

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF: LIEUTENANT
GENERAL GREGORY M. GUILLOT, USAF TO BE GENERAL AND
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NORTHERN
COMMAND/COMMANDER, NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE
DEFENSE COMMAND AND LIEUTENANT GENERAL STEPHEN
N. WHITING, USSF TO BE GENERAL AND COMMANDER,
UNITED STATES SPACE COMMAND

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Washington, D.C.

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1111 14TH STREET NW
SUITE 1050
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
(202) 289-2260
www.aldersonreporting.com

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2 M. GUILLOT, USAF TO BE GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES
3 NORTHERN COMMAND/COMMANDER, NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE
4 DEFENSE COMMAND AND LIEUTENANT GENERAL STEPHEN N. WHITING,
5 USSF TO BE GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPACE
6 COMMAND

7
8 Wednesday, July 26, 2023

9
10 U.S. Senate

11 Committee on Armed Services

12 Washington, D.C.
13

14 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:00 a.m.,
15 in Room 216, Hart Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed,
16 chairman of the committee, presiding.

17 Committee Members Present: Senators Reed [presiding],
18 Shaheen [presiding], Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine,
19 King, Kelly, Wicker, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst,
20 Sullivan, Cramer, Scott, Tuberville, Mullin, and Schmitt
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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JACK REED, U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM RHODE ISLAND

3 Chairman Reed: Good morning. The committee meets to
4 consider the nomination of Lieutenant General Gregory
5 -- Gregory Guillot to be Commander of U.S. Northern
6 Command, and Lieutenant General Stephen Whiting to be
7 Commander of U.S. Space Command. Gentlemen, thank you for
8 your decades of service to the Nation and congratulations.

9 General Guillot, I would like to welcome your wife,
10 Caroline, daughter, Elizabeth, and son, who I know is
11 proudly watching his father. General Whining, I would like
12 to welcome your wife, Tammy, and daughter, Allie, and the
13 loved ones that are here today supporting your efforts.

14 I think you have got your son, parents, and in-laws
15 who are probably watching from afar, and also commend him.
16 We thank you and your family for their continued support,
17 because I think we all recognize no one serves alone, and
18 their efforts and your efforts have brought us to this day.

19 I would also like to note that you are both graduate
20 of the Air Force Academy class of 1989. And despite that,
21 we are holding this hearing. And I am sure many of you
22 classmates are cheering you on from afar.

23 I will at this point asked that the remainder of my
24 statement be included in the record and yield to Senator
25 Wicker for his opening remarks. We have started early, and

1 we start the floor procedure at about 10:00 a.m., so we
2 want to explode as much as we can. Thank you very much,
3 gentlemen. Senator Wicker.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. ROGER WICKER, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 MISSISSIPPI

3 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I, too,
4 welcome these witnesses and their families and friends. We
5 look forward to an excellent question and answer session
6 today. And as the chair has indicated, we have much to do
7 on the floor, and so I will ask that my statement be
8 included in its entirety in the record at this point.

9 Chairman Reed: Well, let me first recognize General
10 Guillot for your opening statement, and then General
11 Whiting. General Guillot, please. Could you turn your
12 microphone around, please, General, and bring it as close
13 as possible.

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1 STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL GREGORY M. GUILLOT,
2 USAF, TO BE GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NORTHERN
3 COMMAND/ COMMANDER, NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE
4 COMMAND

5 General Guillot: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member
6 Wicker, and distinguished members of the committee, thank
7 you for the opportunity to appear today.

8 I am deeply honored to be nominated to serve as the
9 Commander of the United States Northern Command and North
10 American Aerospace Defense Command, and testify next to my
11 Air Force Academy classmate, Lieutenant General Stephen
12 Whiting.

13 I would like to begin by thanking President Biden,
14 Secretary Austin, and Chairman Milley for their trust and
15 confidence, and I am grateful to the committee and
16 leadership for their endorsement of my nomination as well.
17 I would also like to thank General Glenn VanHerck and his
18 wife Marilyn for their tremendous 36 years of service and
19 example.

20 I would not be here without the constant support of my
21 family. Caroline, my incredible wife of 34 years, and our
22 daughter Elizabeth, a cyber-policy professional, are here
23 with me today. Our son, Mark, can't be here as he is
24 pursuing a bachelors in nursing and he better be in class
25 right now.

1 Caroline has held our family together through
2 countless deployments and 20 moves and developed our
3 children into outstanding young adults. All three are not
4 only supportive of me and those with whom I serve and their
5 families, but also strongly support our mission.

6 For the last 34 years, I have served alongside
7 extraordinary Americans, allies, and partners across the
8 globe. During that time, I have been fortunate to learn
9 from the finest leaders, mentors, noncommissioned officers,
10 and troops in the world. I would also like to thank and
11 acknowledge the most influential mentors I have had, my
12 parents, Reb, a career Air Force officer and Vietnam
13 veteran, and Susan, who handled the challenges of military
14 family life with strength and humor.

15 Also shaping me have been my operational experience
16 and leadership assignments in three different combatant
17 Commands, including Commanding all joint and coalition air
18 power in the Middle East.

19 If confirmed, I will humbly bring the benefit of these
20 experiences, gained in combat and in peace to
21 appropriately, energetically, and decisively lead the women
22 and men of NORAD and NORTHCOM in the defense of our great
23 homeland. The United States, Canada, and our allies and
24 partners must address an extraordinarily complicated and
25 quickly changing strategic environment.

1 Competitors can hold North America at risk in multiple
2 domains and are increasing both their capability and
3 capacity to strike the homeland at a rate far exceeding the
4 pace seen just a few years ago.

5 While NORAD and NORTHCOM are distinct Commands, they
6 share complementary missions that are more vital today than
7 ever. The success of both Commands in defending the
8 homeland is only possible with strong interagency
9 collaboration, as well as close alliances and partnerships.

10 If confirmed, I will remain committed to expanding
11 those already strong relationships in order to ensure the
12 Command's constant readiness to deter aggression and defend
13 our Nation. I will also commit to establishing and
14 maintaining partnerships with the National Guard Bureau,
15 State interagency partners to conduct NORTHCOM's vital
16 defense support of civil authorities role during
17 catastrophic disasters and other periods of national need.

18 Likewise, if confirmed, I will be a strong advocate
19 for ongoing NORAD and NORTHCOM efforts to improve domain
20 awareness and global integration of operations, plans, and
21 data. Our competitors' advanced long range weapons systems
22 and delivery platforms pose challenges from within and even
23 well beyond NORAD and NORTHCOM operational boundaries.

24 Therefore, it will be important that I work closely
25 with other Combatant Commanders to deliver an integrated,

1 layered, and seamless defense of our homeland. Finally, if
2 confirmed, I assure this committee that I will always
3 provide my candid assessment and my best military judgment
4 regarding NORAD and NORTHCOM missions.

5 Homeland defense is fundamental mission of the
6 Department of Defense, and I can think of no greater honor
7 than being nominated to lead the Commands responsible for
8 that vital mission. Thank you for your support of the
9 United States Armed Forces and for the honor of appearing
10 before this committee. I look forward to answering your
11 questions.

12 [The prepared statement of General Guillot follows:]
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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, General. General
2 Whiting, please.

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1 STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL STEPHEN N. WHITING,
2 USSF, TO BE GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPACE
3 COMMAND

4 General Whiting: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member
5 Wicker, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this
6 committee and the American people today. I am humbled to
7 be the president's nominee to Command United States Space
8 Command.

9 I am grateful to the Secretary of Defense and the
10 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their confidence
11 and support. And I am pleased to testify beside my U.S.
12 Air Force Academy classmate and friend, Lieutenant General
13 Greg Guillot.

14 I also want to thank the current Commander of U.S.
15 Space Command, General Jim Dickinson, and his wife, Angie,
16 for their leadership of the Command over the past three
17 years, and their personal friendship to Tammy and I. I am
18 proud to have my family and some dear friends here with me
19 today.

20 First and foremost, my wife of 34 years. Tammy has
21 been my best friend and greatest strength during 19 moves.
22 She is an incredible wife, mom, friend, entrepreneur, and
23 business owner. We also have our daughter Allie in
24 attendance. She finished her master's degree last summer
25 and is now a tech writer for a Silicon Valley software

1 company, but living in Nashville, Tennessee. Supporting us
2 in spirit are our son, Chase, and his wife, Olivia.

3 Chase is a youth minister, also living in Nashville,
4 and his terrific wife, Olivia, is a first grade public
5 schoolteacher there in the Nashville schools. Chase had
6 previously committed to accompanying the members of his
7 youth group to support a church overseas, and he is
8 appropriately taking care of those kids and ensuring they
9 get back to the United States safely. Tammy and I are
10 immensely proud of our children and the role they have
11 played in our military career.

12 Joining us virtually are my parents, Larry and Helen
13 Whiting. My dad was also a career Air Force officer and
14 Vietnam veteran, and my mom is a retired public
15 schoolteacher from Mississippi. My in-laws, Ken and John
16 Pressler, are also joining us virtually. And Tammy's dad
17 is also a retired Air Force officer. And Tammy's mom is
18 simply the glue who holds our family together.

19 Both sets of our parents have established legacies of
20 service to and love of our country that Tammy and I try to
21 live up to every day. Finally, we have five dear friends
22 with us today, here with us today, who have adopted us
23 along the way, David and Carmen Bell, Steve Watkins, and
24 Missy and Levi Bonous.

25 No doubt our military career has been undergirded by

1 the strength and support of our family and friends and
2 thank you for allowing me to acknowledge them. Today,
3 international space competition has become increasingly
4 complex.

5 China and Russia are rapidly fielding counterspace
6 capabilities to disrupt our access to space, and China is
7 swiftly making its own military forces space enabled.
8 These strategic competitors' irresponsible actions and
9 assertive posturing have transformed space into a contested
10 domain.

11 All the while, space continues to become more
12 congested as more and more actors, including commercial
13 industry, are launching an increasing number of satellites
14 to leverage the advantages space provides. The increasing
15 complexity of our strategic competition in space has
16 resulted in real threats to national space power and the
17 critical infrastructure which supports it.

18 U.S. Space Command's purpose is to protect U.S.
19 interest by preserving freedom of action in space and
20 providing critical support to the rest of the Joint Force,
21 our allies, all while protecting the Joint Force and allied
22 militaries from space enabled attack.

23 To say that more plainly, it is the moral
24 responsibility of United States Space Command to ensure
25 that the Joint Force, the Nation, and our allies have

1 access to the space capabilities they have become dependent
2 on over the decades, and that they must have through all
3 phases of conflict to be successful.

4 If confirmed, I will ensure U.S. Space Command
5 provides a formidable deterrent against potential adversary
6 aggression, while collaborating with the Joint Force, our
7 allies, and partners. I will ensure the Command is
8 prepared to win in conflict through the employment of
9 military space power and integrated trans-regional missile
10 defense capabilities.

11 And I will assure the Command is postured to gain and
12 maintain space superiority, to assure freedom of action in
13 space, and to protect the Joint Force and our allies from
14 the space capabilities of potential adversaries.

15 The source of strength of any military formation is
16 our people. Our joint space warfighters are the best in
17 the world because of their expertise, dedication, and
18 collective innovation.

19 Leadership of America's military sons and daughters is
20 a most sacred trust. If confirmed, it will be my distinct
21 honor and solemn duty to lead the 18,000 patriots of U.S.
22 Space Command. Distinguished members of the committee,
23 thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you
24 today, and I look forward to your questions.

25 [The prepared statement of General Whiting follows:]

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, General. Gentlemen, I have
2 a series of questions that are asked of all nominees. You
3 may respond appropriately together. Have you adhered to
4 applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of
5 interest?

6 General Whiting: Yes.

7 General Guillot: Yes, chairman.

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

11 General Guillot: No, Chairman.

12 General Whiting: No.

13 Chairman Reed: Exercising our legislative and
14 oversight responsibilities makes it important that this
15 committee, its subcommittees, and other appropriate
16 committees of Congress, receive testimony, briefings,
17 reports, records, and other information from the Executive
18 Branch on a timely basis. Do you agree, if confirmed, to
19 appear and testify before this committee when requested?

20 General Guillot: Yes, chairman.

21 General Whiting: Yes.

22 Chairman Reed: Do you agree, when asked before this
23 committee, to give you a personal view, even if your views
24 differ from the Administration?

25 General Guillot: Yes, sir.

1 General Whiting: Yes.

2 Chairman Reed: Do you agree to provide records,
3 documents, and electronic communications in a timely manner
4 when requested by this committee, its subcommittees, or
5 other appropriate committees of Congress, and to consult
6 with the requestor regarding the basis for any good faith
7 delay or denial in providing such records?

8 General Guillot: Yes, chairman.

9 General Whiting: Yes.

10 Chairman Reed: Will you ensure that your staff
11 complies with deadlines established by this committee for
12 the production of reports, records, and other information,
13 including timely responding to hearing questions for the
14 record?

15 General Guillot: Yes.

16 General Whiting: Yes.

17 Chairman Reed: Will you cooperate in providing
18 witnesses and briefings in response to Congressional
19 requests?

20 General Guillot: Yes.

21 General Whiting: Yes.

22 Chairman Reed: Will those witnesses and briefers be
23 protected from reprisal for the testimony or briefings?

24 General Guillot: Yes, chairman.

25 General Whiting: Yes.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, gentlemen. General
2 Guillot, you have talked about the evolving threats that
3 are facing the homeland. Could you give us an idea what
4 are those most significant threats you see right now?

5 General Guillot: Yes, Chairman. The most significant
6 threat that the homeland faces is no longer from a single
7 capability or a single nation, but it is the compilation of
8 multiple actors that can threaten the homeland from
9 multiple avenues of approach and across all domains.

10 So, the combination of all of those simultaneously is
11 the biggest threat that we face now, whereas in the past it
12 may have been a single weapon system or a single actor that
13 presented that threat.

14 Chairman Reed: Do you think we are appropriately
15 postured to deal with these threats?

16 General Guillot: Yes, Chairman, I do. However, our
17 adversaries are growing at a very fast rate, and we need to
18 do -- across the whole of Government, all of our effort
19 must be to keeping pace with the rate of change of our
20 adversary.

21 Chairman Reed: Do you have any specific changes in
22 mind? If confirmed, what you would like to do, say, your
23 first 180 days?

24 General Guillot: Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will
25 largely follow the outstanding course that has been set by

1 General VanHerck, focusing on defending the homeland. And
2 in the first few days, as you mentioned, my goal is to make
3 sure that there are no gaps in the transition of
4 authorities that the Commander must take to defend the
5 homeland.

6 And I would also like to strengthen the network.
7 Everything that we do in NORAD, in NORTHCOM requires
8 partnership, and I would like to strengthen the networks
9 with other Combatant Commanders, the services, the National
10 Guard, the interagency, international partners, and, of
11 course, Congress to make sure that all those relationships
12 are set now in steady state so we can easily enact those in
13 times of crisis.

14 And then I will conduct a 90 day assessment of our
15 people, our mission, and our resourcing to ensure that we
16 are set for the changing environment that we see ahead.

17 Chairman Reed: Thank you. General Whiting, what is
18 your assessment of the threats to the United States and
19 allied space assets by Russia and China over the next five
20 years? And what must we do to counter those threats?

21 General Whiting: Thank you for that question,
22 Chairman. Certainly, we have seen a rapid increase,
23 particularly from China, as they have built counterspace
24 capabilities after really studying the United States and
25 how we leveraged space for military advantage.

1 And so, they have sought to build a series of
2 capabilities from nondestructive to destructive to hold at
3 risk those space capabilities. We have seen Russia do that
4 to a lesser degree as well.

5 And, Mr. Chairman, it is our responsibility across the
6 National Security space enterprise, but certainly, if
7 confirmed at U.S. Space Command, to make sure that we can
8 operate in the face of those threats that we now see to
9 continue to support the rest of the Joint Force with the
10 space capabilities that they have become dependent upon.

11 Chairman Reed: Thank you. We are developing the
12 technologies, and one of the keys is continuous encrypted
13 communication. Can you give us a sense of where do you
14 think we are in that process?

15 General Whiting: Yes, sir. It is vital that we have
16 the capability to encrypt ourselves with encryption that
17 will last over decades as we field military space systems
18 that last for a long time. We want to make sure that that
19 encryption does not become compromised by other countries,
20 potentially.

21 And so, it is a very important partnership, Mr.
22 Chairman, that we have with the National Security Agency.
23 And if confirmed, I would ensure that we continue to work
24 requirements that laid into those requirements sets, that
25 requirement, so that we don't end up in a position where

1 another country could compromise our communications.

2 Chairman Reed: Thank you. General Guillot, the issue
3 of fentanyl of crossing the Mexican border is one that is a
4 serious crisis in the United States today. You are
5 already, your Command is in communication and cooperation
6 with Mexican authorities, the Mexican army and navy. How
7 do you believe you can leverage those military forces to be
8 more effective in disrupting this trade in fentanyl?

9 General Guillot: Chairman, the drug threat that you
10 mentioned is acute. It is significant and it is serious.
11 And NORTHCOM's role is as part of a whole of Government
12 effort, NORTHCOM provides direct support to the lead law
13 enforcement agency to attack these networks.

14 If I am confirmed, due to the importance of this
15 mission, as soon as possible, after the change of Command,
16 I will go down to the Southern border and meet with all of
17 not only the U.S. military that are in support of the lead
18 law enforcement agencies, but also with the interagency,
19 the intel community, and the Mexican military partners that
20 we have.

21 During that time, I will make an effort to gain a
22 greater operational understanding, and then I will draw an
23 assessment on how we can optimize our support to get after
24 this very serious problem.

25 Chairman Reed: Thank you. Thank you both, gentlemen.

1 Senator Wicker, please.

2 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank
3 you, gentlemen. General Guillot, I was going to ask the
4 very question that our chairman just asked about the
5 fentanyl crisis. I view it as a very serious matter, and
6 so please understand from the chair and the ranking member,
7 where we rank that issue.

8 Let me ask you, you mentioned domain awareness in your
9 opening statement. We are not where we need to be in
10 domain awareness, are we?

11 General Guillot: Senator, I agree. Although the
12 steps through the Government, Congress's funding, and
13 industry, we are making strides in that direction, the fact
14 that the adversaries we face can attack us from distances
15 further away, at speeds, altitudes, with maneuverability,
16 and low cross radar cross-sections that we hadn't seen in
17 the past, it is a constant fight to have the domain
18 awareness, the ability to detect these threats, and it
19 takes our constant and improving effort because after all,
20 we can't defeat what we can't see.

21 Senator Wicker: You know, it seems to me that the
22 balloon fiasco that occurred several months ago is an
23 example of this. I have a question here which I want to
24 read word for word. Do you commit to sharing information
25 with this committee, even when it is contrary to the

1 Administration communications objectives?

2 And I ask that question because we on this side have
3 asked some specific questions in writing of the
4 Administration and have not gotten all of the answers we
5 needed. And during a visit to Beijing in June, Secretary
6 of State Blinken said publicly that the Chinese balloon
7 matter is a chapter that should be closed.

8 If members of the Congress believe their questions to
9 be answered, you do commit to answering those questions
10 regardless of the views of the Administration, do you not?

11 General Guillot: Yes, Senator, I absolutely do.

12 Senator Wicker: Thank you very much. And let me ask
13 you, I was glad to hear that you and General Whiting were
14 classmates at the academy. Is that correct?

15 General Guillot: Yes, Senator. Although I think he
16 graduated much higher in the order of merit than I.

17 Senator Wicker: I was going to ask about. Did you
18 find that his excellent high school education at Ocean
19 Springs High School in Mississippi gave him a leg up over
20 most of the other --?

21 General Guillot: Senator, I have no doubt that was
22 the springboard.

23 [Laughter.]

24 Senator Wicker: Thank you very much. I think you are
25 well on your way to confirmation. General Whiting, we are

1 -- you are going to be giving up some of your more
2 commercial duties from your predecessor and moving them
3 over to the Department of Commerce as far as space
4 situational awareness. Tell us about that. And I
5 understand you think that is a good idea and that Congress
6 made the correct move there.

7 General Whiting: Ranking member, thank you for that
8 question. It is a really important issue. Today, the
9 Space Force provides space situational awareness to the
10 entire -- the entire world, really. But we do that for
11 nonmilitary purposes. But under your leadership and the
12 actions of Congress, that civil portion of that
13 responsibility is now transferring to the Department of
14 Commerce.

15 And they are very willing partners in that. And we
16 are working a plan with them that over the next couple of
17 years, they will take on that nonmilitary responsibility,
18 and that will free up capacity inside of our military
19 formations to focus on the military unique responsibilities
20 that we have.

21 So, we really appreciate that leadership from the
22 Congress and the work of the Department of Commerce to take
23 that on.

24 Senator Wicker: Okay. Now, I want to ask a question
25 that will require a relatively brief answer, but then I

1 will ask you to supplement it on the record. Let's war
2 game, in what we can do publicly, let's say that the
3 Communist Party of China under Xi Jinping decides to invade
4 their neighbor Taiwan. There will be a battle in space
5 almost immediately, is that correct?

6 General Whiting: Sir, I agree. We think the opening
7 shots of such a war could happen in space or cyber.

8 Senator Wicker: Okay. What I would like for you to
9 do, and I know you only got 38 seconds to speak, but if you
10 could sort of give us an overview briefly and then
11 supplement your answer on the record, sir.

12 General Whiting: Yes, sir. Because the People's
13 Republic of China has studied how we use space, we do
14 expect that they would try to inhibit our ability to use
15 space the way we would prefer to across the Joint Force.
16 And, Senator, if it is good with you, I will take you up on
17 your offer and provide additional details.

18 Senator Wicker: Absolutely. Because it is quite
19 complex and requires more than five minutes even. Thank
20 you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Wicker. Senator
22 Shaheen, please.

23 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Congratulations to both
24 of you and your families. Thank you for your willingness
25 to continue to serve this country. Senator Wicker raised

1 the move of the Office of Space Commerce to the Department
2 of Commerce, General Whiting.

3 As a member of the Appropriations committee, I
4 remember there was some controversy at the time about that
5 decision and a question about whether that was actually
6 going to work.

7 Can you tell us how that is working at this point? I
8 understand that there -- we will have a shortfall in terms
9 of the funding that we were planning to give to them to
10 continue the integration. So where are we in that process
11 and what do we still need to do?

12 General Whiting: Senator, thank you for that
13 question. I am not aware of the specific funding
14 -- exactly where they are in their funding in Department of
15 Commerce, but I can say that they are an absolutely eager
16 and willing partner.

17 We have multiple engagements from senior leadership
18 down to their tactical level where they have been out to
19 our operating locations where we conduct this mission.
20 They have seen how we do business, and they are partnering
21 with us on their plans for how they move forward. But,
22 ma'am, I am just not familiar with exactly where they are
23 in their funding profile.

24 Senator Shaheen: You -- the Space Command, however,
25 has also created a new commercial integration office to

1 help coordinate commercial space capabilities, is that
2 correct?

3 General Whiting: Ma'am, that is correct.

4 Senator Shaheen: So how do you see that office
5 working with the office in the Department of Commerce?

6 General Whiting: Yes, ma'am. Inside U.S. Space
7 Command, that office, Senator, is figuring out ways that
8 U.S. Space Command can take advantage of the incredible
9 capability that U.S. space industry brings us.

10 That will be focused on military unique aspects of,
11 obviously, our mission. Department of Commerce will be
12 focused on nonmilitary aspects, but I think there will be a
13 chance to partner together so that, for example, the U.S.
14 Government isn't paying twice for commercial space
15 situational awareness data that may be useful to both of
16 us.

17 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Well, as you point out,
18 commercial space is playing a greater role in what is
19 happening with our military. And we have seen in Russia's
20 war against Ukraine the role of Starlink and how they are
21 operating their operation -- military operations. Can you
22 talk about how you see an attack on those commercial
23 operations? How we should view that -- is that -- should
24 we consider that an act of war if we see that happening?
25 How -- where are we in the thinking about how we look at

1 the commercial space operations in connection with what we
2 say about our military space operations.

3 General Whiting: Senator, that is a topic, obviously,
4 that we are focused on very, very keenly. Inside the
5 unified Command plan, where the President gives tasks to
6 each of the Combatant Commanders, there is a task to United
7 States Space Command to defend commercial space
8 capabilities, if directed.

9 So, we understand that importance and have put that
10 hook into that mission. I think moving forward, as you
11 said, ma'am, with the Russia, Ukraine, we have only seen
12 the growing importance of commercial space capability.

13 So, we must continue to partner with those companies
14 so that they look to build resilience into their systems,
15 and then partner with them, that if we do need to actively
16 defend them, we have the communication avenues open to be
17 able to do so.

18 Senator Shaheen: And have we actually defined what an
19 attack on commercial operations would mean?

20 General Whiting: Ma'am, I think ultimately that would
21 be a policy question. But we certainly understand what the
22 actions are that would look like, you know, some kind of
23 attack, whether that was a jamming or a direct physical
24 attack on a satellite or a ground station.

25 Senator Shaheen: So, we haven't actually, in terms of

1 policy, delineated how we would respond to that kind of a
2 situation.

3 General Whiting: Senator, I think we have a range of
4 options, but that they are not coded, that if x happens,
5 then then y will follow. We have to look at each set of
6 circumstances uniquely.

7 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. General Guillot, how are
8 hypersonic weapons changing the way NORAD thinks about your
9 job?

10 General Guillot: Senator, I think that hypersonics present
11 the greatest technical challenge that we face today. We
12 are in a three way race strategically with our two main
13 competitors in hypersonics, both in offensive and defensive
14 capabilities.

15 We are working closely with MDA, the Missile Defense
16 Agency, to develop our own offensive and defensive
17 capabilities to keep pace.

18 If I am confirmed, I will be keenly interested in this
19 because as the Commander of NORAD, I would be responsible
20 for the integrated tactical warning and the attack
21 assessment of any hypersonic attack on the continental
22 United States, and then we would be using United States
23 Space Command systems to help us get that data.

24 So, it is a field that we are watching very closely,
25 and we are in a tight competition with Russia and China.

1 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Shaheen. Senator
3 Fischer, please.

4 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank
5 you both for being here today. I appreciate your service,
6 and the sacrifice and service of your families as well.

7 General Guillot, I have heard extensively from General
8 VanHerck about a requirement for increased domain
9 awareness, whether that is air domain awareness or undersea
10 domain awareness.

11 And I would encourage you, if confirmed, to make use
12 of the unfunded priorities requirements list that is
13 available to you so that you have that process to inform
14 Congress of any capability gaps that you see in this area.

15 You mentioned those earlier, that that was something
16 you would look into. So, that is a tool that is available
17 to you, and it is very helpful to us. Also, General, over
18 the past few years, we have seen North Korea, Russia, China
19 dramatically expand their nuclear arsenals and develop a
20 wide range of missile systems capable of directly attacking
21 the United States.

22 Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our own
23 defense capabilities, which are failing to keep pace with
24 growing threats. Do you believe that the United States
25 should continue to posture its homeland missile defense

1 capabilities to stay ahead of the North Korean threat?

2 General Guillot: Yes, Senator, I do.

3 Senator Fischer: Should the United States consider
4 adjusting its stated missile defense policy and allow for
5 the possibility of defending against limited missile
6 attacks from either Russia or China?

7 General Guillot: Senator, that policy -- that would,
8 as you stated, that would be a policy decision. But I do
9 think that it is something we should look at based on what
10 we are seeing in Ukraine and the way the Russians are using
11 -- weapons systems there, attacking civilian
12 infrastructure.

13 I think although the policy has worked well for years.
14 As our adversaries change their capabilities in the way
15 they employ, I think our military should look at adapting,
16 and on a recurring basis, assess the policy.

17 Senator Fischer: Thank you. You mentioned earlier
18 about monitoring the gaps that exist in the authorities
19 that you are given. Right at this point in time, do you
20 believe that there any additional authorities or
21 capabilities that NORTHCOM or NORAD missile defense system
22 need?

23 General Guillot: No, Senator. I don't see any gaps.
24 My goal is just to make sure that -- due to my new status
25 in the position, I don't let any authorities or gaps that

1 are presently set develop due to the transition.

2 Senator Fischer: General Whiting, to what extent do
3 you believe that space based capabilities can contribute to
4 our missile defense system?

5 General Whiting: Senator, thank you for that
6 question. They are absolutely vital. It is space that
7 allows us to instantly look around the globe, watch for
8 missile launches anywhere on the globe, and report that in
9 real time to our national leadership.

10 If confirmed, I would have the responsibility of
11 providing that missile warning data to General Guillot so
12 he could make an assessment of whether North America was
13 under attack. So, ma'am, it is absolutely vital.

14 Senator Fischer: China tested, in 2021, the
15 fractional orbital bombardment system. Do you believe that
16 we should explore the viability of such systems as a means
17 of passing new and novel threats that this country faces?

18 General Guillot: Senator, thank you for the question.
19 Obviously, the WU-14 fractional orbital bomb system is
20 something we are very carefully watching, and we have to be
21 able to track that from launch all the way through to a
22 potential impact. I think it is a matter of whether we
23 believe such a system would fill any gaps that we have.

24 That is not something I have looked at, but if
25 confirmed, I would be happy to participate in that and

1 provide my best military advice back.

2 Senator Fischer: In this setting, can you tell us the
3 concerns that you may have with not just the abilities that
4 Russia and China currently have, but the direction that
5 they are headed that we are aware of, and how we are
6 preparing to defend against that -- to counter it?

7 General Guillot: Yes, Senator. Certainly, I
8 mentioned that China in particular has rapidly increased
9 their counter space capabilities, but we also see them
10 making their -- the rest of their military forces more
11 space enabled to be more precise and more lethal.

12 So, it is important that we as a Nation have a range
13 of capabilities where we can integrate intelligence,
14 Command and control, offense, defense, cyber, joint fires
15 to make sure that we can protect our Joint Force from those
16 space enabled capabilities that they are developing.

17 Senator Fischer: And they have dual use platforms as
18 well, correct?

19 General Guillot: That is correct. And we assume
20 anything commercial is dual use from the PRC.

21 Senator Fischer: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank
22 you.

23 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator
24 Kaine, please.

25 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you

1 to our nominees for your service. I look forward to
2 supporting your nominations.

3 General Guillot, I want to tread a little ground that
4 both the chair and ranking member have with respect to
5 fentanyl. I don't need to ask the same questions, but
6 Senator Ernst and I offered an amendment that was included
7 in the NDAA version that is currently pending on the Senate
8 floor, to designate fentanyl as a National Security threat
9 and to encourage the DOD to be more forward leaning, first
10 within the U.S. whole of Government effort, which has
11 tended to rely pretty heavily on DEA, DOJ, DHS.

12 But we are encouraging the DOD to be more forward
13 leaning in this fight, both within the U.S. Government, but
14 also in tandem with the Mexican military. And I would
15 suspect that that responsibility is going to be pretty
16 heavily on NORTHCOM shoulders.

17 And so, with other committee members, we just see the
18 ravages of this in all of our communities. I know you
19 understand that, and we will look forward, should you be
20 confirmed, to following up and talking about what we might
21 do from the Pentagon side to really energize and amplify
22 the efforts to counter fentanyl coming into the United
23 States.

24 General Whiting, I want to ask you a question about
25 Space Command and our allies. I am very forward leaning on

1 the AUKUS framework that was announced by President Biden.
2 I am the chairman of the Seapower subcommittee of Armed
3 Services.

4 I think that this partnership, which I hope will be
5 decades long, offers real opportunity to promote stability
6 in the Indo-Pacific. As you know, pillar one is a pillar
7 dealing with Virginia class submarines, but there is a
8 broad pillar to the talks about cooperation with Australia
9 and the UK, and a whole variety of technologies, whether it
10 is space, cyber, AI, hypersonics.

11 Should you be confirmed, talk to us a little bit about
12 the way you would see that AUKUS framework and how you
13 might use your position at Space Command to work together
14 with these allies, and then just more broadly, our allies.

15 It is a strategic edge that we have over China and
16 Russia, that we have such a network of allies. How should
17 we be thinking about joint activities in the space domain
18 with nations allied with the United States?

19 General Whiting: Senator, thank you for that
20 question. Space is a team sport, and it takes us and our
21 allies to be the best we can be. In fact, Senator, 33
22 years ago, as a second lieutenant at my first space
23 assignment, the very first noncommissioned officer I ever
24 supervised was a Canadian noncommissioned officer assigned
25 to our unit because of those partnerships.

1 We have a grouping of countries we call CSPO, the
2 combined space operations. And together it is us, it is
3 our Canadian, British, Australian, New Zealand, plus some
4 other countries that are observers that were asking to come
5 in. In that forum, we are able to coordinate military
6 operations.

7 We are able to coordinate future architectures,
8 policies. We have seen a real value in that as we work
9 together. And in fact, Senator, over the last couple of
10 years, U.S. Space Command has created a named operation
11 called Operation Olympic Defender, where we operate in
12 space with our Canadian, Australian, and United Kingdom
13 allies.

14 So, I will, if confirmed, do everything I can to
15 maximize those partnerships because it is an asymmetric
16 advantage for the United States.

17 Senator Kaine: And tell me what the acronym CPO
18 stands for again.

19 General Whiting: Combined Space Operations.

20 Senator Kaine: Right. Great. I am very glad to hear
21 about that intentional effort to work together with allies.
22 To follow up on an earlier question that Senator Shaheen
23 was asking, space is an interesting domain because of the
24 massive proliferation of commercial satellites in space
25 that can have a security connection to us.

1 She referenced Starlink in Ukraine. Our adversaries
2 may have their own assets in space, but they tend not to
3 have the same amount of government owned assets, but then
4 private sector assets where they are at least some
5 collaboration with them.

6 Talk a little bit about how you would see the -- both
7 the opportunities and challenges to work in tandem with our
8 commercial space assets to advance our space capacities.

9 General Whiting: Senator, I like to say we are in the
10 second golden age of space. The first golden age was when
11 Neil Armstrong walked out onto the lunar surface. But the
12 second golden age is really being led by American
13 commercial industry, and it gives us so many untold
14 advantages.

15 We have to maximize that. And over the last eight
16 years or so out at our Vandenberg Space Force Base in
17 California, we have a grouping there called the Commercial
18 Integration Cell, where we brought in the ten companies
19 that we contract with the most for capability through the
20 Department of Defense.

21 And in that cell, we share intelligence at the highest
22 level. We get insights into what is happening in their
23 constellations, because we believe if we all have that
24 insight, we operate better together.

25 So that is just one example of the ways that, if

1 confirmed, I would want to continue to drive our ability to
2 leverage U.S. American industry because of the advantages
3 it brings for us.

4 Senator Kaine: Well, I hope to entertain you at
5 Wallops Island at some point, following your confirmation.
6 Thank you. I yield back.

7 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kaine. Senator
8 Ernst, please.

9 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you,
10 General Guillot and General Whiting, and to your families
11 as well. Thank you very much for being here and supporting
12 these gentlemen.

13 So, General Guillot, we have talked a lot about a
14 number of threats. We have covered China and Russia. We
15 have heard about North Korea's arsenal and how they are
16 outpacing our ballistic missile defenses.

17 A lot of concern out there. And in your policy
18 questions, the advanced policy questions, you stated that a
19 second missile defense site on the East Coast is, "not
20 operationally required at this time."

21 So, what advancements in adversary capabilities would
22 lead you to reevaluate this assessment? What should be
23 -- what should we be watching for?

24 General Guillot: Senator, I understand that the
25 assessment was recently made and said that it is not

1 operational required at this time. But from my
2 perspective, if I am confirmed coming into the position,
3 all military operations require depth and dispersal, and we
4 have to keep pace with the threat.

5 And I do not question the assessment that was made,
6 but it was a different context and a different threat at
7 the time of the assessment. So, if I am confirmed, I would
8 support recurring assessments that would ensure that we
9 keep pace with the adversaries.

10 Specific to your question, the number of threats that
11 they have that might defeat the total number that we have
12 in our existing locations, or if another rogue state
13 develops the capability and can attack the homeland.

14 That is another reason I think that we should look at
15 the -- reassess on a periodic basis to ensure that we can
16 keep pace with that -- with the threat.

17 Senator Ernst: Well, I appreciate that answer very
18 much. And I -- in my estimation, that would be the correct
19 answer, is we have threats that change, grow, morph over
20 time, and it is important that we continually reassess
21 that.

22 We have heard also from a number of my colleagues
23 about the Southern border. And obviously that is a huge
24 concern with all of us. Senator Kaine and I are working
25 together on an amendment for the NDAA, and that would

1 improve our mil-to-mil cooperation with the Mexican
2 authorities to counter fentanyl.

3 And we have also seen a number of National Guard
4 troops that we have used on our Southern border, and I
5 would like to focus on that just for a second. I have
6 traveled a couple of times to the Southern border, and
7 every time I am there, I have the opportunity to meet with
8 troops from different states and, of course, Texas -- those
9 that are assisting with the civil authorities, I think we
10 have about 2,500 National Guard. So how does defense
11 support to civil authorities fit in those priorities as
12 Commander?

13 General Guillot: Senator, it is right at the top
14 because border security is National Security. And National
15 Security is a key element of homeland defense. And so,
16 what you just described would be in the number one priority
17 that I think the Command would have, if I am confirmed.

18 And strong support within the authorities given by the
19 Secretary of Defense to a Department of Homeland Security
20 would be a top priority of mine.

21 Senator Ernst: Very good. And how would we use those
22 reserve forces, whether it is National Guard or Reserve
23 units? How can we continue to support the mission without
24 hurting their readiness?

25 General Guillot: Senator, so many of the missions

1 that the NORAD and NORTHCOM conduct are with National Guard
2 forces, and they are all extremely capable, extremely
3 disciplined, mission focused.

4 I don't think that the NORAD and NORTHCOM could do
5 their important mission without the support of the National
6 Guard. Some of the actions that they conduct, for
7 instance, in the Southwest border, actually build some
8 readiness, aviation, for example. But there are some where
9 they lose readiness in their wartime mission.

10 So, if I am confirmed, I would establish a routine
11 reporting process with the deployed Commanders to see where
12 they feel they have lost readiness in specific worldwide
13 deployment areas and see if we could give them training
14 opportunities while they are on the border to maintain
15 those.

16 Certainly, they need to keep readiness in their
17 current missions, but their long term readiness would be
18 very important, and I think we need to find ways that they
19 can keep their worldwide deployment readiness while they
20 are conducting the Southwest border mission.

21 Senator Ernst: Thank you. I appreciate that. And
22 General Whiting, because I am out of time, I will submit a
23 question for the record that deals with our cyber and our
24 Special Operations Forces, and space triad. It is of great
25 interest to those that are working in Special Operations

1 Command. So, appreciate your gentlemen. Thank you very
2 much, and congratulations on your nominations.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Ernst. Senator
4 Hirono, please.

5 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Congratulations to both of you and welcome to your
7 families. I ask the following two initial questions to
8 address the fitness of any nominee before any of the
9 committees that I sit on.

10 So, I will ask the two questions of both of you.
11 Since you became a legal adult, have you ever made unwanted
12 requests for sexual favors, or committed any verbal or
13 physical harassment or assault of a sexual nature?

14 General Guillot: No, Senator.

15 General Whiting: No, Senator.

16 Senator Hirono: Thank you. Have you ever faced
17 disciplinary or entered into a settlement relating to this
18 kind of conduct?

19 General Guillot: No, Senator.

20 General Whiting: No, Senator.

21 Senator Hirono: General Whiting, as space becomes
22 exponentially busier, understanding where satellites are is
23 increasingly important and challenging. The 15th Space
24 Surveillance Squadron in Maui does the important work,
25 while simultaneously conducting leading edge research.

1 However, they are hamstrung by aging infrastructure.
2 And for your information, the 15 Space Surveillance
3 Squadron operates several telescopes on Haleakala, Maui
4 that track satellites and, in partnership with the
5 University of Hawaii, conducts research.

6 It is here that a mechanical issue in a backup
7 generator caused about 700 gallons of diesel fuel to spill
8 after a lightning strike caused electrical grid failures on
9 the summit.

10 And additionally, many of the buildings and telescope
11 domes are leaking and Generally in bad shape. General
12 Whiting, terrestrial infrastructure underpins our space
13 capabilities. How does deferring maintenance at places
14 like the 15 Space Surveillance Squadron impact SPACECOM's
15 mission accomplishment?

16 General Whiting: Senator, thank you for that
17 question. And I have had the good fortune to visit the
18 15th on Maui multiple times. And as you highlight, they
19 are doing incredibly critical work in our number one
20 priority area, which is space domain awareness.

21 So, it is vital that we invest in that infrastructure
22 so that we can ensure that we can continue to provide that
23 mission support. And I appreciate the local leadership on
24 Maui who has worked with us as we have worked to remediate
25 the fuel spill.

1 There is more work to be done there, but we appreciate
2 the advice and counsel that we have received from the local
3 leaders there.

4 Senator Hirono: Well, Generally we get to the
5 infrastructure needs when a crisis has already occurred.
6 My question has to do with how we are going to upgrade and
7 prevent these kinds of incidences so that our people on
8 Maui can do their jobs?

9 So, I don't think we have put enough emphasis on the
10 need for repair -- repairing and maintaining our
11 infrastructure across the DOD, and SPACECOM is included in
12 that.

13 So, I would request, should you be confirmed, that
14 there be a review and assessment of the infrastructure
15 needs for your Command.

16 General Whiting: Senator, thank you. And I do commit
17 to that. And there is right now effort going on to assess
18 all of our infrastructure across my current Command, Space
19 Operations Command, and specifically tie it to our
20 readiness standards.

21 That work is ongoing and will complete here over the
22 next year or two. But ma'am, I absolutely commit to the
23 review you requested.

24 Senator Hirono: Thank you. And again, for you, if
25 confirmed, you will assume responsibilities as the global

1 sensor manager for missile defense. Do you believe current
2 missile defense policies reflect all global threats and
3 adequately encompass rapidly changing missile technologies?

4 And if confirmed, you will be responsible for missile
5 warning segment sensors, and in part for the DOD's space
6 based Command and control systems.

7 Do you think that these acquisition programs,
8 including the dual use radar requested in this year's
9 budget for Hawaii, are on track and will meet your
10 requirements?

11 General Whiting: Senator, I think those are critical
12 programs that we have to watch very carefully. It is vital
13 that we continue to provide global missile warning and
14 missile defense capabilities.

15 If confirmed, I will provide my best military advice
16 after looking into those specific programs. I think we
17 have the right investments, but we have got to make sure we
18 execute on the program successfully now.

19 Senator Hirono: I have had concerns about missile
20 defense for Hawaii, and as you probably know, HGRH Hawaii
21 was on track, but it is no longer and so we are looking for
22 some other ways that we are going to make sure that there
23 is a missile warning system that will protect Hawaii.

24 And that also includes some responsibility that you
25 have, General Guillot. So please, for both of you, I would

1 very much appreciate your paying attention to the missile
2 defense needs of Hawaii. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hirono. Senator
4 Sullivan, please.

5 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to
6 congratulate both of you gentlemen and your families. I
7 appreciate it very much your comments about your families
8 in your opening statements.

9 I think it is a great reminder to Americans that it is
10 not just people wearing the uniform. It is oftentimes the
11 spouses and the kids behind them who, in my view, have a
12 harder job. So, to them, thank you. General Guillot, you
13 mentioned Canada, which I think might puzzle a lot of
14 people.

15 You have a unique Command responsibility in terms of
16 NORAD, which has to be nominated by the President and the
17 Prime Minister. You want to just mention it very briefly.
18 I have actually a couple of questions about Canada.

19 General Guillot: Yes, Senator. NORAD is a binational
20 Command with the United States and Canada. Has been for 65
21 years and -- 65 years of defending the homeland side by
22 side.

23 Senator Sullivan: So, Senator Kaine mentioned the
24 importance of our allies. I couldn't agree more. It is a
25 giant strategic advantage to our National Security.

1 I do want to mention, and it is, you know, not always
2 polite, but I am going to do it here anyway. The Wall
3 Street Journal on July 12th had an editorial entitled,
4 Canada Is a Military Free Rider in NATO. Mr. Chairman, I
5 would like to submit that for the record.

6 Chairman Reed: Without objection.

7 [The information referred to follows:]

8 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Sullivan: And it goes on to talk about
2 Ottawa's feeble commitment to the alliance at the Vilnius
3 summit. They should have been put at the kids table. I
4 was actually at the Vilnius summit last week in NATO.
5 Canada is not even close to its 2 percent commitment, and
6 it was common knowledge that Prime Minister Trudeau was
7 trying to water down the Vilnius commitment to 2 percent as
8 a floor, all of which is incredibly disappointing.

9 And I hope that Canadians are watching your
10 confirmation hearing. General, you will be working closely
11 with Canada, if confirmed.

12 Can you commit to this committee that you can have
13 discussions with the Canadians and say, hey, look, when you
14 are not supporting NATO and you are not supporting missile
15 defense for North America, it is actually harmful to the
16 alliance. Americans get frustrated when our allies don't
17 pull their weight, and with regard to NATO, Canada is not
18 even close to pulling its weight.

19 Can you commit us to have those tough conversations
20 that are important with your Canadian counterparts?

21 General Guillot: Yes, Senator, you can count on me to
22 do that.

23 Senator Sullivan: Thank you. That is really
24 important. You are both Air Force Academy grads, which is
25 great. I am sure the Air Force Academy is very proud. We

1 are proud. Awesome. As you know, the father of the Air
2 Force, Billy Mitchell, had a very famous quote.

3 He said -- it was actually in front of an Armed
4 Services hearing in 1935. He talked about one place that
5 actually wasn't a State yet. In America, and he called it
6 the most strategic place in the world. Whoever holds this
7 place literally holds the world.

8 Okay. Now, you guys are Air Force Academy grads.
9 That is the father of the U.S. Air Force. What place was
10 Billy Mitchell referring to?

11 General Guillot: Alaska, Senator.

12 Senator Sullivan: Alaska. General, are you going to
13 go with that?

14 General Whiting: I am familiar with that --

15 Senator Sullivan: Do you confirm that that was
16 Alaska. Good. You passed the test. Thank you. Now, in
17 all seriousness, two issues. I just want to talk briefly
18 about Alaska. We talked about domain awareness.

19 General VanHerck has been great on domain awareness.
20 But when it comes to domain awareness, whether it is
21 hypersonics or cruise missiles or balloons, where are they
22 -- what is the avenue of approach if our adversaries are
23 going to attack New York City, Miami, Chicago, it doesn't
24 matter, where they come in through?

25 General Whiting: Senator, almost any avenue of

1 approach to the homeland comes over the Arctic.

2 Senator Sullivan: Right. So, when we talk about
3 domain awareness, where do we need to beef that up in
4 particular?

5 General Whiting: Senator, first and foremost, it
6 needs to be the Arctic.

7 Senator Sullivan: So, America is an Arctic Nation
8 because of what state?

9 General Whiting: Alaska, Senator.

10 Senator Sullivan: So, when you are talking about
11 beefing up in the Arctic, you are talking about beefing up
12 in Alaska, correct?

13 General Guillot: Yes, sir. And to your previous
14 point, to talk to our Canadian counterparts --

15 Senator Sullivan: Yes, and hopefully they will pay
16 for that at some point --

17 General Guillot: Radars there as well.

18 Senator Sullivan: Yes, they are not very good at
19 paying for missile defense either, even though we protect
20 the whole North American continent.

21 Let me ask a final question. With regard to the
22 Arctic, we have huge strategic interests as a country in
23 the Arctic, natural resources, transportation routes,
24 strategic locations, medicine, the environment, people.

25 The NORTHCOM Commanders, in my experience, have gone

1 from -- you are the advocate for the Arctic -- have gone
2 from essentially disinterest when I got here eight years
3 ago, to increasingly strong interest. I think General
4 VanHerck has done a great job. And yet the Pentagon has
5 been the one agency in all of Washington, D.C. that, in my
6 view, has kind of not really focused.

7 So, the reason America and our National Security, and
8 even the Pentagon, are now focusing on the Arctic is almost
9 all from this committee, where we have put it every year in
10 the NDAA, including this requirement, hey, guys, wake up,
11 Pentagon, wake up. We have got big strategic interests in
12 the Arctic.

13 Last year, Senator King and I got the Arctic Security
14 Initiative, and the Pentagon fought that. By the way,
15 icebreakers, ports in Nome. All this presence, resources
16 issues we put in, not the Pentagon. So, can I get your
17 commitment to work with this committee to be 110 percent
18 focus on the Arctic?

19 To be honest, it has been a little tiring to have to
20 go to the Pentagon and say, hey, guys, focus here. Well,
21 we are not really focused here. Then we put it into law.
22 It would be better if you guys could help us.

23 And again, General VanHerck has been great, but can
24 you continue that commitment to work with this committee on
25 the critical issues in the Arctic, particularly as it deals

1 with Russia and China?

2 General Guillot: Senator, you have my commitment.

3 Senator Sullivan: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.

4 Chairman.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. Senator
6 King, please.

7 Senator King: Well first, I want to associate myself
8 with that series of questions about the Arctic. It was a
9 question of whether or not Senator Sullivan and I, who
10 would go first to ask the Arctic questions.

11 He has asked them. I would also have to respectfully
12 point out that if ever our beloved chairman, John McCain,
13 was here, he would point out that Billy Mitchell was later
14 court martialed, but we won't go into that.

15 [Laughter.]

16 Senator Sullivan: I think that was rescinded later --

17 [Laughter.]

18 Senator King: General Whiting, it has been U.S.
19 policy for as long as anybody can remember to not
20 militarize space, but that train has left the station, has
21 it not? Isn't -- hasn't the -- haven't the Chinese, and to
22 a lesser extent the Russians, developed the capacity for
23 offensive weapons in space?

24 General Whiting: Senator, they absolutely have.

25 Senator King: And therefore, we need to be in a

1 position to respond because the cornerstone of our entire
2 defense, National Security policy, is deterrence. And if
3 they have an asymmetric advantage that we can't hold them
4 at risk, doesn't that undermine our policy of deterrence?

5 General Whiting: Senator, it does.

6 Senator King: And so, we are going to have to put
7 aside the laudable policy because of a change of
8 circumstances. Is that correct?

9 General Whiting: Yes, Senator. And I think the
10 creation of United States Space Command just under four
11 years ago, and then by the action of the Congress, the
12 creation of the United States Space Force just under four
13 years ago, recognizes that new reality.

14 Senator King: And I think, my concern is that there
15 are areas of the Federal Government that haven't quite
16 gotten there, and I think we need to understand it not
17 because we want to militarize space, but because we have to
18 face the reality and the undermining of our deterrent
19 capability if we don't match that.

20 General Guillot, since we have been talking almost
21 exactly an hour in this hearing, 10 of -- 12 Americans have
22 died of drug overdoses. We are under attack, and it is in
23 large measure in your AOR. It is not a nation state, but
24 these international organizations. Talk to me about a
25 strategy for dealing with this.

1 We have been hearing hearings year after year. We
2 don't have sufficient ISR. We don't have sufficient
3 interdiction capability. When are we going to take this
4 seriously for what it is, which is an attack on the people
5 of this country?

6 General Guillot: Senator, the threat you described is
7 acute, it is serious, and it is very significant. As -- if
8 I am confirmed to be the NORTHCOM Commander, I will
9 immediately, upon taking change of Command, go down to the
10 border, meet with all of the U.S. forces that are in direct
11 support of the lead law enforcement agencies conducting
12 this mission, and make an assessment on what we can do to
13 optimize our presentation of force and make suggestions to
14 the Secretary --

15 Senator King: Well, part of it is, is advocating in a
16 vigorous way for additional ISR, for example.

17 I mean, plus, we have had testimony before this
18 committee from SOUTHCOM that we only able to interdict 25
19 percent of the drug shipments coming by sea that we know
20 about. In other words, we know they are coming. We know
21 that they are carrying deadly cargo. And yet we don't have
22 -- there are not enough ships.

23 There are not enough capacity, Coast Guard, Navy. It
24 just seems to me everybody is pointing at everybody else.
25 Please, I would urge you to develop a special task force, a

1 strike force, to really think about how to organize the
2 United States Government response. Because what comes
3 through to me is a lack of central authority.

4 And you are the nearest thing to that. And I hope you
5 will really get on this. September 11th, we lost over
6 3,000 people, turned our society upside down here. We are
7 losing 100,000 a year, and yet nobody seems to be in
8 charge. Will you take charge?

9 General Guillot: Senator, I will take charge of
10 assessing that from the DOD standpoint and forwarding those
11 recommendations.

12 Senator King: Now, let me make -- go, change the
13 subject, again to get back to the Arctic. One of the
14 realities -- again, is like my questions about space. It
15 is no secret that the Russians have essentially re-
16 militarized their share of the Arctic, which really was a
17 much more peaceful area prior to the last 10 years.

18 Don't we need some capacity, infrastructure in the
19 Arctic, a port, for example, to be able to field the kind
20 of force that's necessary again, for deterrence? This is
21 not about offensive capability, but the best way to prevent
22 a war is for your adversary to know that they will suffer
23 unacceptable results if they attack us. Talk to me about
24 infrastructure In the Arctic, for example, a port in Nome.

25 General Guillot: Senator, presence is the best form

1 of deterrence in the Arctic. The port of Nome is a game
2 changer for operations in the Arctic. I understand that it
3 is underway, and we are looking at 2027, 2028 for
4 completion of that.

5 But just that port alone will add 4 to 8 days per
6 operational sortie of our ships where they don't have to go
7 down to Dutch Harbor to refuel. They can stay up in the
8 high North.

9 So that infrastructure, and then the recurring
10 presence of forces training and operating in the high
11 North, in Alaska, I think is a very strong deterrent to our
12 adversaries up there.

13 Senator King: Well, both of you are taking on
14 extraordinary responsibilities at an extraordinary time.
15 Congratulations on your appointment. We look forward to
16 your confirmation. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King. Senator
18 Tuberville, please.

19 Senator Tuberville: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks
20 to both of you for being here today. Good to meet with you
21 in my office, and congratulations, and welcome to your
22 families. General Guillot, several conversations with
23 General VanHerck over the last few years. He talked about
24 NORTHCOM's need for more assigned troops.

25 And I know you are coming from another Command, but

1 have you had conversations with him about your possible
2 move to the Commander of that -- of NORTHCOM?

3 General Guillot: Senator, I haven't talked with him
4 directly about that. But in the function of my current
5 job, I am in several video teleconferences with General
6 VanHerck and other leaders where the topic you mentioned is
7 discussed.

8 Senator Tuberville: Yes, I would hope you would get
9 back with me on that, once you are assigned to that, and
10 let us know what we need to do to help. As you have heard
11 today, a lot of questions have been about certain things
12 that is killing our people in this country and not
13 overseas.

14 So, thank you for that. General Whiting, I am not
15 going to make a long dissertation about this, but of
16 course, Space Command is very new. And we in Alabama, in
17 Huntsville were excited about Space Command being assigned
18 to Huntsville in Redstone Arsenal, after 21 different
19 criteria.

20 A lot of things were going through and with a fine
21 tooth comb and we were excited about that. But, you know,
22 unfortunately politics has got involved, and that is not
23 you, but, you know, for a few months now, I have heard
24 nothing but -- because of some things that I am involved
25 in, about readiness of our military. It has been three

1 years and we do not have a permanent home yet for Space
2 Command.

3 And it is a shame that we have gotten into politics.
4 And of course, things move slow up here. But even for
5 Washington, it is very slow for this to have happen, to us
6 have a permanent home for Space Command.

7 So hopefully we get that done in the near future. But
8 I would like to ask you a couple of questions. How is
9 Space Command doing in regard to this workforce? I know
10 you have been there for a while, and what do we need to do
11 to improve because it is very new to our country and for
12 the world.

13 General Whiting: Thank you, Senator. I appreciate
14 you highlighting our workforce, because despite the
15 incredible space capabilities and satellites we bring and
16 our rockets, it is our people that are our most critical
17 asset.

18 And we have to ensure as a Nation that we have
19 military and civilian who want to join our space
20 enterprise, National Security space enterprise and are
21 willing to be a part of that. So, I think it is important
22 that we invest in those STEM activities that inspire our
23 young men and women to join into space.

24 And then I think we have a unique opportunity, given
25 all the great things that commercial industry and NASA are

1 doing right now, to leverage that excitement to bring these
2 young men and women into our organizations.

3 Senator Tuberville: How big a role does cyber play in
4 SPACECOM, and what are we doing to make sure that we have
5 enough -- one of my sons is in cyber and, but it is very
6 new, and it is very complicated. What are we doing to make
7 sure we have enough people to be involved in what we do in
8 Space Command through cyber?

9 General Whiting: Senator, I like to say that the soft
10 underbelly of our space capabilities is cyber, because our
11 networks, our space networks truly are global in nature,
12 but they also reach out to 22,000 miles above the Earth's
13 surface to geosynchronous orbit.

14 And that creates a lot of novel cyber-attacks surface.
15 And so, while potential adversaries like Russia and China
16 could attack us in the space domain directly, they would
17 rather attack us in the cyber domain because it is cheaper
18 for them, and it is harder for us to attribute.

19 So, we must work -- if confirmed, I must work with the
20 services, and in particular U.S. Space Force, to execute
21 the excellent plan they have laid in place to pivot
22 hundreds of Guardians into the cyber defense workforce to
23 defend our space capabilities from cyber-attack.

24 Senator Tuberville: Have we done any studies to where
25 we stand with other countries, even our allies, in terms of

1 cyber, the education part? You know, where do we stand?
2 Are we good, bad, indifferent?

3 General Whiting: Senator, I believe the United States
4 is at the absolute forefront of cyber capability. And if
5 confirmed, I would look to work with U.S. Cyber Command on
6 ensuring that we are leveraging all of that partnership
7 work they do with others to best defend U.S. Space Command
8 in the cyber domain.

9 Senator Tuberville: One last question, what is our
10 top threat in space theater right now? What would be your
11 thoughts?

12 General Whiting: Senator, our top threat is the
13 growing Chinese counterspace capabilities, both from
14 reversible threats like jamming, all the way up to the
15 direct ascent ASATs and laser capabilities we have seen
16 them testing.

17 Senator Tuberville: Thank you. Thank you, and good
18 luck to both of you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Tuberville.
20 Senator Kelly, please.

21 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator
22 Tuberville had some good questions for the two Generals.
23 Let me point out, though, that, you know, both General
24 Whiting and General Guillot said, if confirmed, a number of
25 times in your testimony.

1 And the roles that you are going into are so critical
2 for our national defense. But the, if confirmed, is
3 certainly in question because of Senator Tuberville's holds
4 on these promotions and these positions that I imagine
5 would still be in place.

6 So, I think that is important to note here. General
7 Guillot, welcome. And General Whiting, welcome to the
8 hearing here. General Guillot, I believe you grew up in
9 Tucson -- or Tucson, Arizona, where Gabby and I live, and
10 we talked about that in my office a couple of weeks ago.

11 Like, you know, Senator King and many others on this
12 committee, I am very concerned about transnational criminal
13 organizations and the flow of drugs across the Southern
14 border, fentanyl poisoning our communities.

15 Senator King asked about this, but I want to just get
16 down to some resources you think you may need in your new
17 position here. Do you anticipate needing more staffing,
18 more authority, more funding?

19 General Guillot: Senator, I agree on the severity of
20 the threat and the need for us to use any means available
21 to stop that threat from coming across our border.

22 If I am confirmed, and when I go down to the Southwest
23 border, and everywhere from California all the way to
24 Texas, and look at each site, things that I will be looking
25 for not only are what are we doing today, but what could we

1 be doing in terms of ISR, the types of forces that we are
2 using in supporting the lead law enforcement agency.

3 And then if I see anything in terms of numbers,
4 authorities, anything along those lines or types of help,
5 that is what I will report back to the Secretary of
6 Defense.

7 Senator Kelly: All right. Thank you. And General,
8 also, you know, related to ISR, sort of, domain awareness,
9 Senator Budd and I introduced legislation called the SOAR
10 Act. We hope to move this in the FAA reauthorization bill.

11 This is bipartisan legislation that will ensure that
12 these high altitude balloons that are released, you know,
13 rather frequently for scientific purposes and other
14 purposes have transponders so they can be tracked and
15 identified.

16 And it will take a little bit of the workload off of
17 NORTHCOM. But it will also allow you to act more quickly
18 to identify any activity that could be a threat, if it
19 doesn't have a transponder on it. What could you, as the
20 Commander of NORTHCOM, what would you do to further improve
21 domain awareness over the NORTHCOM area of operations?

22 General Guillot: Senator, the first and I think most
23 important step to improving domain awareness would be to
24 ensure that we have the types of radars in the locations
25 needed to cover all the avenues of approach that are now

1 vulnerable to the homeland, and to ensure that the systems
2 are the types that can detect the new and emerging threats
3 that our competitors are building, higher speed, all
4 altitude, maneuvering, low radar cross-section types of
5 threats that we can build into a network.

6 And the next important step, Senator, would be to
7 bring all of those back to our Command center on a single
8 pane of glass that we can not only look at in NORTHCOM
9 headquarters, but share with all the other combatant
10 Commands like EUCOM and INDOPACOM, so it is a seamless
11 picture of the threats that we face across all combatant
12 Commands.

13 Senator Kelly: All right, thank you. And just one
14 comment about the SPACECOM headquarters. So, you know, it
15 is imperative that we get a decision on where SPACECOM is
16 going to be located. I mean, this has gone on too long.

17 These decisions impact our members, their families,
18 local communities. It impacts the mission and the National
19 Security of the United States. So, we can't -- we
20 shouldn't let indecision, bureaucracy, and politics impact
21 our National Security like this.

22 So, especially on a mission set that is as critical as
23 managing the space domain that underpins our defense, and
24 an area where our adversaries are investing heavily in.
25 So, you know, my hope is that we get a resolution on where

1 SPACECOM is going to be headquartered. Thank you.

2 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Senator Scott.

3 Senator Scott: Thank you. First one, I want to thank
4 both of you for being here. Congratulations on your
5 nominations. Thank you for your service. And I want to
6 thank your families for what they do.

7 I am sure you guys have moved a lot. Hopefully spent
8 a lot of time in Florida. Communist China, Russia, North
9 Korea, Iran, and other terrorist groups want to harm the
10 United States at any cost and in any way they can.

11 They all possess ballistic missiles and will do
12 anything they can to harm us and our national interests
13 here in the homeland and in space. I know you are both
14 focused on deterring these threats, and if they are -- and
15 if they ever try to attack us here at home, to feed
16 whatever they throw our way, I look forward to hearing
17 about how you are going to continue to make sure we stay
18 safe.

19 As our strategic focus shifts from the threat of
20 terrorist to threats from adversarial nations like
21 Communist China and Russia, NORTHCOM will still have to
22 defend the homeland from both.

23 I would characterize our reaction to the Chinese spy
24 balloon incident as pretty bad -- terrible. What have you
25 learned from that and how we handle the next spy balloon

1 when you are the Commander?

2 General Guillot: Senator, I was not personally
3 familiar with all the factors that went into the first
4 decision. But what I can tell you that if confirmed, air
5 sovereignty will be the cornerstone of the NORAD and
6 NORTHCOM mission.

7 And if confirmed, I will aggressively execute all the
8 authorities and the are we associated with maintaining air
9 sovereignty of the U.S. That goes to early detection.

10 Making decisions that are within my authority, and
11 then quickly passing all of the valuable information and
12 options to my senior leadership, if it is something that is
13 beyond my authority.

14 Senator Scott: Thank you. From a strategic and
15 resourcing standpoint, how is the feed the homeland from
16 terrorists and defending from adversary nations different?

17 General Guillot: Sir, Senator, they certainly
18 overlap. Deterring from terrorist threats that are
19 originating overseas. Other combatant Commands, like the
20 one that I am presently proud to work in, Central Command,
21 in cooperation with Southern -- Special Operations Command,
22 are doing a lot of work to keep the terrorists as an away
23 game.

24 But as we start to develop indications that they could
25 be working towards the U.S., then it transitions to a

1 strong partnership from NORAD and NORTHCOM, with the law
2 enforcement agencies that would be responsible, along with
3 the Department of Homeland Security, to building that
4 barrier from them actually entering the United States.

5 Senator Scott: Thank you. What additional
6 authorities or resources do you anticipate needing to
7 defend our homeland?

8 General Guillot: Senator at this time, I do not know
9 of any, but I pledge to the committee that if I am
10 confirmed within 90 days, I will have completed a full
11 assessment of all the people, the mission and the
12 resourcing, to include authorities associated with NORAD
13 and NORTHCOM. And I will make it very clear in that
14 assessment if there are any authorities that I need.

15 Senator Scott: Thank you. In October 2018, the
16 Department of Defense deployed 5,200 troops to the Southern
17 border in response to migrant caravans. Currently, the
18 Biden Administration has authorized a maximum of 2,500
19 troops in the Southwest border to support operations.

20 The past year -- has continued to witness a surge in
21 migrant encounters, has made -- there is about, you know,
22 1.5 million getaways, some of them possibly terrorists.
23 Would you first off, agree there is a crisis at the border?

24 Would you assess that there is a drug smuggling
25 emergency at the Southern border? What role do you

1 anticipate NORTHCOM playing in addressing this emergency?

2 General Guillot: Senator, I think border security is
3 National Security, and that would be the number one
4 priority for me, if I am confirmed as the Commander of
5 NORAD and NORTHCOM. As for the drugs and the efforts of
6 the transnational criminal organizations, that is a problem
7 that is acute.

8 It is significant and it is extremely serious, and it
9 falls into the same responsibility that I just mentioned.

10 Senator Scott: Thank you. General Whiting,
11 congratulations. You have a base named after you in
12 Florida already. You have done really well. Do you
13 believe that delaying the Space Command headquarters
14 decision has affected readiness?

15 General Whiting: Senator, that decision needs to be
16 made so that we can decide where that is going to go and
17 place it. I think until now, that headquarters has been
18 maturing from what I have seen, but a decision is needed.

19 Senator Scott: So, what are the biggest challenges
20 SPACECOM is facing in addressing threats in space over the
21 next two years? And how do you plan to address them? And
22 have you spent any time thinking about what happens when we
23 -- when they start, you know, whatever adversary starts
24 shooting up satellites and we get all the debris going
25 there -- and how it is going to impact our communication?

1 General Whiting: Senator, the answer to those two
2 questions are related. The number one thing we need to
3 continue to build out is our space domain awareness
4 capability. We have the best in the world and the world
5 looks to us, but we have to continue to improve that to
6 maintain custody of the threats we now see.

7 And, Senator, we want to avoid a future in which we do
8 see that proliferation of debris because of anti-satellite
9 capabilities. But if that were to happen, it would be our
10 responsibility to quickly track that debris cloud and make
11 sure we are providing warning to those individuals, units,
12 companies that own those satellites so that we can mitigate
13 that debris.

14 But we do not want to see that happen, which is why we
15 must deter that from happening.

16 Senator Scott: Thank you.

17 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Senator Scott. Senator
18 Gillibrand.

19 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.
20 General Guillot, General VanHerck has stated that our
21 country is under attack every single day in the information
22 and cyber domain. Our critical infrastructure providers on
23 which we rely to execute NORTHCOM's mission are key targets
24 for threat actors.

25 How do you envision coordinating with both DHS and

1 CISA to protect our critical infrastructure? Can I have
2 your commitment to directly collaborate with them and other
3 sector management agencies in order to protect critical
4 infrastructure, ensure you can execute your mission, and
5 will you report back to this committee if you encounter
6 issues in that effort?

7 General Guillot: Yes, Senator, you have my commitment
8 not only to work in the manner that you described, but also
9 to report back.

10 Senator Gillibrand: And do you have any ideas about
11 what -- how you will implement that coordination?

12 General Guillot: Senator, I would like to first get
13 to know all the counterparts. As you mentioned, there are
14 several that have overlapping responsibility for protecting
15 defense critical infrastructure.

16 I would work very closely with Cyber Command
17 Commander, if I am confirmed, as well as Department of
18 Homeland Security, FBI, and a number of others. But more
19 than just meeting them and talking to them, I would like to
20 propose with them a series of high level, tabletop
21 exercises that really push and pull at the seams of where
22 one's authorities may start and another agency's may stop,
23 because there is a lot of gray area in critical
24 infrastructure.

25 If it is owned and operated by DOD, if it has heavy

1 DOD influence, and our mission. And I think that we need
2 to have a strong -- exercises and discussions that are
3 really going to pull those seams to ensure that they can
4 hold during a crisis.

5 Senator Gillibrand: I would urge you to do those
6 tabletop exercises. We do tabletop exercises with regard
7 to China, with regard to Taiwan, but the scenario of the
8 first three months of that is almost all cyber.

9 And so, I want to know what you are going to do every
10 day during that first three months, because it is not
11 kinetic activity that you are going to be managing. It is
12 going to be how do we make sure we can do the work we need
13 to do if things escalate. So, it is really important.

14 General Guillot: I agree.

15 Senator Gillibrand: I am grateful that you are
16 focused on that. We have talked in the hearing about
17 domain awareness.

18 One of our biggest challenges in domain awareness is
19 the space between commercial airspace and space. And we
20 saw that with the Chinese spy balloon. So, I think having
21 domain awareness and focusing on how you are going to
22 increase your domain awareness so that our pilots can
23 operate safely, so that we understand if we are being spied
24 upon by adversaries, is essential.

25 And in that regard, can I have your commitment to

1 collaborate with Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick and the all Domain
2 Anomaly Resolution Office to ensure that they have what
3 they need to identify and resolve reports of UAPs in U.S.
4 airspace?

5 General Guillot: Senator, you have my commitment. I
6 read a little about AARO. I know that General VanHerck is
7 consulting with him, and I look forward to the opportunity.

8 Senator Gillibrand: And undersea domain awareness is
9 also critical for our national defense. Recent public
10 reporting indicates that the Russian Navy is repainting its
11 ships to confuse or fool tracking systems that rely on
12 artificial intelligence. If confirmed, will you help this
13 committee understand the complexity of ongoing threats and
14 the ways that developing technology can help or hinder our
15 defense systems?

16 General Guillot: Yes, Senator, you have my
17 commitment.

18 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. General Whiting, the
19 PLA's, "lectures on the science of space operations," its
20 authors describe an overawing space strike that includes
21 both a soft strike option focused on information attacks,
22 EM spectrum operations, cyber-attacks, and hard strike
23 options that involve strikes against vulnerable enemy
24 positions.

25 From your perspective, what are the miscalculation

1 risks when a country's space studies documents include the
2 execution of offensive strikes as part of their deterrence
3 options, and how does this impact your thinking about the
4 resiliency of the systems that would be under your Command?

5 General Whiting: Senator, thank you for that
6 question. Of course, when we see those kinds of writings,
7 we have to take them at their word that that is potentially
8 within their plans. And so, deterrence is built upon a
9 framework of, number one, we must have capabilities that
10 deny potential adversaries the benefits of such an attack.

11 Secondly, we must have capabilities that allow us to
12 impose costs in response to such an attack. And then
13 finally, that we have to clearly communicate that. So, I
14 support the effort of the Space Force to re-architect our
15 current satellite constellations to be more resilient
16 against those attacks.

17 But we also need those range of options so that we can
18 bring intel, cyber, offense, defense, Command and control,
19 joint fires together to also hold at risk those space
20 capabilities of potential adversaries.

21 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. Last month, SPACECOM
22 announced its authority to conduct missile defense led to
23 some confusion about NORTHCOM, STRATCOM, and SPACECOM's
24 different but related responsibilities to conduct homeland
25 missile defense.

1 If confirmed, will -- you will be responsible for
2 operating the missile warning satellites, while General
3 Guillot will be responsible for warning America's leaders
4 in the event of a missile threat. Can you commit to work
5 to ensure that SPACECOM's and NORAD's systems will be
6 integrated and that you will work closely together to
7 protect National Security?

8 General Whiting: Yes, Senator, I commit to that.

9 General Guillot: Yes, Senator.

10 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. Thank you, Madam
11 Chairwoman.

12 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Senator Gillibrand.
13 Senator Cramer.

14 Senator Cramer: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
15 Congratulations to both of you, Generals, and your
16 families. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your
17 willingness to step in the gap and into these very
18 important positions.

19 Since we have been talking a lot about domain
20 awareness, I am going to just stay with the theme, but
21 maybe get a little bit specific. My first question is one
22 that I didn't come in here anticipating, but I think is
23 relevant, and probably start with you, General Whiting.

24 Over the last several years, we have had a lot of
25 discussion and obviously noticed that the Air Force has

1 been shedding quite successfully a lot of its legacy ISR,
2 airborne ISR missions and equipment to afford new stuff.
3 Makes perfect sense.

4 My concern has been that while they live with and plan
5 for the promise of space being able to handle ISR for the
6 Combatant Commanders wherever they may be, whether it is
7 the Southern border or CENTCOM, you name it, that a gap
8 could very well occur where there won't be adequate ISR.

9 Presuming for a moment that space can do that at some
10 point, what is your comfort level that space can
11 unilaterally handle that type of ISR that today Global
12 Hawks and others, the MQ-9 and others are able to provide?

13 General Whiting: Yes, Senator, thank you for that
14 question. Space -- I start from space brings us untold
15 advantages. For example, satellites as they orbit the
16 earth, don't go through sovereign airspace.

17 We can freely overfly any point of the Earth and get
18 those -- you know, get that intelligence that we need. I
19 think it is a layered need for systems as we move forward.
20 There will be need for ground based ISR capabilities, sea
21 based, air based, and space based.

22 But I am supportive of doing the reviews to move as
23 much to space as we can, while leveraging the unique
24 attributes that the other domains can bring as well.

25 Senator Cramer: Very good. Thank you. Since you

1 brought up layers, I am going to ask about the Space
2 Development Agency's, you know, tracking layer program that
3 is going to be operated out of the Grand Forks Air Force
4 Base.

5 First of all, are both of you familiar with it, and
6 how do you see -- I will start with you, General Guillot,
7 NORTHCOM, NORAD integrating SDA into your awareness?

8 General Guillot: Senator, as you alluded to, domain
9 awareness, certainly in the sensing grid, takes a variety
10 of sensors. I look forward to bringing those in, that
11 capability, as well as the space based, long term
12 persistence that General Whiting mentioned for space, to
13 complement the other terrestrial systems that we are using
14 now or bringing online here in the near future.

15 Senator Cramer: So, bringing up one more legacy
16 domain awareness that I am familiar with -- of course, we
17 are very pleased with the legacy of the PARCS radar at the
18 Cavalier Air Force, or Space Force Station now.

19 I will look forward to having you up there sometime
20 after your confirmed, which I am confident will be soon.
21 But maybe each of you could share a little bit about the
22 importance of that PARCS radar over the years and decades.

23 And of course, it has expanded its role from missile
24 defense, or missile awareness to space obviously, just
25 monitoring large stuff in space. But that is one of those

1 legacy systems that we don't know the lifespan of.

2 What are the modernization opportunities, efforts. I
3 would just be interested in both of your opinions on PARCS
4 and its importance, and how we can extend it.

5 General Guillot: Senator, PARCS at Cavalier is an
6 essential part of the NORAD sensing grid that we have been
7 talking about, and specifically it provides the integrated
8 tactical warning and attack assessment capability for the
9 NORAD Commander to use to decide if a threat is a threat to
10 North America.

11 So, upgrading that radar and several just like it that
12 we have across the network is extremely important to
13 complement the new systems that are coming in to make sure
14 that that sensing grid can reach out and get all types of
15 threats, in all domains Generally.

16 Senator Cramer: General Whiting.

17 General Whiting: Senator, just building on that, I
18 have had the good fortune to visit Cavalier multiple times
19 over my career. I was just there last September, and
20 General Guillot mentioned, it is vital to our missile
21 warning capabilities.

22 But as you alluded to, it is also vital to our space
23 domain awareness capabilities. Its unique position
24 pointing North allows it to see all of our polar orbiting
25 or all polar orbiting objects.

1 And so, it is just absolutely critical for us, given
2 its unique location and capabilities. And I expect we will
3 continue to need that going forward.

4 Senator Cramer: Well, thank you to both of you. And
5 I am not going to test you the way that Senator Sullivan
6 did, but we do think there are some other states that could
7 be important to an Arctic mission as well. But we are all
8 for Alaska, too. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair -- Madam
9 Chair.

10 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Senator Cramer. Senator
11 Blumenthal.

12 Senator Blumenthal: Thanks, Madam Chair. Thank you
13 to you both for your service, and to your families as well.
14 You are both graduates of the Air Force Academy, both class
15 of 1989. You must have been an outstanding class. You
16 must have known each other there, correct?

17 General Guillot: Known each other a long time. Yes,
18 sir.

19 Senator Blumenthal: You have known each other since
20 then and worked together, so congratulations to you both.

21 I want to talk a little bit about artificial
22 intelligence. I am learning about the immense and in many
23 ways uncertain, unknown capabilities of AI in so many
24 different areas, whether it is medicine or environmental
25 concerns, talking about the military, particularly in

1 space.

2 I wonder if each of you could share your thoughts
3 about how you think AI will impact the challenges and work
4 ahead for each of you.

5 General Guillot: Senator, from a NORAD and NORTHCOM
6 position, if I am confirmed, I look forward to using
7 artificial intelligence to make what we do really well now,
8 even better, maybe even easier, and certainly faster.

9 I have seen in my current Command under some of the
10 initiatives that General Kurilla has undertaken, where we
11 take a situational awareness of software, but using
12 artificial intelligence that can help us find equipment,
13 pieces, targets that the naked eye would take a long time
14 to find, cue us in, and then with the combination of a
15 human on top of the loop, very quickly make an assessment
16 if there is a target there.

17 The speed with which that improves our ability is just
18 phenomenal. Applying another artificial intelligence and
19 machine learning capability to the NORAD, NORTHCOM realm
20 that, if confirmed, I would like to see is a program called
21 Pathfinder, which takes radar data that is considered
22 cluttered, that our radars see and throws aside so it
23 doesn't confuse the operator, it can -- those machine
24 learning and artificial intelligence can go through there
25 and find valid tracks that we might otherwise be

1 overlooking that could be a threat to our homeland.

2 We have used, with NORAD and NORTHCOM's permission, we
3 have used those algorithms in the Middle East and run some
4 of the one way attack that we have had in Iraq and Syria,
5 taken our radar files, run it through that algorithm, and
6 we have been able to see the UAVs that attacked our
7 positions that we couldn't see real time.

8 So that is a couple of examples of ways that I would
9 like to use artificial intelligence and machine learning to
10 enhance the NORAD, NORTHCOM mission, if I am confirmed.

11 General Whiting: Senator, similarly, we have missions
12 that are very data rich. For example, our space domain
13 awareness. We get tens upon tens of thousands of data
14 points and tracks and observations per day.

15 And today it takes our humans kind of slogging through
16 all of that to find what is most important, where the
17 threats, how do we maintain custody.

18 But artificial intelligence and machine learning can
19 help do that for us so we can stop the humans doing the
20 rote work and elevate them to the more higher cognitive
21 work, to focus on those threats and what should we be doing
22 about them.

23 So, it is an important capability for us, Senator.

24 Senator Blumenthal: The work that you have described
25 is in very simplistic layman's terms, screening of

1 information, and in effect, organizing it, making use of,
2 as you say, reams of data.

3 Do you anticipate at some point turning decisions over
4 to artificial intelligence? In other words, there has been
5 discussion about how decision making by artificial
6 intelligence could be made autonomous. That machine
7 learning could be in control more than it is now.

8 General Guillot: Senator, I will certainly look at
9 that in the future, but at this time I do not see a place
10 where we would take the human off the loop of an important
11 decision. I think it is much better to use those tools to
12 help us with our decision making and keep the human on a
13 loop.

14 Senator Blumenthal: I agree. General.

15 General Whiting: Senator, I agree with that as well,
16 that right now our people are still vital for our decision
17 making and we want to make sure that any decisions we do
18 contemplate perhaps looking at machines to make -- that
19 that is all done in concert with the Department of
20 Defense's ethical AI guidelines.

21 Senator Blumenthal: I think that AI is going to
22 revolutionize a lot of what we do in civilian life.
23 Likewise, in military work. And I do think at the same
24 time, it is important to have controls, countermeasures,
25 and ethical standards that apply.

1 And that is why I actually propose an independent
2 entity or body that would establish some rules and
3 guardrails. It is a bipartisan effort, and I hope that the
4 military leaders like yourself will be a part of it. Thank
5 you so much.

6 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Senator Blumenthal.
7 Senator Rounds.

8 Senator Rounds: Thank you, Madam Chair. General
9 Guillot, first of all, I want to thank you for your service
10 to this Nation and congratulate you on your nomination to
11 be the next Commander of NORTHCOM and NORAD.

12 And General Whiting, I would also like to thank you
13 for your service to our Nation and congratulate you on your
14 nomination to be the next Commander of SPACECOM. I would
15 also like to say thank you to your families as well.

16 As you noted, when you have to move, the family moves
17 with you, or when you are deployed and they are not with
18 you, that is a sacrifice which they also make, and I would
19 like to thank your families as well for their service to
20 our country.

21 General Guillot and General Whiting, as you know, I
22 have asked every single Combatant Commander this question
23 with regard to the spectrum. There has been an attempt
24 lately to perhaps sell or auction portions of the S-band,
25 the 3.1 to 3.45 gigahertz portion of the spectrum, which is

1 one which I believe to be critical for our national
2 defense.

3 But I have asked this, and so far I have had no one
4 disagree with me that has been in front of this committee.
5 But I am going to ask both of you, please, how serious is
6 the need for us to be able to maintain control of the 3.1
7 to 3.45 gigahertz portion of the spectrum? And how do you
8 view that in your job?

9 And are you aware of the different types of uses for
10 that portion of the spectrum in the defense of our country?
11 And I will begin with General Guillot.

12 General Guillot: Senator, I am keenly aware of the
13 impact that losing or sharing the 3.1 to 3.45 gigahertz
14 range of the spectrum would bring to the homeland defense
15 mission.

16 For example, three of the key capabilities that, if
17 confirmed, I would rely upon for homeland defense, AWACS,
18 the AEGIS cruisers, and the new long range discrimination
19 radar, which is critical to defeating the North Korean
20 ballistic missile threat, all operate in that range.

21 While I understand that there is a study ongoing, and
22 I look forward to seeing the results of that study, and at
23 that time, I will make my final recommendations.

24 My initial position is that it would have a very
25 significant and damaging effect on homeland defense to

1 either lose or have to share that range.

2 Senator Rounds: Thank you. General Whiting.

3 General Whiting: Sir, I completely agree with General
4 Guillot that if the study comes back and says that there
5 will be an impact, we absolutely cannot have a loss of
6 operational capability and we need to make sure that that
7 doesn't happen.

8 Senator Rounds: Are you aware -- if our adversaries
9 could choose a portion of the spectrum that would impact
10 our national defense, would this be one of those areas that
11 they would love to see us have a reduction in our
12 capabilities in terms of their ability to find ways to
13 aggressively get into the North American air defense area?

14 General Guillot: Senator, our adversaries are very
15 good at knowing what parts of the spectrum we rely upon and
16 trying to take that away from us, so it would not surprise
17 me at all.

18 Senator Rounds: General Whiting.

19 General Whiting: Sir, I agree with that.

20 Senator Rounds: Thank you. Let me ask also, just
21 with regard to cyber and the need for cyber protection,
22 what do you think is the greatest threat that you see with
23 regard to NORTHCOM and the use of cyber activity or the
24 aggressive cyber activities that some of our adversaries
25 are using right now?

1 General Guillot: Senator, I think the threat, the
2 cyber threat to NORTHCOM is the most present and persistent
3 threat that we see today.

4 I have spoken about the totality of the threats in all
5 domains and all avenues of approach, which is certainly the
6 largest concern that I have, if I were to take Command of
7 NORAD and NORTHCOM upon confirmation. However, the threat
8 that we see today and the most persistent is in cyber.

9 Senator Rounds: Thank you. General Whiting, same
10 question.

11 General Whiting: Yes, sir. For the Space enterprise,
12 Senator, the most pressing cyber threats come from state
13 -- you know, competitors like the PRC, Russia, Iran, North
14 Korea.

15 They would rather take us on in the cyber domain than
16 try to take us on physically in the space domain, although
17 certainly the PRC and Russia have proven they can do that,
18 because it is cheaper for them, and it is harder for us to
19 attribute.

20 So, we must build out our cyber defenses across our
21 space enterprise to protect that soft underbelly from
22 allowing cyber to deny that capability.

23 Senator Rounds: Thank you. Thank you both for your
24 service, and we look forward to working with you in the
25 future. Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Senator Rounds. Senator
2 Schmitt.

3 Senator Schmitt: Thank you, Madam Chair. General
4 Whiting, in speaking in support of DEI initiatives, General
5 Brown said that "there is still a lot to do because this is
6 a cultural shift. This isn't something you can get done in
7 just a couple of years." Do you believe that General Brown
8 should be relieved of his Command because of those
9 statements?

10 General Whiting: Senator, no, I do not.

11 Senator Schmitt: General Milley, in speaking in
12 support of DEI initiative, said, "it is diversity to
13 improve the system, improve the military, improve our
14 problem solving capabilities, and improve our war fighting
15 readiness in order to protect and defend the Constitution.

16 And that is why it is so important, so fundamental,
17 that we have this as one of our elements as we move forward
18 to continue to develop the Joint Force." Do you believe
19 General Milley should be relieved of his Command?

20 General Whiting: Senator, no, I do not.

21 Senator Schmitt: Do you believe that that is a
22 partisan -- do you believe that is partisan political
23 speech?

24 General Whiting: Senator, no, I do not.

25 Senator Schmitt: Okay. Lieutenant Colonel Lohmeier

1 said our DEI industry and trainings we are receiving in the
2 military via the industry are rooted in critical race
3 theory, which is rooted in Marxism. He was relieved of his
4 Command for those statements, correct?

5 General Whiting: Senator, that is correct.

6 Senator Schmitt: By you, right?

7 General Whiting: Senator, there were other comments
8 regarding specific political parties that are in addition
9 to what you just quoted.

10 Senator Schmitt: Okay, this was from the podcast
11 which was cited by you. So, I am asking, is opposition to
12 DEI partisan political speech?

13 General Whiting: Senator, no, it is not, unless it
14 advocates for a specific political party or a candidate.

15 Senator Schmitt: Okay. Well, I would agree with
16 that, but Lieutenant -- so your testimony today is
17 Lieutenant Colonel Lohmeier was relieved for something
18 other than these statements on the podcast, or was that
19 part of your consideration?

20 General Whiting: Senator, it involved a specific
21 quote involving a specific political party.

22 Senator Schmitt: Okay. In his free time or on duty,
23 or what --

24 General Whiting: It was on a podcast where he
25 associated himself or he identified himself as an active

1 duty Space Force officer and Commander.

2 Senator Schmitt: Okay. On that -- so there were
3 other comments that, other than this one I read to you
4 about DEI --

5 General Whiting: Senator, I think that podcast was
6 about an hour long.

7 Senator Schmitt: Okay. Well, we will follow up with
8 some of our questions. I guess I want to ask you, do you
9 support DEI initiatives in the military?

10 General Whiting: Senator, I support a ready, lethal
11 force that draws from the best talent all across America.

12 Senator Schmitt: That is not my question. I support
13 that, too. But that is not what DEI is. DEI is rooted in
14 cultural Marxism. So, I am asking you, do you support DEI
15 initiatives in the military?

16 General Whiting: Senator, I support a merit based
17 approach to finding the best people across --

18 Senator Schmitt: That is not DEI either. So, do you
19 support DEI initiatives in the military?

20 General Whiting: Senator, based on how it is defined,
21 I want to find the best people across -- anywhere in this
22 country, geographically or any demographic, who can support
23 the defense of this --

24 Senator Schmitt: Do you believe that our brave
25 military men and women should be pitted against one another

1 based solely on their race?

2 General Whiting: No, sir, I do not.

3 Senator Schmitt: Do you believe, or do you accept the
4 proposition that General Brown, in his August 2022 memo,
5 that we should have racial quotas with officer class?

6 General Whiting: Senator, I am not aware that General
7 Brown has said that.

8 Senator Schmitt: Okay, if General Brown said that we
9 should have a reduction in the number of white officers
10 serving to 67 percent of officers down from whatever, I
11 think it is a total of 5,400 officers, do you support that?

12 General Whiting: Senator, I support that promotion
13 should be based on merit.

14 Senator Schmitt: Okay. So, you don't support the
15 idea that we would have racial quotas for the officer
16 class?

17 General Whiting: That is correct, Senator.

18 Senator Schmitt: Okay. I do want to ask you also,
19 what role do you think DEI -- what is your experience?
20 What -- firsthand for you, what have you in these
21 trainings, what have you seen? What have been the
22 trainings that have taken place? I am not talking about
23 reaching for the best and the brightest. I want to
24 understand, because we have a military recruitment problem,
25 right.

1 And so, the issue, I think, is if people view, and
2 this is coming from the Department of Defense and it has
3 been widely talked about in this committee, if people view
4 that politics is being infused in our military, do you
5 think that that would hurt recruitment?

6 General Whiting: Sir, I do. And I think the military
7 must be rigorously apolitical and nonpartisan.

8 Senator Schmitt: All right. Do think infusing
9 abortion politics into our military hurts our recruiting?

10 General Whiting: Sir, we in the military should not
11 be partisan or political.

12 Senator Schmitt: Okay. Do you think infusing COVID
13 politics into our military hurts our recruiting? Meaning,
14 do you think that people should have been fired for not
15 getting the vaccine?

16 General Whiting: Sir, we were required to uphold a
17 legal order.

18 Senator Schmitt: Okay. Do you think we should
19 actively recruit those 8,500 people who were fired for not
20 getting the vaccine?

21 General Whiting: Sir, I would like to see those
22 individuals who can come back, apply to come back. Yes,
23 sir.

24 Senator Schmitt: You think we should recruit them to
25 come back?

1 General Whiting: Yes, sir.

2 Senator Schmitt: Okay. And then do you believe that
3 the -- are you familiar with the August memo of 2022 from
4 General Brown?

5 General Whiting: I am not, sir.

6 Senator Schmitt: Okay, we will -- then some follow up
7 questions, ask you your points of view on that.

8 General Whiting: Thank you, Senator.

9 Senator Schmitt: Thank you.

10 Senator Shaheen: Senator Mullin.

11 Senator Mullin: Thank you. For those that are here
12 and thank you for the family that has come along and
13 supported -- supported these two Generals here along the
14 way. It is a family affair, and I said this multiple times
15 that, you know, no one can do their job at their best
16 ability if things at home are rocky.

17 And so those that are home, that is building that
18 solid foundation for these Generals and others that are
19 serving to be at their best. And I want to thank you for
20 that and thank you for the time that you have packed the
21 houses, moved, and still held the family together. It is a
22 sacrifice for the entire family, and from the deepest part
23 of my heart, I want to tell you thank you so much for that.
24 I am going to be pretty quick here just because we are
25 running every which way direction right now.

1 So, I have just got questions for Guillot. General,
2 as you know, obviously, you have spent time at Tinker,
3 which we appreciate that. It is obviously something I am
4 very proud to build, to represent. I would like to ask
5 your best military advice on issues you know from your time
6 at Tinker Air Force Base and your long career in the air
7 battle management.

8 The Air Force is in the process of divesting in the E-
9 3 fleet and switching to the E-7. The timeline as it
10 stands now has us totally divesting the E-3 by Fiscal Year
11 2029. And at that time, I believe we are only going to
12 have five E-7 on platforms. Are we concerned about the
13 mission capabilities and the gap that might be taking place
14 at that point?

15 General Guillot: Senator, thanks for mentioning my
16 time at Tinker. I had three assignments there and love the
17 base, the people, and the mission. And the E-3, I have a
18 lot of experience in the E-3 all over the world. Great
19 capability, but it does need to be replaced by the E-7.
20 And I appreciate the Air Force and Congress's help in doing
21 that.

22 The gap that you mentioned is similar to the ballistic
23 missile defense gap that we have talked about. It has to
24 be managed very, very carefully.

25 So if I am confirmed as the Commander of NORAD and

1 NORTHCOM, that is a key system -- not necessarily the E-3,
2 but the airborne early warning capability, whether it is
3 the E-3 or the E-7, would be critical and I would be very
4 vocal about the requirements and to ensure that we don't
5 drop in capability and create a bathtub that would keep us
6 from doing that job before the new system comes on.

7 Senator Mullin: At the current prediction
8 -- prediction -- current rate to which we are going.
9 Sorry, I didn't have my coffee this morning. At the
10 current rate that we are headed right now, we have seen
11 that there will be a gap.

12 And Senator Lankford and myself have an amendment in
13 the NDAA that hopefully is going to be helpful to
14 fulfilling the mission while we are making the transition
15 to the E-7. And I agree, the E-3 is -- had a wonderful
16 shelf life and it has performed this mission well, and we
17 do need to upgrade, especially for the new threats that are
18 facing us.

19 But we want to make sure that we are not, you know,
20 hurting ourselves for National Security purposes on the way
21 out the door. At the same time, we don't want to do
22 something that the Air Force isn't on track with too.

23 You know, a lot of times as legislators, we have great
24 ideas, but it is not practical. We want to make sure the
25 amendment we have is actually practical. And so, I would

1 love for you to follow up.

2 And if you are not familiar with the amendment, take a
3 look at it, because it is moving now. And so, we make sure
4 that we are doing what is mission capable and what you
5 think would be best in line with you too, right.

6 General Guillot: Yes, Senator. I will do that.

7 Senator Mullin: With that, I yield back. Thank you,
8 sir.

9 Senator Kelly: Senator Cotton.

10 Senator Cotton: Gentlemen, congratulations on your
11 nominations and thank you for your lifetime of service.
12 And thanks to your families for your service and support to
13 your missions as well. General Guillot, you believe that
14 as part of -- part of your mission as NORTHCOM Commander is
15 airspace control over the continental United States,
16 correct?

17 General Guillot: Yes, Senator.

18 Senator Cotton: Domestically, there are reports of
19 over 57 drone incursions over nuclear sites since 2015 and
20 at least 510 unidentified aerial objects reports since
21 2004, centered around restricted and sensitive airspace,
22 with around half of those reported in the last two years.
23 How do you view NORTHCOM's role in defense against the
24 threat from such unmanned aerial vehicles?

25 General Guillot: Senator, it is a role, to my

1 understanding, that NORAD and NORTHCOM share with the
2 services that have been delegated authorities around their
3 installations to protect those. And then the NORAD
4 responsibility picks up Generally in the airspace structure
5 above those facilities.

6 Senator Cotton: Okay. I don't want to go into depth
7 rehashing the Chinese balloon incident from earlier this
8 year, but in general, if a malign actor illegally flies an
9 aircraft over American territory with malign intent, do you
10 believe that we should shoot it down?

11 General Guillot: Senator, I absolutely believe we
12 should shoot it down if it has demonstrated hostile act or
13 a hostile intent.

14 Senator Cotton: Okay. Are you aware that there were
15 more than 10,000 violations of our airspace with drone
16 aircraft conducting intelligence operations last year? And
17 given the threat, we have seen that drones pose in Ukraine,
18 increasingly in Russia, how significant are your concerns
19 about those violations of our airspace?

20 General Guillot: Senator, I am very concerned about
21 any airspace violation. Certainly, the unmanned
22 capabilities that you are mentioning bring a new dimension
23 that we haven't had to see in the recent years. And if I
24 am confirmed, that would take a great deal of my attention
25 to address that.

1 Senator Cotton: Good. The vast majority of those
2 incursions were conducted by Mexican cartels in support of
3 drug smuggling activities. In fact, the U.S. Border Patrol
4 chief has said that we don't have operational control of
5 the Southern border.

6 Given how drones are now being used in Ukraine, and in
7 Russia, how do you view the loss of operational control on
8 our Southern border and the failure to establish airspace
9 control as a threat there to our ability to defend our
10 homeland and our people?

11 General Guillot: Senator, I know it sounds trite, but
12 I firmly believe that border security is National Security.
13 And if I am confirmed, the number one priority I would have
14 is to defend the homeland, and certainly border security is
15 at the top of that. So, I would be very concerned about
16 any loss of sovereignty in the airspace or the ground of
17 our borders.

18 Senator Cotton: Good. Thank you for that. According
19 to DHS data, Customs and Border Protection encounter more
20 than 100 Russians attempting to illegally enter the United
21 States every month near just a single location on the US-
22 Mexico border. Russian military intelligence has more
23 officers deployed to Mexico than any other country in the
24 world.

25 The current NORTHCOM Commander has described China and

1 Russia as, "very, very aggressive and active" in NORTHCOM.
2 We have seen what happened with Chinese spy balloon.

3 We know that China is setting up shop in Cuba, which I
4 understand is technically not a part of your area of
5 responsibility, but it is pretty close. In the same way
6 that North Korea and China aren't a part of your area of
7 responsibility, but they project threats into that area.

8 How do you view these actions by Russia and China
9 through our South as a threat to our homeland?

10 General Guillot: Senator, I view the actions you
11 described as a very serious threat and one that, if
12 confirmed, I will watch very closely. As you alluded to,
13 it is not just in the air that NORAD and NORTHCOM protect
14 the homeland, but also through all domains, including the
15 ground.

16 Senator Cotton: Indeed. It is probably the case that
17 Aldrich Ames, for instance, was recruited by Russian
18 intelligence in Mexico City. And we know it is a classic
19 case that Russians -- Russian agents stuck an icepick into
20 Trotsky's head in Mexico.

21 So, again, that threat is genuine and real to the
22 United States. One final question, at least 98 terrorists
23 were caught on the Southern border last year, and that
24 doesn't include any potential got-aways that we don't know
25 about.

1 General Kurilla said last year it was that it was his
2 Commander's estimate that ISIS-K could conduct an external
3 operation against the United States or Western interests
4 abroad in about six months, perhaps with little to no
5 warning.

6 Two years ago, an Iraqi man in the United States
7 hatched a plot to bring ISIS operatives through our
8 Southern border to assassinate former President Bush.

9 Given your experience as the Deputy Commander in the
10 Middle East, can you draw upon that to help secure our
11 Southern border from terrorist attack and ensure it does
12 not become yet a new vector for attack?

13 General Guillot: Senator, if I am confirmed, I
14 absolutely will draw on the experiences from Central
15 Command, cooperation with Special Operations Command, and
16 then new and lasting relationships with law enforcement
17 agencies here in the homeland to ensure that any of the
18 threats that General Kurilla is effectively addressing
19 overseas do not make it to our homeland.

20 Senator Cotton: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for your
21 testimony. General Whiting, I know you are disappointed
22 you didn't get lots of hard questions from me, but maybe
23 next time.

24 General Whiting: Yes, sir. Thank you.

25 Senator Kelly: Well, thank you, General Guillot and

1 General Whiting, and congratulations on both of your
2 nominations. And great to see you and your families here.
3 Hopefully, we can, you know, get you through this process
4 and get you into these important positions.

5 You know, NORTHCOM and NORAD and United States Space
6 Command are so critical to our national defense. So, I
7 look forward to voting for your nomination in committee and
8 then eventually on the floor of the United States Senate.
9 Thank you, and this hearing is adjourned.

10 [Whereupon, at 10:54 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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