, in a bipartisan manner over many years, to
24 support Ukraine's defensive capabilities, because Ukraine is
25 in a much stronger position to be able to resist and fight

1 against a Russian invasion, should it happen.

2 To answer your question specifically, I think those are
3 the kinds of capabilities in it heightened threat
4 environment that, if confirmed, I would want to look at in
5 order to enable Ukraine to deal with this escalation of
6 Russian capability that we have discussed.

7 Senator Blumenthal: I assume that you want to do more
8 than look at it, because time is not on our side here. I
9 would hope that you would urge, as imminently as possible,
10 in fact, even before your confirmation, perhaps, that the
11 United States take more aggressive and strong action to
12 bolster Ukrainian systems with radar systems, with the
13 Javelin anti-armor missiles, with Stinger and other anti-
14 aircraft missiles, and other capability that will show
15 Vladimir Putin that we mean business, because in my view,
16 that is the only sign that he will respect, other than
17 strong economic sanctions.

18 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I agree with you; those are
19 core requirements that Ukraine needs in the face of the
20 force that Russia has amassed.

21 Senator Blumenthal: Let me ask you on a different
22 topic, Ms. Wallander. The United States, in its withdrawal
23 from Afghanistan promised, in fact, the President, himself,
24 promised that we would not leave behind our at-risk, Afghan
25 allies, who have stood by us over the 20 years of war and

1 now have targets on their back. Many of them are in hiding.

2 They are in desperate and dire straits, particularly,
3 during the approaching winter.

4 Has the United States done enough to enable those at-
5 risk, Afghan allies to evacuate? Shouldn't we be doing
6 more?

7 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I share your concern deeply
8 with what we have seen, and the fact that the United States
9 was not able, along with our partners who stepped up and
10 really supported the effort to evacuate and provide safe
11 haven for those individuals.

12 If confirmed, I commit to you that I will participate
13 with my interagency colleagues and with colleagues at the
14 Defense Department to ensure that we are doing everything
15 possible to assist those individuals and to find them safe
16 haven and exit from Afghanistan, if they desire.

17 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you for that answer.

18 I will look forward to submitting some additional
19 questions for the record on this topic.

20 My time has expired. But I welcome your commitment to
21 do everything possible. Right now, our country is doing far
22 less than everything possible and I hope that we will step
23 up our efforts.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Chairman Reed: Thanks, Senator Blumenthal.

1 Senator Fischer, please?

2 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Before turning to my questions, I would like to speak
4 to some of my colleague's concerns about changes to our
5 declaratory policy that this administration is reportedly
6 considering.

7 I think it is important to remember that the Obama
8 administration rejected these changes in a far more benign
9 security environment than what we are currently seeing
10 today. With China's nuclear breakout and Russia amassing
11 forces on Ukraine's border, adopting a no-first-use, or
12 sole-purpose policy, would be irresponsible and it would
13 strain relations with our allies at the worst possible
14 moment. As Senator Blumenthal just said, we must show that
15 we mean business; that is what President Putin respects, and
16 that applies in this area, as well.

17 Dr. Plumb, in your response to the Committee's advanced
18 policy questions about establishing norms of behavior in
19 space, you acknowledge that Russian and Chinese behavior
20 clearly demonstrates that the prospect of establishing an
21 effective agreement is not realistic at this time.

22 Do you support a dual-track approach that involves
23 deploying the capabilities necessary to send credible,
24 deterrent messages to our adversaries, while continuing to
25 work with allies and partners to lay the foundation for

1 future discussion about responsible behavior in space?

2 Mr. Plumb: Thank you, Senator, for that question.

3 I think, just as the first ASD for Space Policy
4 nominee, it is a really essential piece of the work I hope
5 to be able to do, if confirmed.

6 There are two totally different facets there and I
7 would just say I agree with you on both. One is, I do think
8 there is a need for rules and for norms in space behavior.
9 And I hold some deep kernel of hope that we could come to an
10 agreement with Russia and China on that in some not-too-
11 distant future.

12 At the same time, nothing there would, in my mind,
13 prevent us, or preclude us, from pursuing both, offensive
14 and defensive capabilities to ensure that we can defend our
15 own assets and prevail in a conflict.

16 Senator Fischer: Thank you. Also, can you talk about
17 how you view the relationship between nuclear modernization
18 and arms control? Sometimes you see these as competing
19 priorities and I view them, instead, as complementary,
20 because without modernization, our forces will become
21 obsolete and our adversaries will have no incentive to
22 negotiate for any kind of reductions.

23 So, what is your view on that?

24 Mr. Plumb: Thanks, again, Senator.

25 As we discussed on our phone call, I am fully onboard

1 with modernizing the nuclear triad. I think it is
2 absolutely essential, that our nuclear deterrent, which is
3 the bedrock of our deterrence, is safe, effective, and I
4 want to say credible, and I think modernization is part of
5 that credibility.

6 As far as the relationship with arms control, arms
7 control is important. It is not, you don't do arms control
8 to its own end; arms control is to advance the national
9 security of both, or as many parties are involved in the
10 talks, and I agree with your assessment that if you have
11 nothing to trade, there is no incentive to be at the table.

12 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

13 Dr. Wallander, over the weekend, several reports
14 suggested the administration was considering cutting U.S.
15 presence in Europe as a bargaining chip in the upcoming
16 negotiations with Russia, and in response, the White House
17 issued a statement, explicitly rejecting this, stating,
18 quote, the administration is not weighing cuts to troops in
19 Europe, end quote.

20 I assume you agree with this and would recommend
21 against cutting U.S. presence in Europe; is that accurate?

22 Ms. Wallander: Yes, Senator; I do agree and would so
23 recommend, if confirmed.

24 Senator Fischer: Okay. Thank you.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer.

2 Senator Hirono, please?

3 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I welcome the nominees. I ask the following two
5 initial questions of all nominees before any of the
6 committees on which I sit. So, I would like to ask you
7 these questions en masse.

8 Since you became a legal adult, have you ever made
9 unwanted requests for sexual behaviors or committed any
10 verbal or physical harassment or assault of a sexual nature?

11 [All three witnesses answered in the negative.]

12 Senator Hirono: No.

13 Have you ever faced discipline or entered into a
14 settlement related to this kind of conduct?

15 [All three witnesses answered in the negative.]

16 Senator Hirono: I have a question for Dr. Wallander.
17 Last year, the U.S., Australia, and the U.K. entered into an
18 historic security alliance, the AUUKUS, which includes plans
19 to provide Australia with technology and support to build
20 nuclear-powered submarines, within the next few decades.

21 Additionally, this alliance will facilitate the sharing
22 of many more technologies, including artificial
23 intelligence, underwater systems, long-range strikes, cyber,
24 and many others. These types of agreements lead to enhance
25 interoperability and deepen cooperation among allies within

1 the region.

2 From your perspective, how important are security
3 alliances like AUUKUS to U.S. national defense and how will
4 this alliance benefit U.S. security interests in the
5 INDOPACOM AOR?

6 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I admire and fully support the
7 development of AUUKUS as a multilateral alliance for coping
8 with the challenge of China in the Indo-Pacific,
9 specifically. I would note that because the U.K. is one of
10 the members of that alliance, it is a great example of how
11 Europe can join with the United States and a regional
12 country, Australia, to cope with Indo-Pacific challenges,
13 including China. And I hope it is the first, only the first
14 instance of Europe taking seriously and contributing to
15 coping with the China challenge.

16 Senator Hirono: I agree with you that the cooperation
17 or the inclusion of U.K. in this kind of alliance that is
18 much more focused, I suppose, on China as a near-peer
19 competitor to us is very significant, because we are all in
20 this together. And it is not just what is going on in
21 Europe and what Russia is doing with regard to Ukraine and
22 whatever intentions Russia has. These two countries are
23 definitely our near-peer competitors.

24 Now, you will oversee security-cooperation programs and
25 defense strategies impacting many regions across the globe.

1 Can you tell me how you would approach these tasks?

2 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for focusing on this
3 important question.

4 If confirmed, I would focus first on building on
5 already existing, strong alliances and allied partnerships,
6 allied relations and partnerships, which I want to
7 highlight, we enjoy not only in Europe, but in Eurasia with
8 countries, such as Georgia and in Africa and in the Middle
9 East. So, there is plenty of opportunity to build upon and
10 expand as we cope with multiple challenges, not just Russia
11 and China, but ongoing needs in the region, such as Iran,
12 and countering violent extremism in many regions.

13 Senator Hirono: And not to mention, North Korea.

14 So, I do have a question for Ms. Dalton. In the last
15 week, North Korea has tested two ballistic missiles off
16 their east coast. If confirmed, a key part of your
17 responsibilities will include developing policy and planning
18 for Homeland Defense.

19 In 2019, Missile Defense Review identified the Homeland
20 Defense Radar Hawaii as a requirement for detecting and
21 discriminating against inbound missile threats from an
22 increasingly capable North Korea. In successive budget
23 requests, funding was zeroed out for HDRH-H Hawaii without
24 any capability to replace it.

25 If confirmed, how will you support policy to ensure

1 Hawaii is protected from missile threats from North Korea
2 and elsewhere going forward?

3 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting this
4 concern. Insofar as Missile Defense of the homeland, it is
5 a central area of focus for the ongoing Missile Defense
6 Review that Secretary Austin and senior defense officials
7 are currently conducting.

8 If confirmed, I would look forward to implementing the
9 findings of the MDR to ensure that the entirety of the U.S.
10 homeland and its territories are protected from threats,
11 such as from North Korea.

12 Senator Hirono: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

13 It is a continuing concern that the administration
14 zeroes out Homeland Defense Hawaii without any alternative.

15 I am totally open to any other ways that Hawaii can be
16 protected, and until then, you will know that I will
17 continue to push for HDR-H.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hirono.

20 Senator Cotton, please?

21 Senator Cotton: Ms. Wallander, you testified that you
22 think President Obama's administration made mistakes in 2014
23 with the invasion of Crimea and its annexation. You also
24 say in both, your opening statement and in question 97 of
25 the advanced questions for the record, that you support the

1 continued provision of defensive weapons systems to Ukraine.

2 But that, do you mean to rule out the possibility of
3 providing Ukraine with offensive weapons systems?

4 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you.

5 That is a very good question because defense assistance
6 needs to be properly focused on the requirements of the
7 partner or ally. I am not read into classified assessments
8 about the balance of offensive and defensive capabilities
9 that would be appropriate for Ukrainian defense needs.

10 But I will say that I would not rule them out. I would
11 want to, if confirmed, be fully briefed on Russia's
12 capabilities and the threat it poses and Ukraine's
13 requirements and take a comprehensive look at what is
14 necessary for Ukraine to be able to defend its territory and
15 its sovereignty.

16 Senator Cotton: Okay. So, you don't want to rule out
17 the potential forever providing Ukraine offensive weapons.
18 You just don't want to make a definitive statement on it,
19 until confirmed and read into the intelligence and the
20 situation on the ground?

21 Ms. Wallander: I think it would be, Senator,
22 irresponsible, to speculate without having full access to
23 the classified information and assessments.

24 Senator Cotton: I understand and appreciate that.

25 Would you consider Air Defense Artillery systems the

1 kind of systems that could protect Ukraine against all of
2 those Russian helicopters that are on its border, to be
3 offensive or a defensive weapon?

4 Ms. Wallander: I believe Air Defense systems to be
5 fundamentally defensive in nature, Senator.

6 Senator Cotton: Okay. If Russia decides to go for the
7 jugular and you have got Russian tanks and armed personnel
8 carriers rolling across Ukraine's borders, it would be nice
9 for Ukraine to have artillery systems to strike those forces
10 while they are still on Russian soil, wouldn't it?

11 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I agree with you.

12 Senator Cotton: Okay. Artillery, that kind of
13 artillery, you would characterize as an offensive weapon,
14 correct?

15 Ms. Wallander: I, Senator, I would --

16 Senator Cotton: I would.

17 Ms. Wallander: No, I am not disagreeing with you.

18 I think that what becomes important is how such
19 capabilities are deployed. They can be deployed in a more
20 defensive posture and a more offensive posture, which is
21 always one of the challenges.

22 I need not offer this to you, given your public service
23 and experience, so it could go either way, depending on the
24 posture and the operational utilization.

25 Senator Cotton: So, in 2014, we did not provide any

1 kind of lethal aid to Ukraine. It was reported at the time,
2 and since then, that President Obama thought it would be too
3 provocative, that he even said that we are not going to risk
4 a nuclear war, or World War III, over Ukraine.

5 In retrospect, do you think one of the specific
6 mistakes made in 2014 was not providing systems like Javelin
7 anti-tank weapons to Ukraine?

8 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I believe that one of the
9 lessons I have learned is that it would have been
10 appropriate and necessary to provide Ukraine with what it
11 needed to defend its territory, including the weapons you
12 suggest.

13 Senator Cotton: Because the last administration
14 provided Ukraine with Javelins and we didn't have World War
15 III, or nuclear war, yet.

16 Ms. Wallander: Senator, you are correct.

17 Senator Cotton: Okay. Mr. Plumb, I have a question
18 for you about potential negotiations with Russia.

19 There have been some reports about the prospect of
20 trading away the Aegis Ashore system in Romania; either
21 removing it or reducing its presence as a bargaining chip
22 with Russia. Some arguments that those systems could
23 destabilize more than stabilize.

24 Would you support removing or reducing the Aegis Ashore
25 system in Romania?

1 Mr. Plumb: Thanks for that question, Senator.

2 I am unaware of that particular line of concern. I was
3 actually instrumental in the Obama administration in
4 establishing Aegis Ashore in Romania, and I guess I would
5 say I would be very hesitant to try to use it as a
6 bargaining chip, without understanding the full security
7 context.

8 Senator Cotton: I understand. Not exactly in the
9 Space Policy domain, but it is complementary to a lot of
10 those efforts. Thank you.

11 Ms. Dalton, you will have responsibility, in part, for
12 our Southwest Border. Do you think it is a greater danger
13 to the American people's prosperity and security that there
14 are a hundred thousand Russians on Ukraine's border or two
15 million illegal migrants having crossed our Southwestern
16 Border in the last year?

17 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting both
18 of these challenges and the scope of the security
19 environment that we find ourselves in at present.

20 If confirmed, I would look forward to alleging the
21 challenges specifically on the Southwest Border, working
22 very closely with the Department of Homeland Security and
23 other interagency counterparts and local authorities. And
24 as in discussing with Senator Inhofe earlier, I do believe
25 it is a serious challenge.

1 Senator Cotton: Okay. Thank you.

2 Well, I hope you get some bright ideas for how to solve
3 that problem, since it seems like most other parts of the
4 administration so far have failed in that challenge.

5 Thank you all.

6 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cotton.

7 Now, via Webex, let me recognize Senator Gillibrand.

8 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Ms. Dalton, the recent Log4J, SolarWinds, and Treasury
10 Department hacks show how challenging cyber intrusions can
11 be on our national security and we will continue to see
12 these threats continue and elevate into 2022.

13 The office you are nominated for has, in the past,
14 overseen the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program, DCIP.

15 Do you think DCIP is up to date in its ability to
16 provide solutions in the event of cyber or technological
17 harm done to our critical infrastructure; further, do you
18 see ways where DCIP can improve its work with the private
19 sector and civilian institutions?

20 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting this
21 challenge, and this would be among the top priorities that I
22 would plan to tackle, if confirmed, in this portfolio,
23 because I do believe that we need to look at the appropriate
24 frameworks, policies, approaches, and tool sets to be able
25 to address state-based threats to our critical

1 infrastructure that, unfortunately, have been manifesting
2 over the last number of years.

3 So, if confirmed, I would certainly look forward to
4 working with the Department of Homeland Security, CYBERCOM,
5 with, if confirmed, Dr. Plumb's office, overseeing the DESI
6 cyber policy to ensure that we have the right approaches, to
7 understand the threat, and to be able to provide the
8 appropriate level of protection and resilience necessary to
9 address that challenge. Thank you.

10 Senator Gillibrand: As a follow-up, can you speak to
11 how you view the staffing and personnel challenges that the
12 Government faces when it comes to cybersecurity and tech
13 expertise. I repeatedly heard about cybersecurity and tech
14 staffing deficiencies across Government agencies, including
15 at the DOD.

16 What plans do you have for improving the recruitment,
17 training, and retention of high-quality cyber and tech
18 expertise at the Department and will you work with my office
19 on issues regarding cyber and tech personnel?

20 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting this.

21 I know there have been a number of external studies
22 looking at this challenge, as well, the last number of
23 years. And I do agree that we need to remain focused on
24 bringing in talent from academia, from the tech sector, more
25 broadly, from the private sector, to really build within our

1 ranks. I think there is also considerable capacity within
2 the National Guard, given their career day jobs, as well,
3 that we could be better harnessing. And so, absolutely, if
4 confirmed, I would look forward to working with you and your
5 team to advance those goals.

6 Senator Gillibrand: Mr. Plumb, as ASD for Space
7 Policy, part of your duties will include coordinating our
8 Space Policy and other agencies. What is your strategy for
9 coordinating with our other agencies, like the State
10 Department's Office of Space Affairs, to ensure that we are
11 maintaining our leadership and promoting our values in
12 space?

13 Mr. Plumb: Thank you for that question, Senator.

14 I absolutely think that promoting values in space,
15 including norms and rules of behavior, and helping lead the
16 international community towards that is important.

17 The State Department, in my view, they should be the
18 lead on these issues at the U.N., DOD, in support, and I
19 have worked closely with my State counterparts and across
20 the interagency to coordinate that type of messaging
21 efforts.

22 Senator Gillibrand: I am concerned that our lack of
23 international agreements barring conventional weapons in
24 space has led to a space arms race that threaten our civil
25 and commercial space systems in space.

1 Will you play a role in developing international norms
2 about the use of weapons in space and add here to them while
3 developing this policy?

4 Mr. Plumb: Senator, thank you.

5 I do agree that the need for norms and rules of
6 behavior in space is absolutely essential. I think one of
7 the issues that make space unique is that destructive tests,
8 like the Russians have recently conducted, challenges access
9 to all spacefaring nations and we need to find ways to
10 prevent that type of problem.

11 Senator Gillibrand: And how will your organization
12 work across the Department to effectively manage the threat
13 of anti-satellite capabilities demonstrated by our
14 adversaries, as you mentioned?

15 Mr. Plumb: Senator, I think that anti-satellite
16 capabilities, obviously, are on the tip of our minds right
17 now, based on the Russian tests recently. It is absolutely
18 essential to find a way through that.

19 I think one of the best ways the Department can pursue
20 to nullify that type of behavior is an architecture that is
21 resilient enough to withstand a blow to one or several
22 satellites. And so, I think being able to reconstitute
23 quickly and having a resilient architecture makes the
24 attractiveness of a target much less, and I think that is a
25 really important place and I don't think we are moving fast

1 enough, and we need to get going.

2 Senator Gillibrand: Dr. Wallander, my last few
3 moments. We have heard reports of Russia conducting
4 numerous cyberattacks against Ukrainian citizens to include
5 directly threatening Ukrainian soldiers and their families
6 through text messages.

7 What role can your office play in supporting the
8 Ukrainian Government in countering those malicious
9 activities?

10 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for highlighting
11 that Russian activities are not merely the apparent ones of
12 conventional military-force concentrations, but actually,
13 cover a spectrum of attacks and efforts to disable Ukrainian
14 resistance and resilience, itself.

15 If confirmed, I would look forward to working with Dr.
16 Plumb's team, if confirmed, and focusing on countering
17 Russian cyber operations, in which public reporting is, we
18 have had some success in the last few years, and we need to
19 build on the capabilities and the experience that DOD has
20 already implemented, in order to effectively help Ukraine
21 resist those kinds of attacks.

22 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Gillibrand.

25 Now, let me recognize, via Webex, Senator Blackburn.

1 Senator Blackburn: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Ms. Wallander, I want to come to you. You were the
3 Russian Director at NSC at the time when things were
4 happening in Eastern Europe, much like they are right now,
5 including Russia's invasion of Crimea and the separatists
6 that were there, the formatting of the separatists in the
7 Donbas.

8 So, what parallels, very quickly, do you see between
9 that time and currently what we are seeing with the Russian
10 buildup on the Ukrainian border?

11 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for that question.

12 I think it is an extremely important question.

13 And very briefly, in 2014, the Russians tried to
14 pretend it wasn't Russian forces invading Crimea or
15 infiltrating or operating in the Donbas. They sought a form
16 of implausible deniability in order to invade Ukraine.

17 The difference is, right now, that facade of covert and
18 covert operation has been pulled away and what we are seeing
19 is direct threats and a direct amassing of Russian forces.

20 Senator Blackburn: Now, let me ask you this, following
21 on with that, when you look at Russian leadership and
22 Russian society, what parallels are you seeing between then
23 and now?

24 Because, to us, it looks as if they are following much
25 of the same pattern.

1 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I agree with you, and it is
2 very concerning, because the Kremlin used its operations and
3 its falsehoods about Ukraine to ramp up Russian domestic
4 anger at Ukraine, at the United States, and NATO. And we
5 are exactly seeing the same kind of efforts and operations
6 to create that kind of false narrative that Russia is
7 defending itself against American and NATO influence in
8 Ukraine, when what Russia is doing is assaulting Ukrainian
9 sovereignty and territorial integrity.

10 Senator Blackburn: Well, I agree with you that what
11 Putin is trying to do is to test that resolve with NATO and
12 with the U.S.

13 So, do you support a continued, robust EUCOM exercise
14 schedule to really support our allies and deter this
15 aggression?

16 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I do. A robust exercise
17 calendar not only enhances interoperability and
18 capabilities, and that is important for deterrence and
19 defense, but it signals that --

20 Senator Blackburn: But what about increasing our
21 lethal assistance, our cyber, our intel support, where are
22 you there?

23 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I believe that the heightened
24 Russian threat and its willingness to deploy those forces
25 and to saber-rattle requires a re-evaluation of Ukraine's

1 defense and military needs. And if confirmed, I would focus
2 on that and take appropriate lessons.

3 Senator Blackburn: All right. And the EFPs, I had the
4 opportunity to visit some of our Tennessee troops that were
5 there on an EFP mission in Poland.

6 And so, where, as the NSC Director for Russia at the
7 time, did you support the EFPs? Do you believe they should
8 be supported today? Should we continue this participation?

9 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I do support that framework
10 for enhancing American presence and contributions to the
11 security and operations of our partners and allies,
12 especially our allies in the instance that you cite in
13 Poland.

14 Senator Blackburn: Well, if Russia invades Ukraine,
15 should we establish more of the EFP battle groups and push
16 further south?

17 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I agree with you that if
18 Russia further invades Ukraine, we need to reevaluate NATO
19 posture, including U.S. contributions to NATO posture, and I
20 would look at exactly the issues that you highlighted in
21 your question, because I think they are key.

22 And in principle, I would support an increased
23 American, at least rotational presence in the region.

24 Senator Blackburn: Okay. I am going to run out of
25 time, but I did want to ask you about the parallels that you

1 see between Russian and Chinese interests in Ukraine, if you
2 could speak to that.

3 Ms. Wallander: Well, I believe, Senator, that Russia
4 and China share a priority goal of undermining the U.S.-led
5 network of norms and rules that govern global security and
6 ensure the security of so many countries.

7 And so, while China may not have a direct stake in
8 Russia's aggression against Ukraine, I believe China watches
9 carefully when the United States and the international
10 community do not stand up to the principles of the U.N.
11 charter and do not defend the rights of countries to choose
12 their own futures, including their alliances.

13 Senator Blackburn: I will submit some questions to you
14 and Dr. Plumb, dealing with nuclear presence and Nuclear
15 Posture Review.

16 And thank you so much for your time today.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Blackburn.

19 Senator Kaine, please?

20 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member
21 Inhofe.

22 And congratulations to the nominees for your
23 nominations; you are all highly qualified for these
24 positions.

25 A couple of items, Ms. Dalton; first, congrats on being

1 a UVA grad. There have been reports in the last day or so
2 about more instances of Havana Syndrome regarding American
3 diplomats who are currently in Geneva and Paris. The
4 syndrome was first reported in Havana. It has been reported
5 as affecting diplomats and other U.S. governmental personnel
6 around the globe and in the DMV in Virginia.

7 The Secretary of State has spoken about this. Their
8 law enforcement agencies are involved, but I also know the
9 DOD is involved in trying, (A), to determine causes and
10 solutions and consequences. I think the, I would summarize
11 the feelings of the committee members on both, the Armed
12 Services Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee, I
13 sit on both, not being happy with the degree of information
14 we have received about this or progress we have made on it
15 in the couple of years that we have been talking about it.

16 And I would hope that should you be confirmed with the
17 responsibility over both, Homeland Defense and Hemispheric
18 Affairs that you would be diligent in working with the
19 interagency process to determine what is going on and
20 provide options, certainly, within your line of command, but
21 including to Congress about what appropriate responses
22 should be.

23 Do I have your commitment on that?

24 Ms. Dalton: Senator, yes, you do.

25 Senator Kaine: Thank you for that.

1 Dr. Plumb, I want to ask you a question about, just
2 growing pangs with the Space Force and how we can manage
3 those growing pangs effectively.

4 In 2006, this Committee did a significant overhaul of
5 much of the Department's acquisition policies and we
6 structured new entities. There had been an Under Secretary
7 of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, ATL,
8 and we, instead, created new Under Secretaries for Research
9 and Engineering and then Acquisition and Sustainment. And
10 that split of the responsibilities has led to some
11 challenges, so lessons learned, some growing pangs.

12 I think the Pentagon and others have tried to work
13 through those, but when you are making a structural change
14 of that kind, growing pangs are not unusual. The speed with
15 which the Department established Space Force could likely
16 lead to similar challenges.

17 Should you be confirmed, how will you try to ensure
18 that this important new component of our defense, especially
19 as we see peers engaging in activity that is threatening
20 like the Russian anti-satellite test, how can you work to
21 try to minimize growing pangs and maximize the quick
22 effectiveness of this new component of our military?

23 Mr. Plumb: So, thank you, Senator, for that question.

24 And I will just commend the Committee on its creation
25 of the Space Force. I think the time is appropriate for a

1 separate service for space. Really, in the past several
2 years, the importance and value of space has increased
3 substantially and the threat to our assets in space has also
4 increased exponentially.

5 I think this issue of growing pangs, you can never get
6 rid of them, Senator, but I think helping ensure from a
7 civilian oversight piece that the laser focuses are on both,
8 speed of acquisition and making sure that we can counter
9 threats as they emerge and get past this problem of -- this
10 is a non-trivial thing to say -- the speed of the Pentagon
11 and the speed of the Pentagon processes does not match the
12 speed of the threat right now, and we need to work to fix
13 that and that is a hard problem.

14 As far as warfighting, it is a new domain and there are
15 going to be some growing pangs there. It has some
16 similarities to cyber operations, as well. It is new and it
17 needs to mature, and my goal is to help usher that along.

18 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Dr. Plumb.

19 And then, Dr. Wallander, Senator Hirono asked you a
20 question about AUUKUS and I share her enthusiasm for closer
21 cooperation between the U.S., Australia, and the U.K. in the
22 Indo-Pacific. Great allies and I think there are great
23 things we can do together.

24 But I will say, I was very disappointed in the rollout
25 of AUUKUS and the bizarre exclusion and, really, almost

1 humiliation of the French, who are a great security partner
2 in the United States and are also a significant Indo-Pacific
3 nation with a lot of equities in the Indo-Pacific.

4 And you are not yet confirmed and not yet, sort of, in
5 the family on this, but I will say, I have made efforts to
6 get to the bottom of why AUUKUS was done in such a way that
7 alienated an ally and why couldn't it have been conceived in
8 such a way that would have included an ally and, thereby,
9 made it more effective. And I have yet to get a good answer
10 from the administration about the breakdown that led to, in
11 my view, taking a great achievement and sort of souring it
12 right out of the gate.

13 So, I hope, should you be confirmed, you will, you
14 know, be mindful of the challenges that are created and look
15 for opportunities to work together, not just with Australia
16 and the U.K., but to include France in efforts in the Indo-
17 Pacific, because I think they have a lot of equity there and
18 a lot of value to add.

19 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I share your concern and you
20 have my commitment that, if confirmed, I will focus on all
21 of our important allied relationships, especially that of
22 France, because I agree with you about the value of that
23 extraordinary alliance.

24 Senator Kaine: Thank you very much.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kaine.

2 Senator Hawley, please?

3 Senator Hawley: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

4 And thanks to all the nominees for being here.

5 Congratulations on your nominations.

6 Dr. Wallander, I enjoyed our conversation yesterday.

7 Thanks for your time.

8 And let me start with you and let me start with the
9 situation in Ukraine. You said when we spoke yesterday that
10 you could imagine advocating sending more United States
11 forces to Europe to reinforce NATO's eastern flank. I think
12 you said the same today in the hearing.

13 My question is, wouldn't this perpetuate a sense among
14 Europeans that they don't have to invest in their own
15 militaries, but can rely on us in a time of exigency, as
16 this may well soon be, in order to bail them out, for lack
17 of a better word, in their security commitments?

18 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for that question.

19 With all of our focus on what the United States would
20 do, sometimes we don't elevate enough what we expect and
21 need our allies to do. And as part of a package of looking
22 at American force posture and possible reinforcements to
23 Europe, it would absolutely have to come totally integrated
24 with European NATO member contributions in order to ensure
25 we have the proper and deterrence capabilities.

1 Senator Hawley: You can tell, I am sure, from what we
2 talked about yesterday and from my questions this morning
3 that I am skeptical of sending additional United States
4 troops to Europe for these reasons, but I appreciate your
5 answer.

6 Let me ask you about NATO a little bit more broadly.
7 Given the challenges that we are facing globally, and most
8 notably, China's efforts to dominate Asia, do you think that
9 this is the time when it is prudent or advisable for the
10 U.S. to allow Ukraine to join NATO?

11 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I share your larger concern
12 about the Chinese challenge and agree with you that we can't
13 lose focus on that. And any NSTA decisions we have to make
14 about European security has to be mindful to that.

15 I fully support NATO's open-door policy. NATO is
16 stronger if it is the alliance of strong, democratic
17 countries with capabilities and the democratic governance;
18 that is the hallmark of NATO.

19 And if confirmed, I would support NATO's future
20 membership, Ukraine's future membership in NATO if it meets
21 the conditions and I would look forward to working with
22 Ukrainian partners in order to make sure they meet those
23 standards.

24 Senator Hawley: Let me ask you about the NATO allies
25 and their spending commitments. We talked about this

1 yesterday on the phone.

2 A U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Julie Smith, sent me a
3 letter prior to her confirmation in which she agreed that
4 our NATO allies should spend more, I emphasize "more" than 2
5 percent of GDP on defense. The current Vice Chairman of the
6 Joint Chiefs, Admiral Grady, did the same. He agreed, for
7 the record, in response to my questions, that our NATO
8 allies need to spend more than 2 percent on defense.

9 When you and I spoke yesterday, we talked about this.
10 I asked you this question and you said that in your opinion,
11 that our allies should be spending more than 2 percent on
12 defense. I would just like to get you on the record on
13 that, if I could.

14 In your view, can you confirm for us that you think, in
15 your opinion, it is time for our NATO allies to move beyond
16 the Wales Pledge and commit to increase defense spending
17 above 2 percent.

18 Ms. Wallander: Yes, Senator, I do.

19 Senator Hawley: Thank you for that.

20 Let me ask you about the situation with burden-sharing,
21 again, back with in Europe. As I mentioned just a second
22 ago, I think one of the reasons our European allies,
23 especially Germany, have been slow to increase their
24 spending is that they think the United States will bail them
25 out in difficult situations.

1 Would you agree that our European allies are more
2 likely to increase their spending if the United States
3 reduces its overall force levels in the European theater?

4 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I believe that our European
5 allies do key their contributions to an assessment of
6 American contributions. I think it is an interesting idea
7 that a reduction in American contributions would lead to an
8 increase in European contributions. I would want to ask the
9 intelligence community for past, sort of, evidence about the
10 rise and fall of contributions to give you a better answer.

11 My instinct is that persuasion and high expectations
12 and clear requirements are the motivator for European
13 contributions in common defense in NATO.

14 Senator Hawley: Just as thinking about it as a matter
15 of incentives, Dr. Wallander, do you think that we should at
16 least consider putting on the table, reducing our overall
17 force posture in Europe so that our allies feel incentivized
18 to defend themselves?

19 And you and I talked about this on the phone, I mean,
20 where I am coming from on this is, that we can't, the United
21 States of America simply can't do it all at the same time.

22 We are facing a very acute challenge in the Indo-
23 Pacific theater from China. We can't maintain, in my own
24 view, we can't do what we need to do in that theater and
25 maintain our current posture in Europe. We are going to

1 have to make some hard choices somewhere, and they are hard
2 choices, unless we are going to spend \$2 trillion a year on
3 defense, which we are not going to do and we shouldn't do.

4 So, with that backdrop, I mean, what is your view on
5 putting on the table with our European allies and say,
6 listen, we may need to consider an overall force-posture
7 reduction in Europe in order to meet our pressing security
8 commitments elsewhere, I mean, what do you think about that?

9 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I believe that as they face
10 the heightened threat from Russia, this would not be the
11 moment to put a reduction in American commitment to NATO on
12 the table.

13 But what I would favor, if confirmed, is looking at how
14 the United States can provide some of its advantages in
15 enablers, in weapons system, in security cooperation with
16 allies to ensure that we are properly resourcing the
17 requirements in the Indo-Pacific, as you rightly point to,
18 and yet sustaining defense and deterrence against Russia.

19 Senator Hawley: Thank you very much.

20 I will have some questions for the record for the rest
21 of you. Thanks again.

22 Thank you, Dr. Wallander.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hawley.

25 Let me now recognize, via Webex, Senator King.

1 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Dr. Wallander, you heard earlier in this hearing, Dr.
3 Plumb testified that he thought that the adoption of a no-
4 first-use policy in the current Nuclear Posture Review would
5 not be in the national security interest of the United
6 States.

7 Do you agree with that conclusion?

8 Ms. Wallander: Yes, I do, Senator.

9 Senator King: Second question. How would the allies
10 react to the adoption of a no-first-use policy,
11 particularly, Japan, and some of the Asia-Pacific allies?

12 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for the important
13 question. That is a fundamental reason why I do not support
14 a no-first-use declaratory policy because I believe it would
15 create concerns about the credibility of American defense
16 commitments to our allies, in addition to possibly
17 undermining the credibility in the eyes of our adversaries.

18 Senator King: And it could provoke some of those
19 countries to develop their own nuclear weapons, which is
20 going in exactly the opposite direction that we want in
21 terms of nonproliferation; isn't that correct?

22 Ms. Wallander: Senator, yes, I agree; that is another
23 reason.

24 Senator King: Second question on Ukraine. It seems to
25 me that everybody is trying to guess what is in Vladimir

1 Putin's mind, but by making these very public high-level
2 demands about membership in NATO and all the other things,
3 he is setting up these negotiations to fail and leaving
4 himself very little option, other than, either a humiliating
5 retreat or invasion.

6 What do you make of this unusual negotiating strategy,
7 where you make demands that you know aren't going to be met,
8 and this is just a pretext for an invasion?

9 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I share your analytical
10 assessment of the possible courses of action and the reasons
11 for the demands that Russia has made publicly, and it
12 concerns me greatly for Ukraine's security and, indeed, for
13 European and Euro-Atlantic security.

14 Senator King: Let me turn to Ms. Dalton for a
15 question. Ms. Dalton, this question is under attack and two
16 people a day in my home state of Maine are dying. The
17 attack is transnational drug shipments coming into this
18 country that are literally killing Americans at a record
19 rate over the last couple of years. It is an absolute
20 tragedy.

21 Every year we have testimony [Audio malfunction.] We
22 know of shipments coming by sea to North America from Latin
23 America, but because of limitations on our capacity to
24 react, we can only interdict 25 percent of the shipments we
25 know about. And it strikes me that this is one these things

1 where it is falling in the cracks between the Coast Guard
2 and the Navy.

3 Would you commit to me to really take a serious look at
4 the allocation of resources so that we can do something
5 about this, what I consider an outrageous failure of the
6 United States Government, to interdict shipments of drugs
7 into this country that we know about?

8 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting this
9 challenge. And it is why I think it was really important
10 that President Biden's Interim National Security Strategic
11 Guidance highlighted the threat of transnational criminal
12 organizations both, to U.S. national security interests, as
13 well as to allies and partners in our greater hemispheric
14 region, which is why, if confirmed, I would look forward to
15 working closely with the Department of Homeland Security,
16 Department of Justice, and other interagency counterparts to
17 address this challenge.

18 I do believe that it is primarily a law enforcement
19 function to address this challenge, but I do believe that
20 there is an important role for the Department of Defense to
21 play in support of those operations.

22 Senator King: Well, if these were invaders headed for
23 our borders to kill people, we wouldn't view it as a law
24 enforcement function; we would view it as an invasion, as an
25 attack. And people are dying as a result of this.

1 So, I hope you rethink -- you mentioned law
2 enforcement. Somewhere, we have got to find the ships to
3 stop these shipments. And to say it is law enforcement and,
4 you know, the Coast Guard doesn't have enough ships, that is
5 not a satisfactory answer. As long as I keep having this
6 testimony that we are only able to interdict 25 percent of
7 the shipments that we know about, I am not going to be
8 satisfied, and I hope you will rethink your answer and there
9 will be an interagency discussion about an adequate response
10 to this.

11 Dr. Plumb, just in a few seconds left, I am very
12 worried that we are behind the curve on hypersonics. We are
13 way behind the curve on hypersonics.

14 Do you agree that this should be an urgent matter both,
15 in terms of the development of an offensive deterrent
16 capacity, but also a defensive capacity, because I don't
17 think any of our Missile Defense systems can cope with a
18 7,000-mile-an-hour maneuverable missile.

19 Mr. Plumb: Senator, thanks for that question.

20 I agree, we are challenged by hypersonics defensively
21 and from an offensive standpoint, at least from public
22 reporting, it certainly appears that we are behind and need
23 to focus on this challenge.

24 Senator King: Well, I hope this is a "hair on fire"
25 challenge about guarding our space.

1 Dr. Plumb, I really appreciate your answer.

2 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King.

4 Now, let me recognize, via Webex, Senator Manchin,
5 please.

6 Senator Manchin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman; I appreciate
7 it very much.

8 Dr. Wallander, do you foresee any positive or negative
9 impacts to our relations with the new German Government in
10 the event of sanctions imposed on companies involved with
11 the planning and construction of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline?

12 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for the question.

13 My understanding of the composition of the new German
14 Government is that there is a renewed skepticism of Russia
15 and its role in Europe and of, in particular, Russia's use
16 of energy as a coercive tool against Europe and Russia's
17 other neighbors.

18 And if confirmed, I intend to fully explore the
19 possibility, the opportunity for a closer alignment of U.S.
20 assessment of Russia's use of energy and, in particular, as
21 a tool of coercion for our national security policy.

22 Senator Manchin: Do you believe or have any knowledge
23 that the German, the new German Government would honor its
24 pledge to halt the Nord Stream 2 certification in event of a
25 Russian invasion of Ukraine?

1 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I think we should take the
2 German Government at its word and hold it to its
3 commitments.

4 And if confirmed, that would be, I believe, one of my
5 supporting roles in a whole-of-Government, diplomatic
6 approach to our allies in coping with this crisis that
7 Russia has created.

8 Senator Manchin: Thank you.

9 Dr. Plumb, since the institution of the Space Force, I
10 have been concerned that we are going to leave our Space
11 National Guard forces behind as we are standing up this new
12 force and West Virginia has a very active National Guard
13 that we are very proud of.

14 Are you supportive of a Space National Guard?

15 Mr. Plumb: Senator, thanks for that we.

16 I, myself, have been in the Reserves for 20 years and I
17 am both, proud of and fully aware of the capabilities that
18 Reserve and Guard functions can bring. I know that the
19 Guard issue is before the Congress. My own personal view is
20 there is value in Guard and Reserve support for the Space
21 Policy.

22 Senator Manchin: How do you believe, sir that we could
23 keep that, the continuing to expand capabilities in space
24 and also keep equity between the active and the Reserve
25 component resources, and we are not seeing much movement on

1 that, and that is what we are concerned about.

2 Mr. Plumb: Senator, I would need to, if confirmed, I
3 would like to look into this issue.

4 I do have friends that are in the Air National Guard
5 that do Space Force missions, so I do know that those units
6 exist. As far as the resource and balance, I would be happy
7 to work with the Committee and you to look into that for
8 you.

9 Senator Manchin: Dr. Wallander, back to you, again.

10 I have long had concerns, I oppose the JCPOA, known as
11 the Iran Deal. And I opposed that because I thought that
12 any country that we are submitting back in should earn the
13 rewards, other than, basically, and making them demonstrate
14 their goodwill before we give it to them on the front end.

15 So, my question would be, do you believe that,
16 generally, we should relax sanctions on Iran in the future
17 before they demonstrate if we are back in negotiations
18 again?

19 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I am not fully briefed on the
20 details of the negotiations, but to answer your question, I
21 believe that the importance of those kinds of negotiations
22 and agreements or if the parties meet the letter, strictly
23 speaking, of the agreement, so I would not be in favor of
24 relief on sanctions without full compliance of the terms of
25 the agreement.

1 Senator Manchin: Okay. And Dr. Plumb, I think you
2 might have talked about this earlier, but the Russians and
3 Chinese have a need in demonstrating their capability of
4 their anti-satellite weapons. And given our military
5 reliance upon satellites for navigation, communication, this
6 capability can severely weaken, I believe, very, very much
7 so, our military's ability to respond effectively in the
8 opening hours of a conflict.

9 So, how prepared do you assess that we are to protect
10 against these threats so that we won't be immobile?

11 Mr. Plumb: Thanks, Senator.

12 The anti-satellite, kinetic, debris-cloud-causing tests
13 both, to China and Russia, are deeply disturbing and a
14 concern to me. I don't have the advantage of the classified
15 briefings on our ability to fight through a threat today.

16 What I will commit to you is that, if confirmed, I will
17 work to make sure that our architecture is more resilient so
18 that this type of attack is less attractive to an adversary.

19 Senator Manchin: Do you have any opinions on,
20 basically, what the Department of Defense could do to defend
21 against China, if they demonstrate their anti-satellite
22 capabilities?

23 Mr. Plumb: Senator, there are a number of
24 possibilities; obviously, one possibility that I fully agree
25 with, Deputy Secretary of Defense Hicks said at the first

1 National Space Council meeting for the Biden administration,
2 that the Department of Defense is in favor of banning
3 kinetic, anti-satellite tests by all nations, so I think
4 that would help.

5 I also think that making sure that we have
6 constellations that are resilient so that we are not
7 entirely dependent on one particular asset, would also be
8 helpful. And I imagine there are any number of other
9 operations at classified levels that I would be happy to
10 discuss with you, if confirmed.

11 Senator Manchin: Thank you.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

13 And thanks to all of you, I appreciate your service to
14 our country.

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Manchin.

16 Now, let me recognize, via Webex, Senator Peters.

17 Senator Peters: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is
18 good to be here at the Committee, and congratulations to
19 each of the folks that are here testifying.

20 Dr. Wallander, you are assuming this position in the
21 midst of an incredibly tense situation in Eastern Europe and
22 I would kind of like to get your sense on how you believe
23 our European allies will respond to any kinetic actions by
24 Russia. You know, certainly, Europe is in the midst of a
25 cold winter and reliance on Russian Energy Resources make

1 some European nations vulnerable to Putin's aggression.

2 So, my question for you is, what role will access to
3 Russian energy play in determinations by key European
4 allies, such as Germany, France, and Italy, and others on
5 whether or not to directly or vigorously defend Ukrainian
6 sovereignty?

7 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for that question.

8 I think it is a very important one and it points to the
9 vulnerability created by depending on Russian energy
10 supplies, because Russia has proven itself to be very
11 willing to use cutoffs of supplies or cutbacks in supplies,
12 which it is currently doing, in order to send coercive
13 messages.

14 That said, I have great confidence that our European
15 allies are confronting the scope and seriousness of Russian
16 aspirations, aggressive aspirations against Ukraine and
17 Ukraine and European and, therefore, global security.

18 And, if confirmed, I will press hard with them to face
19 the reality that dependence on Russian energy is a
20 vulnerability that needs to be mitigated so that all NATO
21 members are able to stand up effectively for our common
22 defense and deterrence.

23 Senator Peters: Very good.

24 Ms. Dalton, over the last few years, I have had the
25 opportunity to learn more about how the Department of

1 Defense plans to performing counter, unmanned aircraft
2 system operations, including a visit that I had to the
3 Proving Ground in Yuma, Arizona, to witness some
4 demonstrations of new technology that is coming onboard.

5 This is an area of great concern to me, as Chairman of
6 Homeland Security Committee, and working with the Department
7 of Homeland Security and other assets, such as the Border
8 Patrol, the Coast Guard, and other parts of Homeland
9 Security that is facing this threat, and would need to work,
10 in my mind, in a cooperative way with the Department of
11 Defense to fully utilize such technologies and protect us
12 here at home.

13 My question to you is, how can the Department of
14 Defense best position itself to assist the federal partners,
15 such as the Department of Homeland Security, to combat this
16 very real UAS threat?

17 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for your leadership on
18 this important issue. I do believe that it is a growing
19 challenge, here in the homelands.

20 And if confirmed, I do believe that there is an
21 opportunity for some best practices and information-sharing,
22 because the Department is, frankly, facing some of these
23 similar challenges abroad from counter UAS threats from
24 both, state and non-state actors. So, I think it is an
25 important opportunity to share lessons and best practices

1 and tool sets; obviously, a different context here at home,
2 but I would look forward to working on that together.

3 Senator Peters: Thank you.

4 And Dr. Plumb, last year, a study commissioned by the
5 U.S. Space Force, the Defense Innovation Unit, and the Air
6 Force Research Laboratory found that the U.S. is, and I am
7 going to quote them, is, quote, woefully inadequate to
8 compete for global market share because China has cornered
9 and dominated the global space market, end of quote.

10 Now, that report goes on to say and, quote, again, the
11 United States must develop new market enhancing tools to
12 increase U.S. commercial space activities, grow viable U.S.
13 space companies, and finance their growth, end of quote.

14 The Department of Defense would obviously play a vital
15 role in developing these tools. And my question for you is,
16 if confirmed, what tools would you advise the Secretary of
17 Defense to create to promote a much more dynamic, domestic
18 space marketplace?

19 Mr. Plumb: Thank you, Senator, for that question.

20 I think that the growth of the commercial sector for
21 space in the United States is actually a driving economic
22 engine for the U.S. and the Department of Defense should be
23 part of ensuring that that continues. I do think the
24 Department has a problem when it comes to recognizing and
25 then adopting into their programs, innovative new technology

1 from small businesses, in particular. I am aware of a few
2 efforts underway inside the Space Force to fix that and I
3 look forward to the opportunity to try to enhance that and
4 bring it along, if confirmed.

5 Senator Peters: Well, we would hope then we would look
6 forward to working with you on that very important mission.

7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Peters.

9 Senator Tillis, please?

10 Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Congratulations to all of you on your nominations. And
12 I hope, time provided, I get to ask you all questions, but I
13 have to start where we left off yesterday.

14 Dr. Wallander, thank you so much for your time. I
15 thought it was a very productive discussion. I intend to
16 support all of your nominations, unless you mess up here,
17 but I don't think that is going to happen.

18 Dr. Wallander, I want to go back to Russia and the
19 discussion that we had yesterday. With their current
20 posture and their focus on Ukraine. I am particularly
21 interested with the negotiations, which, to me, seem that
22 they have drawn up an untenable position for us to move
23 towards. But there is some discussion right now that maybe
24 we should think about our activities, maybe our operations'
25 tempo, in terms of work we are doing with some of our NATO

1 partners and allies in that area.

2 Do you think that that is productive to say that we
3 would actually, potentially reduce the current levels of
4 activity or why should that be on the table as a discussion
5 for negotiation?

6 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I share your concern about the
7 messaging surrounding that reporting. I would highlight
8 that were Russia to cease its dangerous, destabilizing, and
9 problematic activities and exercises that, you know, right
10 now we are looking at the headlines, but this is a constant
11 problem of Russian activities in the Black Sea, the Baltic
12 region, and now the focus on Ukraine's borders. That would
13 be a desirable end state. If a negotiation were focused on
14 Russia coming back into compliance with its already existing
15 commitments under the conventional forces in Europe
16 agreement, that could be a positive for European security
17 and Ukraine.

18 But I share your concern that starting from now, kind
19 of seeds what Russia, the dangerous activities that Russia
20 has already been engaged with, and I wouldn't support
21 starting from that base.

22 Senator Tillis: We also talked a little bit about Nord
23 Stream. We are going to have a vote later on sanctions. We
24 have a couple of proposals here. One is that sanctions
25 would be imposed once, if Russia invades Ukraine. The other

1 one is to go ahead and put them in place now.

2 What are the merits of either of those two proposals or
3 concerns that you would have where them?

4 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I first want to make clear
5 that I fully support the availability of really serious
6 sanctions in a toolkit for dealing with Russia --

7 Senator Tillis: Do you think they work?

8 Ms. Wallander: -- in the course of abilities.

9 Senator Tillis: There are some people here who think
10 that they don't work.

11 So, I mean, go ahead and continue with your answer with
12 that --

13 Ms. Wallander: So, it is a complicated question: what
14 do they work to achieve?

15 And they don't, always. I think skepticism is well-
16 merited and behave to be modest in our understanding. And
17 that is why I would emphasize sanctions as part of a
18 toolkit. Sanctions, also, can be used to reduce Russian
19 capabilities to be able to coerce and deploy coercive and
20 aggressive threats against neighbors and allies.

21 So, I am not fully read into the various proposals in
22 which the sequencing of them, but as a matter of policy, I
23 support the judiciousness of sanctions both, for ongoing
24 erosion of Russian capabilities and leverage, and as a
25 deterrent, an element of an effective deterrent.

1 Senator Tillis: And I am not sure if you can answer
2 this, but just based on public reports from experts, do you
3 believe that if Ukraine decided to, or if Russia decided to
4 invade Ukraine, that their objectives would be swift and
5 decisive?

6 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I have a long career of
7 studying the Soviet and then the Russian military and it is
8 my assessment that the Ukrainians would fight admirably and
9 well and be quite effective in imposing enormous costs on
10 Russian military forces. But the signals we are hearing
11 from the Kremlin suggest exactly what you point to, which is
12 a potential for a decisive and swift military strike, and it
13 is very concerning.

14 Senator Tillis: Thank you.

15 Dr. Plumb, I am going to submit some questions for the
16 record, but in my capacity as Ranking Member on Personnel
17 Subcommittee, I look forward to working on things that we
18 can do to fill the gap.

19 You are going to have a, we have a resource problem in
20 terms of being able to compete with the private sector on
21 the best and brightest for cyberthreats. So, I look forward
22 to working with everyone in DOD that is focused on the
23 issue.

24 And, Ms. Dalton, I am just going to submit a couple of
25 questions for the record on, particularly, China and Latin

1 America. I just got off of a conference call with a
2 business here that is trying to focus on rare earth mineral
3 extractions and a number of other things. There is a
4 disturbing trend in South America and Latin America with
5 Chinese investment threatening, actually even making what
6 were already fragile supply chains more fragile, but I will
7 submit those for the record.

8 I look forward to supporting all of your nominations.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Tillis.

11 Let me recognize Senator Rosen, please.

12 Senator Rosen: There we go. Thank you.

13 Thank you, Chairman Reed. Thank you for holding this
14 important hearing.

15 And I want to thank the nominees for being here today,
16 your willingness to serve.

17 So, we will just get right into it about cybersecurity,
18 of course, our utmost, top of everybody's mind, and I would
19 like to focus particularly on NATO and cybersecurity, an
20 issue I raised with Admiral graded during his confirmation
21 hearing, and one that came up consistently when I had a
22 chance to visit NATO headquarters on a congressional
23 delegation in November.

24 So, Dr. Wallander, as you know, cybersecurity is part
25 of NATO's core task of collective defense. Given rising

1 threats of cyberattacks, of course, we know from Russia and
2 China, NATO's efforts to protect allied networks and enhance
3 resilience across the alliance through information-sharing
4 and joint exercises, of course, has become more critical
5 than ever.

6 So, again, Dr. Wallander, if confirmed, how would the
7 Department of Defense collaborate with our NATO allies to
8 prevent, mitigate, and recover from cyberattacks targeting
9 our critical infrastructure, our energy grids, our water
10 grids, our pipelines?

11 We know that we have seen cyberattacks in the past.
12 What would you be doing to collaborate with NATO, please?

13 Ms. Wallander: Senator, thank you for your question
14 highlighting this important aspect of NATO common defense
15 and the challenge to NATO security.

16 Many of our NATO allies were in the forefront and
17 recognizing Russia's use of a cyber domain for assault, and
18 so the partnership with those allies has proven very helpful
19 in the last couple of years as Russia has upped its
20 activities in this domain.

21 If confirmed, I would work with Dr. Plumb's office, if
22 confirmed, to make sure that we have both, the functional
23 and regional expertise to effectively engage with NATO
24 allies in order to make sure that we coordinate, not just
25 government resources, but one of the challenges that you

1 know is that much of the cyber infrastructure is private, is
2 commercial.

3 And Europe faces that challenge, just as the United
4 States does, so I think our best common practices are not
5 just from the Defense Department, but also it would require
6 a whole-of-government approach and coordination with the
7 Department of Homeland Security.

8 Senator Rosen: Yeah, I couldn't agree more. I sit on
9 the Homeland Security Committee. We just had a hearing just
10 recently with CISSA talking about how we would, how they are
11 planning to try to take care of some of these issues. So, I
12 hope you continue to work with them.

13 But I would like to move on, Dr. Wallander, to issues
14 about Iranian aggression, because they are still out there.

15 And I have noted in previous hearings, Iranian-backed
16 militias, while they are increasingly targeting U.S.
17 installations and servicemembers in both, Iraq and Syria,
18 via rocket and drone attacks.

19 Iran, we don't have to, I can't say this enough, it is
20 the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. It
21 continues to be a threat to the United States and allied
22 interests, via its ballistic missile program and support for
23 Hezbollah and other terrorist proxies.

24 So, can you discuss the threat of Iranian-backed
25 militias in the Middle East, the threat they pose to our

1 U.S. troops and allies, and if confirmed, how would you use
2 your existing DOD authorities to target these malign groups
3 and proactively protect our personnel?

4 Ms. Wallander: Senator, I very much share your
5 concern, and a lot of our focus in public tends to be on
6 Iran's nuclear weapons program and that is, you know,
7 concerning, but we can't lose sight of the fact that Iran is
8 actively supporting groups that strike at American personnel
9 installations and capabilities in the region and undermine
10 our ability to responsibly implement counterterrorism
11 missions in the region.

12 If confirmed, I will focus on the partner relations in
13 the region to work with them, to make sure that we are doing
14 everything necessary to counter Iran's activities, and to
15 undermine them, but also to do an evaluation within DOD to
16 make sure that we are properly resourced and postured. And
17 I would cooperate with some of the other offices, in
18 particular, those involving Special Operations, the
19 functional offices, and the Department of Defense.

20 Senator Rosen: Thank you.

21 I would like to move on to you, Ms. Dalton, about the
22 DOD cyber strategy. I understand, if confirmed, you will
23 serve as the Chief Civilian Supervisor to the Secretary of
24 Defense on cybersecurity.

25 And so, given the large number of federal agencies

1 responsible for protecting the homeland from cyberthreats,
2 what would you define is the Department of Defense's
3 appropriate role in addressing our nation's cybersecurity,
4 and, separately, if confirmed, how would you strengthen that
5 interagency collaboration to ensure coordinated approach is
6 going forward?

7 Ms. Dalton: Senator, thank you for highlighting the
8 critical challenge of cybersecurity and the Department's
9 role. The Department is the sector risk and management
10 agency for the Defense Industrial Base.

11 And so, if confirmed, I would look forward to
12 stewarding those authorities, those responsibilities in
13 close coordination with the Department of Homeland Security,
14 the intelligence community, U.S. Cyber Command, and other
15 components to protect our critical infrastructure.

16 Our relationships with the private sector, critical
17 supply chains, all of these are, unfortunately, experiencing
18 threats and so ensuring we have the requisite protections
19 and resilience going forward will be a priority of mine.

20 Senator Rosen: Thank you.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen.

23 Senator Kelly, please?

24 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 And thank you, everybody, for participating here today.

1 Dr. Plumb, I want to talk to you a little bit more
2 about the anti-satellite missile tests that have been
3 conducted by the Chinese and the Russians. The test in
4 2007, you were asked about it earlier. That kinetic kill
5 vehicle put a debris field from about a hundred miles, you
6 know, probably all the way up to a couple thousand miles.

7 On one of my space shuttle flights, I had to maneuver
8 out of the way of some of that debris and that was well over
9 a decade ago. And just this past November, the space
10 station had to move out of the way of that debris field.
11 And this is going to become a continuing, you know, problem;
12 thousands, I think, 2,000 pieces of debris.

13 The Russians launched a test themselves, but I want to
14 focus a little bit on the Chinese capability. So, DOD had a
15 report that detailed China's emerging counter-space
16 capabilities, including satellite jammers, directed-energy
17 weapons, and these ground-based anti-satellite missiles,
18 like we saw in 2007 with the test.

19 So, what is your current assessment of China's emerging
20 counter-space capabilities, and, if confirmed, how is your
21 office going to address this emerging threat?

22 Mr. Plumb: Thank you for that question, Senator.

23 And I will just say, I think you are spot-on; the
24 Chinese threat to our space assets is growing and it is
25 troubling, and it is in many different vectors. And I think

1 being able to counter that, there is no one solution.

2 I think one of the advantages of integrating the
3 different policy offices that are functional under this ASD-
4 ship, if confirmed, would be the ability to more tightly
5 interweave cyber operations and counter-space operations,
6 for example.

7 I would say the Chinese threat is possibly, in order to
8 successfully prevail in a campaign in a warfare campaign, we
9 need to have a resilient architecture that can handle some
10 of those attacks, because some of those attacks are sure to
11 come. I think calling out kinetic, destructive tests, in
12 particular, because those impose a long-term, enduring
13 problem to all spacefaring nations, including astronauts,
14 would be helpful, as well.

15 And I think that there are, in the spectrum of warfare,
16 we need to be ready for kinetic attacks against these
17 assets, as well. We can't, it is a cross-domain problem, I
18 guess, is what I am trying to say. If we just think about
19 space versus space, it doesn't deal with the ground problem
20 in a way that is sufficient in my opinion.

21 Senator Kelly: Yeah, it is, in any conflict with a
22 near-peer adversary, it is clearly the high ground. And we
23 know the importance of being able to maintain the high
24 ground and this is a place that we need to be present and
25 capable and continue to innovate.

1 So, thank you, I look forward to working with you after
2 your confirmation.

3 I want to just transition on a totally different
4 subject to Ms. Dalton for a second. As you may know, being
5 from Arizona, I represent over 370 miles of U.S.-Mexico
6 border and, in fact, I think I am the only member of this
7 Committee that is in a Southwest Border state. I have
8 repeatedly called on the administration to better resource
9 DHS and the National Guard's border mission to address the
10 crisis at the border, and it is a crisis.

11 We currently have over 2,400 National Guard troops
12 deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border by the Department of
13 Defense and another 1,300 by governors, including the
14 Arizona governor. But this isn't enough; clearly, it is
15 not.

16 I mean, I have spent time at the border. I continue to
17 hear from law enforcement, especially sheriffs, but also
18 mayors in border communities, and my constituents on this
19 issue. And the challenges should not fall on local
20 communities; it is a crisis and it is hard for them to
21 manage.

22 The National Guard play a critical security role here,
23 well, in a lot of ways, right: responding to national
24 disasters, helping communities tackle COVID, supporting
25 security at our border. It is imperative that we give them

1 the tools that they need to do this work. The National
2 Guard needs to have those tools.

3 So, Ms. Dalton, do I have your commitment, and I think
4 this is an easy question, do I have your commitment to work
5 with us to ensure that those troops are well-resourced as
6 they conduct these missions at the U.S.-Mexico border?

7 Ms. Dalton: Yes, Senator, you do.

8 And if confirmed, I would look forward to visiting
9 Arizona and the Southwest Border to better understand the
10 challenge. Thank you.

11 Senator Kelly: Thank you.

12 And Ms. Wallander, I have, I am going to submit the
13 question for the record. Thank you.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kelly.

16 And I want to thank the witnesses for their very
17 thoughtful testimony today and also for their willingness to
18 serve, as they served before.

19 With that, let me adjourn this hearing. Thank you.

20 [Whereupon, at 11:36 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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