

Stenographic Transcript  
Before the

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

## **UNITED STATES SENATE**

HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF GENERAL  
DAVID W. ALLVIN, USAF FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE  
GRADE OF GENERAL AND TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR  
FORCE

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING  
1111 14TH STREET NW  
SUITE 1050  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
(202) 289-2260  
[www.aldersonreporting.com](http://www.aldersonreporting.com)

1 HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF GENERAL DAVID W.  
2 ALLVIN, USAF FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF GENERAL AND  
3 TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE

4  
5 Tuesday, September 12, 2023

6  
7 U.S. Senate

8 Committee on Armed Services

9 Washington, D.C.

10  
11 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:31 a.m. in  
12 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed,  
13 chairman of the committee, presiding.

14 Committee Members Present: Senators Reed [presiding],  
15 Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Warren, Peters,  
16 Rosen, Kelly, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Sullivan,  
17 Cramer, Scott, Tuberville, Budd, and Schmitt.

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

3           Chairman Reed: Good morning.

4           The committee meets today to consider the nomination of  
5 General David Allvin to be the next Chief of Staff of the  
6 United States Air Force.

7           General, congratulations on your nomination and I would  
8 like to thank your wife Gina, and your children Francesca,  
9 Grant and Reagan for their many years of support for your  
10 service.

11          General, you are extremely well qualified to serve as  
12 Chief of Staff of the Air Force. As the current vice chief  
13 you have helped lead the Air Force through a critical period  
14 of modernization and you are well positioned to continue the  
15 service's progress.

16          You bring extensive leadership experience to this role  
17 having served at every level from squadron to wing and  
18 across the globe including in combat. You also have an  
19 important strategic perspective from your experiences on the  
20 Joint Staff.

21          If confirmed, you will lead at a momentous time. Air  
22 power is key to our strategic competition with China and  
23 other adversaries, and the entire joint forces relies on the  
24 capabilities of the Air Force every day.

25          This is a challenging mission, as the service must

1 strike a balance between supporting its global operations  
2 while providing adequate resources to modernize its aircraft  
3 and platforms. To achieve this mission the Air Force has  
4 increased investments in technologies that will help shape  
5 the future battle space.

6 In particular, the Air Force's success will be  
7 determined by its ability to manage and control data. The  
8 development of the Joint All-Domain Command and Control, or  
9 JADC2, program will help detect, analyze, and act on  
10 information quickly using automation, artificial  
11 intelligence, and predictive analysis.

12 For the Air Force specifically the development of the  
13 Air Battle Management Capability, or ABMC, will help the  
14 service transition its ground moving target indication  
15 systems from aircraft platforms to space systems.

16 When fully developed these technologies will help our  
17 forces acquire targets as early as possible and rapidly  
18 deliver information to the best operator on air, land, or  
19 sea.

20 General, I would like to know how you would plan to  
21 continue resourcing and evolving these cutting-edge  
22 technologies.

23 The U.S. Air Force remains the most capable air power  
24 in the world. However, in most recent budget requests the  
25 Air Force requested to retire or realign various elements of

1 the force with a net reduction of, roughly, 214 aircraft in  
2 fiscal year 2024.

3 This would have included reducing or altering the force  
4 structure for various fighter, transport, logistics, ISR,  
5 and training aircraft. Any proposal of this sort deserves  
6 careful consideration but discussions must be had about  
7 whether these proposed retirements are necessary or  
8 appropriate in the near term.

9 We also need to evaluate our domestic industrial base  
10 to avoid making short-sighted decisions that undercut our  
11 production and manufacturing capabilities.

12 General, I would like to know how you would approach  
13 these and other proposed retirements and how you would plan  
14 to adjust the force structure.

15 The Air Force must also adapt to the cyber threat  
16 environment. I understand the Air Force has struggled, as  
17 have other services, with its cyber readiness. This  
18 shortfall is due primarily to difficulties in training and  
19 retaining cyber personnel with specialized skills.

20 The private sector has realized the immense value of  
21 our cyber operators and it is offering them very high  
22 compensation to leave the military. The Air Force must  
23 adjust accordingly by providing a creative combination of  
24 incentives to compete for and retain these personnel.

25 This should include competitive compensation and a

1 professionalized military career path and, General, I would  
2 like to know how you would plan to address this challenge.

3 Finally, as we anticipate the challenges of future  
4 conflicts I am encouraged by the Air Force's renewed focus  
5 on contested logistics. Recognizing the need for more  
6 resilient and agile logistics in regions like the Indo-  
7 Pacific the Air Force has developed a concept for  
8 distributed operations called Agile Combat Employment, or  
9 ACE.

10 This concept would include air operations on many small  
11 airfields throughout the Pacific Island chains. General, I  
12 would like to know your thoughts on how the Air Force should  
13 develop this concept further and how it can approach  
14 contested logistics support more broadly.

15 The challenges I have just discussed are complex and  
16 growing, and the next Chief of Staff of the Air Force will  
17 play a fundamental role in meeting them.

18 Thank you, General, for your willingness to lead at  
19 this critical time and I look forward to your testimony.  
20 Unfortunately, Senator Wicker could not join us today. He  
21 is suffering from the flu. He has asked that I include his  
22 statement for the record and, without objection, Senator  
23 Wicker's statement will be included in the record.

24 [The information follows:]

25 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

1 Chairman Reed: At this time, General, we would ask for  
2 your opening statement.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL DAVID W. ALLVIN, USAF FOR  
2 REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF GENERAL AND TO BE CHIEF OF  
3 STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE

4 General Allvin: Chairman Reed, distinguished members  
5 of this committee, I am grateful and truly humbled at the  
6 opportunity to appear before you this morning.

7 Let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation for  
8 the continued support and advocacy of this body for our  
9 United States Air Force, its airmen, and their families.

10 I assure you they continue to prove themselves more  
11 than worthy of that support and our nation should be proud  
12 of each and every one of them.

13 I would like to briefly acknowledge my amazing family  
14 who both inspire me and remind me of the why behind what I  
15 do. Gina, my incredible wife of over 27 years, is here with  
16 me, and our three wonderful children, Francesca, Grant, and  
17 Reagan, are away at college.

18 Gina is the heart and soul of our family, and when I  
19 look to the world through the eyes of our very talented kids  
20 I recommit myself to excellence because I believe if this  
21 nation continues to provide the freedoms and opportunities  
22 we enjoy they will undoubtedly make the world a better  
23 place.

24 I am the eighth of nine children, and though both my  
25 father, a veteran of World War II, and my mother have passed



1 they are looking down with pride at their legacy. My  
2 sisters and brothers are the most amazing people you will  
3 ever meet. They are as selfless and empathetic as they are  
4 talented.

5 I would like to thank President Biden, Secretary  
6 Austin, and Secretary Kendall for their confidence and  
7 support in nominating me to be the next Air Force Chief of  
8 Staff.

9 I would also like to thank General CQ Brown, Jr., our  
10 current Chief of Staff, and pending confirmation our next  
11 chairman of the Joint Chief staff -- Chief of Staff for his  
12 outstanding work in leading our airmen for the past three  
13 years.

14 It has been an honor to be his wing man, and if  
15 confirmed I look forward to continuing to work alongside him  
16 as a member of the Joint Chiefs.

17 Chairman and committee members, I believe the  
18 opportunity to be the next Air Force Chief of Staff comes at  
19 a very important time in history and I fully appreciate and  
20 embrace the weight of what is at stake.

21 Our nation is coming to grips with the rapid pace of  
22 change that is upon us and with those intending to act  
23 against our national interests while aggressively seeking  
24 the means to do so.

25 America's national security focus is crucial as we

1 navigate this new global landscape with our allies and  
2 partners, especially as opportunities for distraction and  
3 confusion are increasingly exploited.

4 I have spent the last 10 years of my career doing the  
5 business of strategy, policy, and planning, equally split  
6 between the joint force and our United States Air Force. I  
7 can say with confidence that alignment across our Department  
8 of Defense is the best I have seen over that decade.

9 Our current National Defense Strategy and our maturing  
10 joint warfighting concept are instructive in the development  
11 of our Air Force concepts and capabilities.

12 If confirmed, I will focus on continuing the  
13 integration of these concepts and sustaining the alignment  
14 as we modernize the force.

15 Our Air Force must transform to adapt to the changing  
16 character of war, requiring tough investment choices. The  
17 balance of risk over time to ensure sufficient readiness  
18 today and tomorrow demands constant attention.

19 If confirmed, I pledge continued collaboration with  
20 this body as the Air Force analyzes and develops courses of  
21 action to best pursue our national security objectives.

22 Above all, I believe the clear advantage this nation  
23 has over potential adversaries is the qualities inherent in  
24 the American people. I believe there is plenty of  
25 patriotism, desire to serve as part of a team, and drive for

1 purpose-filled life in our population to fill our Air Force  
2 ranks.

3 If confirmed, I pledge to continue to fine tune the way  
4 we discover and reach out to those with the competencies and  
5 the desire to join our ranks.

6 Just as important, I will continue to ensure those on  
7 our Air Force team want to stay by focusing on improving  
8 quality of life, quality of service, and by fortifying an  
9 environment where all of our airmen can achieve their  
10 potential.

11 It is truly an honor to be nominated as the 23rd Air  
12 Force Chief of Staff. If confirmed, I look forward to  
13 working with this committee and the Congress to ensure the  
14 United States Air Force is organized, trained, and equipped  
15 to fly, fight, and win with air power anytime anywhere.

16 Thank you very much, and I look forward to your  
17 questions.

18 [The prepared statement of General Allvin follows:]  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, General.

2 I have a series of questions that are posed to each  
3 nominee. Please respond appropriately.

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

6 General Allvin: I have, Senator.

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

10 General Allvin: No, Senator.

11 Chairman Reed: Exercising our legislative and  
12 oversight responsibilities makes it important that this  
13 committee, its subcommittees, and other appropriate  
14 committees of Congress receive testimonies, briefings,  
15 reports, records, and other information from the executive  
16 branch on a timely basis.

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

19 General Allvin: I do, Senator.

20 Chairman Reed: Do you agree when asked before this  
21 committee to give your personal views even if your views  
22 differ from the administration?

23 General Allvin: I do, Senator.

24 Chairman Reed: Do you agree to provide records,  
25 documents, and electronic communications in a timely manner

1 when requested by this committee, its subcommittees, or  
2 other appropriate committees of Congress and to consult with  
3 the requester regarding the basis of any good faith delay or  
4 denial in providing such records?

5 General Allvin: I do.

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

11 General Allvin: I will.

12 Chairman Reed: Will you cooperate in providing  
13 witnesses and briefings in response to congressional  
14 requests?

15 General Allvin: I will.

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

18 General Allvin: They will.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, General.

20 As I mentioned in my opening statement, General, the  
21 Air Force plans to reduce a substantial number of aircraft  
22 and included in these aircraft are intelligence and  
23 reconnaissance systems and they include AWACS, JSTARS, U-2,  
24 and Global Hawk.

25 Do you and the Air Force have sufficient capability to

1 support combatant commanders for ISR with the requirement of  
2 all these systems before replacement capabilities are  
3 online?

4 General Allvin: Mr. Chairman, first, thank you for  
5 that question. This is probably one of the more vexing ones  
6 that we face as we try and balance the readiness today with  
7 the readiness tomorrow.

8 With respect to the capabilities that we currently have  
9 to do ISR, ground moving target indicators, air moving  
10 target indications, we are finding that those platforms have  
11 served us well in the past but they are decreasing in their  
12 relevance.

13 And so as we transition to move to those platforms and  
14 systems that will be more relevant into the future we are  
15 working to ensure that those that we retain we keep as ready  
16 as possible.

17 As they continue to age we need to understand which of  
18 those we need to divest because the cost of just keeping  
19 them flying or operating combined with their decreased  
20 relevance actually decreases our ability to deter and defeat  
21 into the future.

22 So going into the future as we develop those  
23 capabilities and the systems in the future we will work with  
24 this body, and if I am confirmed I will pledge to commit to  
25 working with that responsible transition to maintain

1 deterrence and readiness today as we transition to the  
2 systems of tomorrow.

3 Chairman Reed: A related aspect to this question is  
4 that many of these ISR platforms are drones that are  
5 operated on the ground, and years ago we requested, then  
6 required the Air Force to include nonofficer pilots. The  
7 model that we hope to build on was the model of the Army  
8 helicopters and warrant officers.

9 We have had a legislative proposal this year to  
10 eliminate the mandate. It makes sense to me to develop a  
11 class of operators, whether they be senior noncommissioned  
12 officers or warrant officers, that can fly these aircraft,  
13 specialize in these aircraft, not be diverted to  
14 professional schools as a commissioned officer would.

15 Do you have any views and would you continue to pursue  
16 this effort?

17 General Allvin: Mr. Chairman, I think that is an  
18 important question for a couple of reasons.

19 First of all, we certainly respect the effort that we  
20 have taken in order to integrate enlisted policy into our  
21 remotely piloted aircraft. The manner in which we did it  
22 was through our RQ-4 fleet and with the diminishing number  
23 of that fleet we had an increasingly decreasing size of that  
24 career field and so, therefore, as the career field shrank  
25 it left less opportunities for our enlisted aviators to have

1 a path to promotion.

2           However, to your point about having sort of a technical  
3 track or a warrant officer equivalent, I would say that as  
4 we look to the future one of the things we need to do in our  
5 force design is to optimize our ability to put the right  
6 airmen in the right weapon system and the right system to  
7 ensure that we can continue to dominate into the future.

8           As we look at those force designs our human capital is  
9 one of those things we will evaluate, and as we look to  
10 those human machine teamings and the future of manned-  
11 unmanned platforms we will certainly look at that as part of  
12 our human capital and force design as to what makes sense.

13           I look forward to working with this body if I am  
14 confirmed. Thank you.

15           Chairman Reed: Thank you very much.

16           Let me now recognize Senator Fischer for her questions.

17           Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18           Welcome, General Allvin. Nice to see you and  
19 congratulations to you and your family on this nomination.

20           As we talked about in our meeting, the Sentinel  
21 emplacement is the largest and the most complex project that  
22 the department has undertaken in decades. What efforts do  
23 you think should be taken to ensure that this program  
24 remains on schedule?

25           General Allvin: Senator, thank you very much.



1 I appreciate that question because we need to keep  
2 reminding ourselves that one of the most sacred missions  
3 that we have is strategic deterrence, and maintaining that  
4 reliable and effective nuclear deterrent is part and parcel  
5 to anything we do as the Department of Defense in securing  
6 the nation.

7 As you well know and we discussed in your office, this  
8 Sentinel program is part of the -- one of the most complex  
9 yet important transitions and recapitalizations of our ICBM  
10 fleet.

11 To your question about how do we ensure it remains on  
12 track, Senator, I think one of the most important things  
13 that we can do is vigilance to ensure that as we see  
14 external factors that might potentially provide challenges  
15 or opportunities to the cost, schedule, and performance of  
16 that program that we need to make sure we communicate with  
17 this body and collaborate to understand if there are  
18 opportunities that we can help to maintain it on track and  
19 have the warfighter get the requirement on time and one of  
20 those things is the recent acquisition adjustment -- of an  
21 acquisition strategy to look for those things we might be  
22 able to decouple and pull to the left.

23 But those are the things I would say vigilance and  
24 collaboration are the way that we can ensure that that  
25 program remains on track and if I am confirmed I will pledge

1 to do so, both counts.

2 Senator Fischer: I appreciate that because a lot of  
3 times there is outside -- I call them outside pressures,  
4 whether they are macro economic pressures that we are  
5 looking at. So I hope that we can continue to have a good  
6 discussion and an open discussion when you are seeing  
7 pressures like that.

8 The Department of the Air Force also has a role in a  
9 significant number of systems that comprise our NC3, and  
10 while NC3 does not always receive the focus as we look at  
11 modernization it is extremely important, as you know.

12 In order that this project also remains on schedule it  
13 is going to be vital that it does so that we can maintain  
14 our nuclear deterrent.

15 If confirmed, will you commit to working with this  
16 committee closely on these efforts?

17 General Allvin: Senator, absolutely.

18 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

19 Also, we are looking at technology gaps because  
20 technology gaps are always a concern whenever we are  
21 upgrading or transitioning to new or replacement platforms.

22 Ensuring that mission capability does not falter can  
23 sometimes prove delicate to navigate, especially when we are  
24 looking at several factors like budget constraints, like the  
25 macroeconomic stresses that we face, changes that we

1 sometimes see in the program from the initial mission.

2 So, General, how should the Air Force plan to integrate  
3 new technology systems and existing -- or into existing  
4 infrastructure and operations so that you can maximize the  
5 effectiveness of those?

6 General Allvin: Thank you, Senator. I appreciate the  
7 question. I think there is several depths to that question  
8 because we do need to integrate new technologies into  
9 existing equipment. I think many of the headlines that we  
10 get are wanting to modernize and develop new systems.

11 However, we still have many capable systems. We just  
12 need to integrate the technologies to make sure they remain  
13 relevant and I think part of that is ensuring that we know  
14 exactly what we need for keeping that particular platform  
15 relevant and as we do that we bake in things like cyber  
16 resilience and cyber protection because a lot of those  
17 systems were not originally imagined and designed when the  
18 cyber threat was as great as it was.

19 So I think making sure from the start we have cyber  
20 resiliency and cyber protection baked into those so we do  
21 not add increased risk to those particular platforms will be  
22 key and, if confirmed, that will be definitely something I  
23 will be advocating for.

24 Senator Fischer: That was going to be the second part  
25 and it is the second part of my question to you. How do

1 those cyber threats pose challenges to the integration that  
2 we are looking at? Can you give just a couple of examples  
3 in this setting, please?

4 General Allvin: Well, Senator, I think an example I  
5 would give is many of the legacy systems that we have were  
6 not designed with that cyber protection and so, therefore,  
7 there are vulnerabilities in the systems themselves and we  
8 are working a twofold solution to that.

9 The first is, as I mentioned, the baked-in resiliency  
10 in what we call our Cyber Resilience Office for Weapon  
11 Systems. That is to make sure anything we do, the software  
12 and new platform, has that baked in.

13 We have also looked at something through a project we  
14 had, Taskforce Sentinel Stand, and that was really to look  
15 at where those vulnerabilities exist in the systems that  
16 were built before the cyber protections were baked in and we  
17 understood the nature of the threat.

18 So we are evaluating, first of all, what to look at in  
19 our legacy systems and then, second, we are putting sensors  
20 on those so we can ensure that we can see because you cannot  
21 defend what you cannot see.

22 Senator Fischer: So it is important always to  
23 understand the threat?

24 General Allvin: Absolutely, Senator.

25 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer.

2 Senator Shaheen, please?

3 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Good morning, General Allvin. Congratulations to you  
5 and to Gina and your whole family on your nomination. We  
6 hope that the holds that are on general officers will be  
7 released soon so that you will actually be able to assume  
8 the role that I believe you will be confirmed for.

9 There has been a lot of discussion about the potential  
10 for Congress to not pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the  
11 government open or the budget bills that we need to pass by  
12 October 1st.

13 Can you describe what you think the impact on the Air  
14 Force would be if we are in either a shutdown or a long-term  
15 Continuing Resolution?

16 General Allvin: Thank you, Senator.

17 That is a particularly important question because every  
18 day when I go to work when I worked for Secretary Kendall,  
19 who is laser focused on getting to the future, our focus is  
20 on how fast we can get there, understanding the sense of  
21 urgency and that, as our secretary said, war is not  
22 inevitable but we need to prepare for it as though it is.

23 And so as we do that every day that we do not have a  
24 predictability in our budget or we cannot advance those  
25 modernization activities and the RDT&E and the science and

1 technology advancement of those we are falling behind.

2       So while on the surface we keep the government running,  
3 we keep the trains running on time, as they would say, but  
4 the -- sort of underneath the surface we are falling behind  
5 and what we do not want to do is look several years in the  
6 future and find the accumulation of those means that we have  
7 fallen behind and put ourselves at a disadvantage.

8       So the on time appropriations help us buy those long  
9 lead items, continue the momentum that we are building after  
10 we have identified the capabilities we need.

11       Senator Shaheen: And can you also talk about what the  
12 impact is on our adversaries of a government shutdown, of  
13 our inability to get a budget that keeps the military  
14 operating?

15       General Allvin: Well, Senator Shaheen, that is a  
16 challenging question to ask -- to answer because it really  
17 goes into what we think are in the minds of our potential  
18 adversaries.

19       However, when one can see the actions, if I were in  
20 their seats I would look at that as the ability for us to  
21 -- perhaps, if I was an adversary to the United States or  
22 potential adversary for us to be able to continue to gain  
23 momentum and move faster and that is as the United States  
24 one thing we do not want to do is encourage potential  
25 adversaries to think that when they have differences in

1 national security or national interest that they can take it  
2 into conflict and win. That is what we need to prevent.

3 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. I agree.

4 I appreciated the opportunity we had to meet and one of  
5 the issues we talked about was the KC-46, the tanker, which  
6 is no longer new, but still dealing with a number of issues  
7 to make it fully operational and the first tankers were  
8 delivered to the 157th refueling wing in 2019.

9 We still have a remote vision system that is not fully  
10 operational and we are talking about not having that fully  
11 operational until 2025 so fully six years after the first  
12 tankers were delivered.

13 How do we avoid that happening again in the future and  
14 how do we do everything possible to continue to move forward  
15 that schedule for getting the RVS system operational?

16 General Allvin: Well, thank you, Senator.

17 First, I would echo the importance of rapid global  
18 mobility and what it means to our Air Force and really what  
19 makes us the best Air Force on the planet and enables our  
20 nation to be able to respond in a manner we would not  
21 otherwise be able to, and I think it is critical.

22 So the recapitalization of our air refueling fleet and  
23 enabling us to maintain rapid global mobility is absolutely  
24 essential and I will continue to put focus on that.

25 With respect to the KC-46, it is proving itself to be a

1 very capable aircraft. I take your point that we wanted  
2 those systems to be working the first time out of the chute.

3 We are putting the pressure and continuing to work with  
4 Boeing to ensure that those fixes -- those software fixes  
5 are making it the very, very best capability it can be.

6 In the meantime, through our major command commander,  
7 General Minihan from Air Mobility Command, he has authorized  
8 the interim capability releases that enable us to still  
9 refuel basically all of the fleet of receivers that we have  
10 with the exception of the A-10. And so it is functioning  
11 very well but not as well as it could.

12 So, Senator Shaheen, on this particular program it just  
13 -- once again, maintaining vigilance and maintaining  
14 pressure, if you will, to ensure that those capabilities are  
15 delivered.

16 I believe as we move forward into future modernized  
17 platforms I think we will -- we are learning lessons about  
18 maybe owning more of the tech base, about owning  
19 government's referenced architecture and those sort of  
20 things that will allow us to continue to leverage the  
21 influence that we might have throughout operations and  
22 sustainment and make it more affordable.

23 Thank you.

24 Senator Shaheen: Well, rest assured, I will continue  
25 to raise the question until it is all fixed.



1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

2 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

3 Senator Cotton, please?

4 Senator Cotton: General Allvin, thank you for your  
5 service. Congratulations on your nomination.

6 Congratulations to your family as well and thank them for  
7 their service and thanks to all the airmen you have been  
8 representing up here in your current role and who you would  
9 represent in your new role, if confirmed.

10 Speaking of confirmation, since Senator Shaheen talked  
11 about the current situation on the floor I just want to say  
12 that we could also easily confirm you if Chuck Schumer would  
13 get off the dime and show us that he actually cares about  
14 supporting our men and women in uniform.

15 Of course, we voted before on general officer  
16 nominations. We voted just a few years ago for Mark Milley  
17 to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. You may say that is  
18 something special but apparently Chuck Schumer does not  
19 think it is too special because he has said he is not going  
20 to have that vote for CQ Brown.

21 Maybe my Democratic colleagues can go talk to Chuck  
22 Schumer as they are always encouraging us to go talk to  
23 Tommy Tuberville.

24 Second, my Democratic colleagues just a few years back  
25 required us to vote on the shift of HR McMaster, who was

1 only a three-star general, not a four-star general. You  
2 demanded that we voted on HR McMaster simply because he was  
3 going from one job to the next job.

4 So I do not think it would be too much to ask for the  
5 Senate to spend a little bit of time confirming four-star  
6 general officers to positions like Chief of Staff of the Air  
7 Force or Commandant of the Marine Corps or Chief of Naval  
8 Operations.

9 That said, General Allvin, you said something I want to  
10 quibble with just a little bit. You said you do not think  
11 war is inevitable. I have to say if you look over the  
12 stretch of human history you have to conclude that war is in  
13 fact inevitable.

14 But in a paradoxical way it seems that no specific or  
15 particular war is inevitable and I think that is what you  
16 and Secretary Kendall are driving at about China, right?  
17 Even if war is inevitable in the human condition a war  
18 between the United States and China is not inevitable. Is  
19 that right?

20 General Allvin: Senator, that is better put than I put  
21 it.

22 Senator Cotton: So the reason I stress that is because  
23 if this or that particular war does occur it is not because  
24 it was inevitable. It is because it was the result of poor  
25 choices made by one side or the other or both, and I want to

1 look into one choice in particular that we may be making  
2 that could tempt China to think they might win a war.

3 Air superiority is critical in modern warfare. Is that  
4 correct?

5 General Allvin: Senator, that is absolutely correct.

6 Senator Cotton: And that is a lesson that we have seen  
7 in Ukraine, in particular. Russia expected to have air  
8 superiority in just a matter of days. They still have not  
9 established air superiority. What has that meant for them  
10 on the battlefield?

11 General Allvin: Well, Senator, I think we have seen  
12 that they are struggling in places where they did not  
13 anticipate that they would struggle. It also -- it tends to  
14 go towards the Ukraine -- the Ukrainians' innovation and  
15 their ability to adapt on the fly.

16 But it is clear that the Russians were not making the  
17 progress that they had intended.

18 Senator Cotton: Is it fair to say that air superiority  
19 in the Western Pacific, especially in a conflict over  
20 Taiwan, would be as important or even more important than it  
21 has been in the land war in Ukraine?

22 General Allvin: Senator, I believe that to be the  
23 case.

24 Senator Cotton: Okay. Thank you.

25 So with all that in mind, the Air Force has stated

1 repeatedly for the last few years that to meet our  
2 modernization requirement it has to accept risk. That is a  
3 common phrase we hear -- accept risks to divest combat  
4 aircraft.

5 But at the same time, China is rapidly expanding its  
6 air force. So I share Secretary Kendall's reported concerns  
7 about the ability of the Air Force to face China tomorrow  
8 because I think we have had to accept a lot of near-term  
9 risk.

10 Would increased funding for the Air Force necessarily  
11 decrease the risk we are having to accept in terms of near-  
12 term combat capability?

13 General Allvin: Senator, thank you for that very well  
14 laid out question.

15 I believe I would say that in the case of air  
16 superiority as we see it in the future we look back on how  
17 we have achieved it in the past and I believe that is not  
18 going to be the way that we are going to be able to obtain  
19 air superiority, which is over large swaths for large  
20 periods of time.

21 However, as we look towards modernization we understand  
22 having the right capability in the right amount at the right  
23 time synchronized with the joint fight is going to be the  
24 key to air superiority in the future.

25 So it may be regional. It may be temporal. But it is

1 going to be just as important. And so as we look towards  
2 modernizing we are looking toward keeping the most relevant  
3 platforms and, unfortunately, we still have some platforms  
4 who are -- that are marginally relevant but will not likely  
5 be difference makers in a China fight.

6 So those tough decisions that we are making or  
7 proposing to the Congress are those to be able to divest  
8 those that will be less effective today and the money that  
9 we spend on trying to keep them airborne is money that will  
10 not be spent on being able to develop the capabilities of  
11 tomorrow.

12 So additional resources, obviously, would alleviate  
13 some of that tension but we are still constantly making  
14 those decisions and balancing today's risks tomorrow.

15 Senator Cotton: So some savings I understand from that  
16 divestiture and that we can reinvest in the kind of  
17 platforms we need. But additional money appropriated beyond  
18 that for, say, F-35s or collaborative combat aircraft or  
19 munitions would no doubt help establish greater likelihood  
20 of air superiority in the Western Pacific, correct?

21 General Allvin: That is correct, Senator, assuming we  
22 can get them in the timely manner.

23 Senator Cotton: One final question. Another part of  
24 air superiority especially in facing a threat like China is  
25 our allies. As we have discussed, we are about to have

1 foreign military training for the F-35s for allies at Ebbing  
2 Air Force Base. Can I get your commitment that, if  
3 confirmed, you will do everything in your power to ensure  
4 that project moves forward on a timely basis and we have the  
5 sound of freedom back in the River Valley next fall of 2024?

6 General Allvin: Senator, you do have that commitment.

7 Senator Cotton: Thank you.

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Cotton.

9 Senator Hirono, please?

10 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Congratulations, General. It was good to meet with you  
12 and I thank your family also for their service.

13 I ask the following two initial questions of every  
14 nominee before any of my committees and I will ask you the  
15 following two questions.

16 Since you became a legal adult have you ever made  
17 unwanted requests for sexual favors or committed any verbal  
18 or physical harassment or assault of a sexual nature?

19 General Allvin: No, Senator.

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

22 General Allvin: No, Senator.

23 Senator Hirono: The Air Force is now the acquisition  
24 authority for cruise missile defense of the homeland.  
25 Meanwhile, the Space Force is the global sensor manager and

1 the Missile Defense Agency continues to oversee system  
2 development.

3 To ensure clarity and collaboration I worked to require  
4 a report on the roles and responsibilities for missile  
5 defense in this year's Senate-passed NDAA and the department  
6 needs to develop a plan for cruise missile defense of Hawaii  
7 to include hypersonic missiles, which is why I worked to  
8 increase -- to include a strategy for integrated air and  
9 missile defense in the Indo-Pacific in our NDAA.

10 General Allvin, if confirmed will you work with  
11 INDOPACOM as they lead the development of the strategy, the  
12 strategy being an integrated air missile defense in the  
13 Indo-Pacific AOR?

14 General Allvin: Senator, I absolutely will, and your  
15 point about the homeland defense being -- Hawaii is not only  
16 the lead point into the Indo-Pacific but it is on the  
17 frontiers of our homeland defense. And so, Senator, I will  
18 work with you on that.

19 Senator Hirono: You may know that I have been asking  
20 about the adequacy of missile defense for Hawaii for it  
21 seems like a number of years and that is why now that the  
22 Air Force has a particular responsibility I would like to be  
23 assured that all of this is being integrated.

24 Although Pearl Harbor-Hickam is a joint installation  
25 led by the Navy the disrepair of the Hickam air fuel parking

1 ramp endangers Air Force readiness, and we talk about the  
2 importance of air superiority and I would say that we should  
3 have ramps that are in working order.

4 General Allvin, if confirmed, how will you ensure  
5 infrastructure across the Pacific supports the Air Force's  
6 power projection requirements?

7 General Allvin: Well, Senator, you could not be more  
8 right in ensuring that we have the power projection  
9 capability from Hawaii, from Guam, from other areas, and our  
10 overall infrastructure priorities remain that -- the nuclear  
11 recapitalization infrastructure and then after that our  
12 support for INDOPACOM infrastructure.

13 Working with the Navy we will continue to as they  
14 develop their programs to ensure that we articulate those  
15 requirements and link arms as the budgets make their way  
16 through to make sure that those investments they have  
17 planned make it through to execution.

18 Senator Hirono: As I mentioned when we met that I  
19 physically went to see the parking ramp at the -- at Hickam  
20 airfield and I saw a chart that showed all these red areas  
21 where a plane could not be parked if it is loaded to any  
22 particular extent.

23 That is very unacceptable and I would like to see the  
24 Navy put the renovation and the repairs of the ramp  
25 infrastructure as a priority and I would expect that you



1 would support that.

2           There was a typhoon recently that devastated the Air  
3 Force facilities in Guam this past May and I urge you to  
4 provide the accurate cost estimates and justifications that  
5 Congress needs to support the climate resilient repair of  
6 Andersen Air Force Base. It was -- I think it is going to  
7 be in -- possibly in the billions of what happened at  
8 Andersen Air Force. So we would like to see the figures.

9           By around the end of this year the fuel at Red Hill  
10 will be removed and strategically dispersed across the  
11 Pacific theater. Though both tactically and environmentally  
12 prudent, it does raise new logistic challenges.

13           General, how is the Air Force managing its strategic  
14 fuel lay down for the Pacific with the closure of Red Hill?

15           General Allvin: Senator, thank you for that.

16           When we look at the logistics lay down, specifically to  
17 your point on fuel, this is something we work with the  
18 Defense Logistics Agency, INDOPACOM, as well as the Joint  
19 Staff and U.S. TRANSCOM and understanding where the best  
20 location for those storage facilities are and ensuring that  
21 as we do that we work closely with allies and partners to  
22 ensure that there is safe storage, there is accessible  
23 storage that will enable us to not only leverage them in  
24 peacetime but should conflict arise in our employment of  
25 agile combat employment, that we are able to access those in

1 a safe and responsive manner.

2 Senator Hirono: So you are engaging in those kinds of  
3 discussions now because we are talking about Red Hill and a  
4 hundred million gallons of fuel that now have to be  
5 dispersed elsewhere.

6 So you are having those discussions now and at some  
7 point of -- I do not know if in this setting you can  
8 describe for us how the fuel lay down is going to take place  
9 throughout the Indo-Pacific area.

10 General Allvin: Yes, ma'am, Senator. We will.

11 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hirono.

13 Senator Rounds, please?

14 Senator Rounds: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 General Allvin, first of all, I want to thank you and  
16 your family for your service to our country. When you are  
17 deployed they are too and when you are separated it is not  
18 just you that is separated. It is them as well and we  
19 appreciate that sacrifice that the family has made. Thank  
20 you.

21 General Allvin, I also understand that the DOD and the  
22 NTIA study on the 3.1 to 3.45 gigahertz portion of the  
23 spectrum has been completed. It is being reviewed at senior  
24 levels in the department and will be published later this  
25 month.

1           While it is not exactly as explicitly protective of the  
2 lower 3 gigahertz band that I think the facts merit it is  
3 nevertheless important. But it -- I believe, anyway, that  
4 the report suggests that it does not provide the commercial  
5 interest the carte blanche that they wanted to auction off  
6 this portion of the spectrum.

7           As such, I anticipate members and their staffs will  
8 soon be hearing from the industry about their desire to move  
9 forward with some sort of a scheme, despite the findings of  
10 the report.

11           I remain unsure if the industry still does not know or  
12 just does not care about the national security ramifications  
13 that are at stake with regard to this part of the spectrum.

14           I bring this up to set the stage and encourage you. It  
15 is imperative that you be forthright and clear on the impact  
16 that auctioning off the lower 3 gigahertz band of the  
17 spectrum would have on the Air Force's capabilities where  
18 you operate and that the cost of developing the new systems  
19 could be substantial.

20           Every senior DOD official that I have questioned this  
21 year has expressed concerns about sharing this portion of  
22 the spectrum due to the critical DOD systems that use and  
23 operate on it.

24           General, if the study confirms the concerns expressed  
25 by DOD thus far what would be your advice to the President

1 and Congress?

2 General Allvin: Well, Senator, I appreciate that and  
3 you can add me to the list of senior DOD officials who has  
4 concern about the national security implications of this and  
5 the reasons are really twofold.

6 These are not only embedded in the systems that we need  
7 to operate and we do not see technology that would enable us  
8 to share spectrum. So if the decisions were either to  
9 vacate or to preserve the option to vacate would not only be  
10 cost prohibitive, in my estimation, but it would not enable  
11 us to do the training and the testing that we need to do to  
12 maintain the readiness in this environment where we see an  
13 increasingly aggressive and assertive potential adversary.

14 So I would say my advice would be to preserve the  
15 spectrum in the areas that we have it so we can maintain our  
16 readiness against potential adversaries.

17 Senator Rounds: Would it be fair to say that our  
18 adversaries would love to see us in a position where this  
19 portion of the spectrum was being depleted from DOD use?

20 General Allvin: Again, Senator, I cannot get in their  
21 minds. But if I were our adversaries I would certainly see  
22 that as an advantage.

23 Senator Rounds: Thank you.

24 General Allvin, I was just out at Ellsworth Air Force  
25 Base two weeks ago. I was very impressed with Colonel

1 Oakley, Chief Rasmussen, and the airmen of the 28th bomb  
2 wing as they prepare for the B-21 mission.

3 Given the crucial role that the B-21 will play in our  
4 defense both as a pillar of the nuclear triad and as a  
5 crucial component of our conventional forces in a near peer  
6 fight we need as many of these precious assets as we can get  
7 our hands on.

8 Can you describe how important the B-21 will be to the  
9 conventional joint force fight in a highly contested  
10 environment like the Western Pacific?

11 General Allvin: Senator, first of all, thank you for  
12 recognizing the great leadership.

13 We spend a lot of time talking about platforms and  
14 systems but it is, obviously, the airmen that really make it  
15 all tick and that is a fantastic leadership team that they  
16 have out there.

17 Senator Rounds: I agree.

18 General Allvin: With respect to the B-21, Senator, I  
19 am personally very excited about this program and the way  
20 that it was developed and what it is turning out to be in  
21 its performance -- cost schedule and performance adherence,  
22 all of these things, but more importantly for what it is  
23 going to bring to us.

24 When we look at the conventional fight in the Indo-  
25 Pacific, if that happens, we need all the systems to be

1 survivable. They need to be connected, they need to be able  
2 to be persistent, and the B-21 provides not only all of that  
3 but also a great long-range strike capability and the -- as  
4 we look forward in our force design on which things are  
5 going to be the more important, getting that balance right  
6 of stand-off and stand-in, long range, and within the close  
7 fight, the idea that the B-21 can penetrate allows it to  
8 operate across all of that space.

9 It is going to be the backbone of our future bomber  
10 force and we are very much looking forward to getting into  
11 the theater.

12 Senator Rounds: Is it fair to call it a badass weapon  
13 of war and peace?

14 General Allvin: Could not say it better myself,  
15 Senator.

16 Senator Rounds: Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr.  
17 Chairman.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rounds.

19 Senator Manchin, please?

20 Senator Manchin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again,  
21 my congratulations, General, to you and thank your family,  
22 and I just want you to know you are in service, sir, along  
23 with all the men and women in uniform. It is what keeps us  
24 bipartisan, holds us together. You are the glue and we  
25 appreciate that more than you know.

1           With that, I am concerned about the budget delays. I  
2 am more of a budget hawk on this. But basically our CRs  
3 -- the cost of a CR to our military, our readiness, and  
4 basically the value of our dollar -- we have been asking for  
5 the accurate -- more of an accurate cost to that, what type  
6 of punishment or what type of detriment it is to your buying  
7 power, and we have been told that basically since from 1991  
8 to 2010 the delays for defense appropriation is about 29  
9 days. Since 2010 it is over 118 days.

10           We have been also told that -- the American Enterprise  
11 Institute threw out a rough estimate of \$200 million per day  
12 -- \$200 million per day -- under delays of the Continuing  
13 Resolution that cover the start of fiscal year '23. If that  
14 is accurate that is a total \$18 billion.

15           We are always asking for supplements. We always need  
16 more money for the military to do its job to meet the  
17 demands and challenges we have.

18           If you could be -- if you can give me just an accurate  
19 figure -- I am sure that you all are able to do that, and  
20 that leads me into the other part of my question was  
21 basically the position of the chief management officer.

22           I very much believe that the Department of Defense  
23 needs this person and give it the authority that it needs to  
24 do the job to have risk event -- risk evaluation, risk  
25 assessments, where we stand, where we can better utilize the

1 monies we have.

2 We are fighting all the time to make sure our defense  
3 is the best and best equipped and best supported. But if we  
4 do not utilize the money that we have accurately and have  
5 accountable in auditing I am concerned about that and your  
6 commitment to that, and if you would support that chief  
7 management officer I think it would be a tremendous asset to  
8 the entire Department of Defense.

9 General Allvin: Well, Senator, thank you. And, first  
10 of all, with respect to the Continuing Resolutions, I will  
11 -- I have a note here -- I will get back and see where we  
12 are on with respect to the -- sort of the exact number.

13 But your estimations in those seem to be fairly much in  
14 bounds. I think the other thing that we need to be  
15 cognizant of is that not only those particular dollar  
16 amounts but the times at which they happen, and I would say  
17 that right now is one of those more critical times where we  
18 are in the strategic environment with our potential  
19 adversaries and advancing capabilities.

20 I believe we have done some very hard work under  
21 Secretary Kendall's leadership through these operational  
22 imperatives to really refine and define some of the  
23 capabilities that we will need, and if we continue in  
24 Continuing Resolutions or even worse, even if they are  
25 partial or even if there are even worse cases where we



1 cannot have the predictability to make those investments we  
2 are losing the one thing that money cannot buy us back is  
3 time.

4 Senator Manchin: I know we are on the cusp of a  
5 shutdown and we are talking about that which should not even  
6 be on the table and basically it should be how we get our  
7 job done and in the manner that we are supposed to.

8 Let me lead to something much more concerning to me  
9 also is Ukraine war, especially our air war that we have or  
10 lack of an air war. They have been asking for quite some  
11 time for F-16s. We have been reluctant. All of a sudden we  
12 basically agreed.

13 They have been asking for long-range missiles. We have  
14 been reluctant. They have been asking for Reapers to be  
15 able to deliver long-range missiles that -- basic long-range  
16 missiles that we have not given them.

17 Can you give me an evaluation of the air war that we  
18 have and what they are going to need for them to be  
19 successful? Because it looks like we are just kind of  
20 piecemealing it together and taking longer than needed for  
21 them to be effective.

22 General Allvin: Well, Senator, I will be happy to do a  
23 better evaluation and get back to you. On the organize,  
24 train and equip I am not as deep into the understanding of  
25 the operational piece.

1           Senator Manchin: Delay of the F-16s. Delay of the F-  
2 16s. Why did it take so long?

3           General Allvin: Senator, those are -- again, those are  
4 policy decisions that were made in the context of an  
5 integrated deterrence --

6           Senator Manchin: So let me ask this question if I may,  
7 sir -- I am so sorry -- because our time is running quick.  
8 Do you believe the F-16s will be effective and be helpful  
9 for them to have some air defense and air superiority?

10          General Allvin: Senator, thank you for that question  
11 because I believe, first of all, the F-16 is a very, very  
12 capable platform.

13          What we understand through our successes in air power  
14 and air superiority is it is not only the platform but it is  
15 the training and that training is not just on the platform  
16 but it is the integration with the command and control  
17 elements, the integration with the joint force.

18          And so as with our Air Force we are only effective if  
19 we are part of a joint force. So I believe the value of the  
20 F-16 will be in the longer term when it is better integrated  
21 with a larger Ukrainian military as well as the symbol that  
22 it sends for the Ukrainians to be transitioning to more  
23 Western --

24          Senator Manchin: Will the long-range missiles will be  
25 more helpful quicker and be able to be deployed quicker and

1 be more effective, or the Reapers that we have basically  
2 been talking about for quite some time, cannot seem to get  
3 in theater?

4 General Allvin: Senator, all of those are very capable  
5 pieces of kit and munitions and I think the real value and  
6 understanding their values can be understanding how the  
7 Ukrainians might integrate those and how that works into  
8 their scheme of maneuver. But we have -- we do have very  
9 capable munitions and platforms.

10 Senator Manchin: Maybe we can meet later and you can  
11 get me more briefed up on the concerns I have.

12 Thank you, General.

13 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Manchin.

14 Senator Ernst, please?

15 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and General  
16 Allvin, thank you so much for your time today and  
17 congratulations on your nomination, to you as well, Gina,  
18 and to your entire family. I know that you are going to be  
19 an effective steward for our Air Force and a strong partner  
20 to this committee.

21 I will express today a concern that I shared with you  
22 in my office. First and foremost, it is a specific issue  
23 with the Air Force and the Air National Guard. When the  
24 National Guard's 185th air refueling wing in Sioux City,  
25 Iowa, converted from its F-16 fighters to the KC-135 tankers

1 -- it was back in 2003 -- the Air Force said they would  
2 upgrade the airfield at the Iowa National Guard facility  
3 and, unfortunately, the Air Force and the National Guard  
4 have not followed through on that commitment.

5 So what we need is that runway upgrade. They have  
6 failed to complete that, and I am additionally concerned  
7 with this failure because we see a conversion now going from  
8 the 135s to the KC-46s.

9 The flying squadron, the 174th air refueling squadron,  
10 could lose its mission because they cannot convert to the  
11 new tankers. Not upgrading the runway will have a direct  
12 impact on retaining the immense talent of our guardsmen in  
13 Sioux City and this really is unacceptable. The Air Force  
14 really should live up to its commitments.

15 So the question for that, sir, is knowing that the Air  
16 National Guard is a part of the total Air Force do I have  
17 your commitment that you will work with the National Guard  
18 to conduct a proper assessment for the runway upgrade for  
19 the airfield at the Iowa National Guard facility in Sioux  
20 City, Iowa?

21 General Allvin: Senator, you absolutely do and I will  
22 tell you that the 185th is a fantastic organization. You  
23 know, they celebrated, I think, 75th year in 2021.

24 Senator Ernst: Yes.

25 General Allvin: So this is -- we are nothing if not a

1 total force. I do commit to ensuring that that assessment,  
2 that evaluation, is done in conjunction with the Air  
3 National Guard to ensure that we have understanding of cost  
4 schedule and performance for that particular initiative.

5 Senator Ernst: Thank you. And do I also have your  
6 commitment that you will work with the secretary of the Air  
7 Force to pause any discussion on changing the 185th air  
8 refueling wing's mission set until a full and proper MILCON  
9 assessment is completed?

10 General Allvin: Senator, you have my commitment and I  
11 will work with the secretary of the Air Force on this.

12 Senator Ernst: Thank you very much. And you are  
13 absolutely correct, the men and women of the 185th are  
14 incredible. They have a great command team there and their  
15 airmen are top notch.

16 So another issue that I spoke with you as well in the  
17 office is regarding our Air Force Special Operations Forces.  
18 As ranking member on the Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
19 Subcommittee I am totally invested in ensuring our nation's  
20 special operations have the authorities and the resources  
21 they need to carry out their role in our nation's defense.

22 So how does the Air Force special warfare community fit  
23 into the -- your strategic direction to move the Air Force  
24 forward and transform?

25 General Allvin: Thank you, Senator. I am going to

1 watch the clock here because I could go on for hours on this  
2 particular topic.

3 Senator Ernst: Okay. Go for it, sir.

4 General Allvin: I want to be respectful of your time.

5 Senator, as we look at what the Special Operations  
6 community does and the manner in which they do it it is very  
7 much aligned with how I see the Air Force needs to be in the  
8 future.

9 We need to be having attributes of agility and  
10 lethality and resilience and survivability, and the AFSOF  
11 community and the Special Operations community in general as  
12 they work in small teams they work solving problems at the  
13 edge. They work on traveling light, on being smaller  
14 footprints, on being able to develop those relationships  
15 with allies and partners.

16 All of those are part and parcel to a successful United  
17 States Air Force in the future. So there is much to be  
18 learned from the AFSOF community and as they expand to the  
19 third power projection wing at Davis-Monthan I think we are  
20 showing that they are increasing their relevance in the  
21 strategic environment within which we fight.

22 Senator Ernst: Yes. And, General, with all of that  
23 being said, how important our AFSOF are do you see any cuts  
24 coming to the organization in the near future?

25 General Allvin: At this point, Senator, in the current

1 budget environment we see that that -- the only real thing  
2 we see with AFSOF is that expansion of the power projection  
3 platforms.

4 As we look across the entire board we will have to  
5 evaluate case by case but there is not anything in this  
6 particular case where we see specific cuts to AFSOF.

7 Senator Ernst: Okay. And as those are being proposed  
8 will you come back to me and the committee and discuss any  
9 potential changes before those changes are made?

10 General Allvin: Senator, I absolutely will.

11 Senator Ernst: Okay. I really appreciate it, General  
12 Allvin. My best, again, to your -- to your family and  
13 really appreciate you taking on the challenge of this  
14 nomination.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Ernst.

17 Senator Kaine, please?

18 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 General Allvin, congratulations to you.

20 One of my colleagues earlier in the hearing suggested  
21 that the problem with holds of military nominations was  
22 Chuck Schumer's fault. That is laughable.

23 Senator Schumer has not placed a blanket hold on any  
24 military nominee. During the entire 10 years I have been in  
25 the Senate I do not think he has placed blanket holds on any

1 nominees. I do not see that happening on this side of the  
2 aisle and the attempt to blame the vacancies in these  
3 confirmed positions on Senator Schumer is embarrassing. It  
4 is laughable. It is laughable.

5 Now, Senator Cotton, who was the one that raised it,  
6 said, oh, but Senator Schumer could call up a vote for the  
7 head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the floor. That is  
8 true. We do not mind voting on people.

9 But the implication is why not vote on the top brass  
10 and just punish all the people below them. That seems to be  
11 the offer that is being made by the GOP. Vote on the top  
12 brass and punish everybody else.

13 I remember one of my most memorable days in the Senate.  
14 We had a Senate lunch of all senators, closed door, and John  
15 McCain talked about his experience as a POW in Vietnam and I  
16 will never forget that. Some of my colleagues were there  
17 that day. Some have joined the body since then.

18 Senator McCain talked about the day when the North  
19 Vietnamese figured out he was a big shot because his dad was  
20 a key leader and they came to him and they said, we will  
21 benefit you because you are a big shot and let you out of  
22 the Hanoi Hilton.

23 And you know what he said? No, I am not letting you  
24 benefit the big shot and I am not going to get out of the  
25 Hanoi Hilton until you let every other hostage out who got



1 here before me. Now, to me that seems like what the  
2 military ethos says. I did not serve in the military but I  
3 had a son who did and he always used this officers eat last  
4 thing.

5 What, we are going to have votes for the top brass and  
6 just turn a blind eye to punishing hundreds of other people  
7 who are waiting -- who are waiting? It is a punishment. It  
8 is a punishment.

9 Why would we benefit the people at the top and  
10 cavalierly allow others to be punished? And so the offer  
11 that is on the table of, yeah, let us have a vote for a few  
12 people here at the top and allow all the others to suffer  
13 that seems to be completely contrary to what I know the U.S.  
14 military ethic is. Trying to blame this on Chuck Schumer is  
15 embarrassing.

16 Mr. Chair, I would like to offer the following articles  
17 into the record, articles that are appearing in foreign  
18 press in adversary nations, allied nations, other nations,  
19 about the blockage of U.S. military leadership, and I would  
20 like to offer the following articles:

21 "U.S. military hit by unprecedented leadership void,"  
22 Russia Today, August 5, 2023.

23 Chairman Reed: Without objection.

24 [The information follows:]

25 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

1           Senator Kaine: And there is more. "Senator stalls  
2 U.S. military promotions in anti-abortion standoff," Al-  
3 Jazeera, July 10, 2023.

4           "No truce over military blockade on abortion," Anthony  
5 Zurcher, BBC, September 8th, 2023.

6           "The anti-abortion senator blocking the Pentagon," Iker  
7 Seisedos, El Pais, July 13, 2023.

8           "U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville blocks top U.S. military  
9 promotions because of abortion views," the National in the  
10 United Arab Emirates, July 11, 2023.

11           "U.S. senator blocks hundreds of military promotions  
12 over reproductive rights," Sydney Morning Herald, July 12th,  
13 2023.

14           And a final piece from CBC, the Canadian Broadcasting  
15 Company News, "Embassies unstaffed, military gaps, and  
16 America's toxic politics spills into foreign affairs," July  
17 25, 2023. I would like to have all those entered into the  
18 record.

19           Chairman Reed: Without objection.

20           [The information follows:]

21           [COMMITTEE INSERT]

22

23

24

25

1 Senator Kaine: General Allvin, one question.

2 Pillar two of the AUKUS partnership encourages  
3 collaboration on a wide range of technologies between the  
4 U.S., Australia, and the United Kingdom. What role do you  
5 see for the Air Force in the AUKUS partnership?

6 General Allvin: Senator, the role for the Air Force in  
7 the AUKUS will, largely, be sort of decided by the senior  
8 leadership of each of those three countries. I will tell  
9 you that we have several deep and integrated  
10 interoperability and relationships with both Australia and  
11 the United Kingdom.

12 Airborne C2, some of the things, the opportunities for  
13 co-development of weapon systems -- I think those are some  
14 of the opportunities as we look at some of the developments  
15 of the systems that I think will be, largely, AUKUS  
16 friendly, if you will. Whether they are bilateral or  
17 trilateral I think there is lots of opportunities to advance  
18 with allies and partners.

19 Senator Kaine: Thank you. Mr. Chair, I yield back.  
20 But I just -- I just am recalling the heroism of our former  
21 chair, John McCain, today and the fact that he would not let  
22 those who were not VIPs be punished even though it would  
23 have benefited him and I think that is an ethic that we  
24 should all learn from.

25 Thank you.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kaine.

2 Senator Cramer, please?

3 Senator Cramer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Thank you, General Allvin. Congratulations to you and  
5 your family. Nice to meet Gina. This is the first  
6 opportunity I have had to meet a family member but I am  
7 going to take your word when you say they are, your quotes,  
8 "amazing, incredible, wonderful." I would just hang on to  
9 that part of the record, Gina, for a long time. Very, very  
10 well said.

11 That said, I am going to take some issue with what  
12 -- at least seek some clarification regarding your  
13 discussion with the chairman on the future of ISR and the  
14 transition, as you called it.

15 You talked about maintaining readiness and keeping  
16 ready and that you have this plan for a transition, and yet  
17 I pulled out this week the three most recent budget  
18 overviews and I see in fiscal year '22 under strategic  
19 context listed as one of the 5+1 missions of the Air Force's  
20 continuing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

21 Fiscal year '23 strategic context, Air Force core  
22 missions -- number five, intelligence, surveillance, and  
23 reconnaissance. Then I look at the 2024 budget overview and  
24 there is no mention of ISR anywhere, not a transition.  
25 There is a lot of other things and the operational

1 imperative has a lot of impressive aircraft.

2 Am I reading something wrong, General? Is the Air  
3 Force trying to get out of the ISR business altogether,  
4 like, this year?

5 General Allvin: Senator, absolutely not. If there is  
6 anything that would have been a sin of omission.

7 I would say that as we look at the ISR of the future we  
8 are trying to transition to something that is platform  
9 centric to something that is system centric because if we  
10 focus on ISR as we have in the past sometimes those  
11 platforms are a little bit more vulnerable rather than how  
12 they can approach the system.

13 But this transition will be one where we have to, and  
14 we have had conversations on this about make sure that we  
15 maintain the extent that we can the capabilities throughout  
16 this transition as we leverage what we think can be more  
17 persistent, accessible, survivable, and connected and that  
18 is why we are looking to leverage more with our Space Force  
19 partners as the entire joint force is becoming more and more  
20 reliant on not only the airborne layer but the spaceborne  
21 layer of ISR as well.

22 Senator Cramer: So I have had a number of Space Force  
23 officials like yourself sitting where you are sitting and  
24 they are pretty clear that the transition is a ways off  
25 before they can take it and run with it as the exclusive

1 platform.

2           The transition has to involve something other than  
3 keeping the last nine RQ-4s flying, which at this point two  
4 or three I think are capable of flying. Is there a  
5 transition in place for new aircraft?

6           General Allvin: Senator, there is. The idea of being  
7 able to leverage some of the platforms that are -- we can  
8 talk about at this classification level and some that we  
9 cannot, as well as some of the other domains that we want to  
10 integrate the data to be able to have that ISR -- fused ISR.

11           I think when we look at the opportunities that are  
12 there through all sorts of intelligence that can be fused  
13 together to gain that situational awareness picture we will  
14 be looking at trying to manage that risk until we get to  
15 that future leveraging all of those platforms, whether they  
16 be the RC-135 version or some of -- the maintaining of the  
17 RQ-4 or some of the other sensors that we have that can put  
18 together this picture.

19           Senator Cramer: I want to move on to something else  
20 you and I have talked about and that is collaborative combat  
21 aircraft, and I have been reading a lot about it. There  
22 just happens to be a lot of articles in the last couple of  
23 months about it and we are having more and more discussions  
24 about it and, of course, the Air Force's plan to come up  
25 with some sort of affordable, rapidly adaptable, sometimes

1 right, aircraft as a force multiplier. We have all seen  
2 -- I have seen several of the companies that are -- and what  
3 they are looking at in a contribution.

4 I am worried, though. I am worried even though we talk  
5 a lot about new acquisition formats and rules of the road  
6 and I also worry a lot about the traditions of going back to  
7 the same old place, the same old congested airspace where  
8 innovators go to CYA instead of to innovate and I have seen  
9 a lot of -- the Air Force come up with a lot of new great  
10 new ideas for two or three years and then, oh, they are  
11 after the newest, greatest idea and pretty soon the other  
12 one gets dropped off. We have spent a lot of money.

13 And I happen to come from a place that has really great  
14 airspace for new innovations. I come from a place where a  
15 base that you know well, although you have not seen it  
16 lately and I cannot wait to show it to you because as you  
17 know part of that base is now a private sky park where  
18 Northrop Grumman and General Atomics and others are testing  
19 and remote piloted aircraft, obviously training pilots from  
20 all over the world, not just our own. We are now -- TMCI is  
21 outfitting all RQ-4s to help us better test hypersonic  
22 missiles.

23 And yet the future of the base is uncertain to me, and  
24 I just would love to hear why Grand Forks would not be a  
25 better place than the desert other than the sunshine and the

1 proximity to the ocean for something like a CCA where real  
2 innovation takes place on both sides of that fence at that  
3 base.

4 General Allvin: Senator, I will tell you we are not  
5 committed to a specific location. What I will tell you is  
6 that integral to our force design of the future we are  
7 committed to collaborative combat aircraft.

8 They are defining one of the core elements of what we  
9 believe the Air Force needs to do in the future, which is  
10 better human-machine teaming, which is better having  
11 affordable mass and the location -- I would say we are not  
12 committed to the desert at all and I certainly do appreciate  
13 the value of Grand Forks and having been there as a squadron  
14 commander I certainly look forward to coming back, I  
15 believe, next month.

16 Senator Cramer: Well, let me just stress for the  
17 people that like the sunshine of the desert and the  
18 proximity to the ocean that a lot of future wars could be  
19 fought in the Arctic and in very, very cold places, and I  
20 just think we have an awful lot to offer.

21 And you and I are going to talk a lot more about it and  
22 I am going to stick around for another round if we get the  
23 opportunity, Mr. Chair.

24 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Cramer.

25 Senator Rosen, please?



1           Senator Rosen: Thank you, Chairman Reed and Ranking  
2 Member Wicker, for holding this hearing.

3           And, General Allvin, I want to thank you. We had such  
4 a great meeting last week and -- for your willingness to  
5 serve and, of course, for your family because all of us know  
6 we cannot do any of these hard jobs without the people who  
7 love us and support us.

8           And so I am going to talk about -- a little bit about  
9 what we got going on in a state with a lot of sunshine and  
10 maybe there is a little desert. Maybe it is close to the  
11 ocean.

12           But I want to talk really about the C-130J basing  
13 because the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd airlift wing  
14 in Reno flies its legacy C-130s in some of the hottest  
15 temperatures, highest elevations, and in the most  
16 challenging mountainous environments of any C-130 unit.

17           Integral to their mission is flying the modular  
18 airborne firefighting system -- the MAFS -- in support of  
19 the U.S. Forest Service as we see those wildfires year after  
20 year.

21           So upgrading the Nevada Air National Guard's C-130H  
22 fleet with C-130Js would really have a substantial impact on  
23 their readiness, on their firefighting capabilities in  
24 Nevada and the western United States.

25           Like I said, we have seen devastating wildfires. This

1 really matters to all of us, and so I appreciate that Air  
2 Force leaders followed through on their commitments to me to  
3 update the basing criteria to now include specialty missions  
4 like MAFS. I am excited that Reno is under consideration  
5 for the latest round of basing decisions.

6 General Allvin, can I have your commitment to work with  
7 me to ensure that our 152nd airlift wing receives the C-  
8 130Js so they can more safely and capably carry out their  
9 dangerous mission to fight -- help fight those firefighters  
10 -- fight the wildfires, excuse me, in Nevada and throughout  
11 the western United States?

12 General Allvin: Senator, first of all, I would like to  
13 echo the bravery of the air crew and those who support them  
14 on that mission. That is a dangerous mission and they take  
15 that on with bravery and courage every single day and so  
16 hats off to those fantastic airmen of the National Guard  
17 that do that.

18 With respect to the basing decision, yes, ma'am. As  
19 you said, the Nevada Air National Guard has made the cut for  
20 the candidate location and that final decision for the  
21 preferred location Secretary Kendall has delegated that to  
22 the director of the Air National Guard and I anticipate that  
23 should be out imminently. I will endeavor to continue to  
24 dialogue with General Loh to find out when that ultimate  
25 decision will be made.

1 But, I mean, congratulations on moving into that  
2 candidate location and being under consideration, and I will  
3 continue to dialogue with General Loh.

4 Senator Rosen: Thank you. And I want to also ask for  
5 your commitment that the Department of the Air Force will  
6 strongly consider location and missions served in particular  
7 regions of the country like we just spoke about in Reno when  
8 making your basing decisions to ensure that our Air National  
9 Guard all around the country that they are best equipped to  
10 respond to the kinds of emergencies in their region.

11 General Allvin: Thank you, Senator. I will.

12 Senator Rosen: I want to go in the little time I have  
13 left -- we talk a lot about childcare and we had a great  
14 discussion there. Airmen stationed at Creech Air Force Base  
15 they have an incredibly difficult time finding adequate  
16 childcare options because their shift schedules -- they  
17 pilot those MQ-9 Reapers. We know that and they fall  
18 outside of the normal business hours, given the 24-hour  
19 operations they support around the globe.

20 So your in-home childcare fee assistance pilot program  
21 it was launched to help the in-home childcare solutions for  
22 service members in the region with exceptionally high  
23 demand.

24 We know the pilot program was expanded to include Las  
25 Vegas. However, I have been told by our airmen and women

1 that the program has so much red tape, it is so cumbersome  
2 -- the requirements -- that the program is essentially  
3 unavailable to the many Nevada families who desperately need  
4 this service.

5 So how do you propose that we fix this problem?  
6 Because their mission is not changing and we have to give  
7 them that peace of mind of affordable quality childcare.  
8 Our military families -- you know this -- we need that.

9 General Allvin: Senator, thank you for that question  
10 because I think what often goes unnoticed is the idea that  
11 for many childcare is a readiness issue, especially you  
12 bring about the point of those brave folks at Creech who  
13 actually are employed in place and are taking on highly  
14 stressful missions and then go back home but that are still  
15 just as dedicated and work just as hard, and the hours are  
16 tricky as well. And so they may not have access to the  
17 standard child development centers that others who work sort  
18 of the day shift would.

19 So to your point about this in-home childcare, Senator,  
20 you have -- if confirmed you have my commitment to continue  
21 to work to try and cut through some of that red tape because  
22 I find it heartening that there are families out there who  
23 are willing to open up their homes and be subject to the  
24 certification to ensure that there is the safe care of the  
25 children for those who might be working at night.

1           That is something somewhat selfless of those who are  
2   volunteering. So my pledge is if I am confirmed I will work  
3   with the OSD and see how we can maybe streamline that to  
4   ensure that we can meet both the needs as well as the  
5   willingness for the -- for those potential homes to be able  
6   to support that.

7           Senator Rosen: Thank you. Our families and our  
8   country will surely benefit. I will submit some questions  
9   for the record on housing at Nellis Air Force Base for our  
10   airmen and women there.

11          I appreciate your time today. Thank you.

12          Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen.

13          Senator Tuberville, please?

14          Senator Tuberville: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15          General, thanks for being here. Congratulations to you  
16   and your family. Had a great talk the other day and you  
17   will do an outstanding job.

18          I had a chance over -- and I told you this -- over the  
19   last month to go down to the War College and see General  
20   Andrea Tullos, who does an outstanding job. She allowed me  
21   to speak to all 1,500 colonels and majors and that was a  
22   -- that was a treat. I mean, what leaders we got in this  
23   country. That was awesome.

24          We also discussed politics and, hopefully, when you  
25   take this position over you will do your job. Stay out of

1 politics. Leave that to Secretary Kendall.

2 You know, the one thing that has concerned me over the  
3 -- since I have been here for three years and even before  
4 that, we decided to build a new tanker and we still are not  
5 in rapid deployment of that and it kind of concerns me that  
6 we just cannot overcome problems like that within this  
7 committee. But that being said, politics continues to take  
8 over.

9 One thing I want to talk about is I have had several  
10 calls over the last six, seven months from generals in the  
11 Air Force. In recent years our sorties have decreased to  
12 1.5 a month and the Chinese have increased theirs to around  
13 four a month.

14 Now, being from a coaching back background I know  
15 practice makes perfect, and what is your thoughts about  
16 that? We have got to be ready to fight and 1.5 sorties a  
17 month does not sound like a whole lot to me. You know more  
18 than me.

19 General Allvin: Well, Senator, reps and sets that is  
20 important and so ensuring our readiness to be able to meet  
21 the challenge is certainly one of our priorities.

22 One of the challenges that we have along with that is  
23 with our flying hours program, which is if you do not have  
24 flying hours you cannot put the pilots in the cockpits, is  
25 the challenge is we continue to have these -- the legacy

1 systems. So we only have so many dollars to spread across,  
2 and when you have reduced aircraft availability rates  
3 because they are old and they are finding new and  
4 interesting ways to break and they break for longer periods  
5 of time and they stay in depots for longer periods of time  
6 that removes them from the ability to be able to be flown.

7 So that is one of the challenges that we have. Also  
8 with the -- some of the maintainers that we want to fly  
9 these -- to maintain these new aircraft we need those wily  
10 cagey maintainers to keep fixing the old ones.

11 So some of that skill set that we are looking for  
12 seasoned maintainers to transition to some of these fifth-  
13 generation platforms have not been available to us and, as  
14 they say, if you want a 10-year maintainer it takes 10 years  
15 to build that.

16 So if we cannot have access to those because they are  
17 still maintaining the legacy platforms and also those legacy  
18 platforms have supply chain issues, all those sort of things  
19 that make it just less efficient, which is another reason as  
20 we are looking to manage the readiness of today and the  
21 readiness of tomorrow that we have that challenge to be able  
22 to meet the needs while still being able to advance to the  
23 modernization that we need.

24 Senator Tuberville: So you are saying this is not a  
25 policy. This is a cost problem, an airplane problem, a

1 maintenance problem. This is not a policy that we have to  
2 cut back to 1.5 sorties a month. Are you saying that?

3 General Allvin: Senator, what I would say is where  
4 policy could help is as we try and pursue our modernization  
5 strategy if we could have less restrictive language that  
6 will allow us to move that along we will continue to try and  
7 manage best the risk of the -- maintaining the current  
8 legacy platforms and moving into the new platforms.

9 Senator Tuberville: So you being in the Air Force and  
10 being around it for a long time how many sorties do we need  
11 a month to really be prepared to fight somebody like China?

12 General Allvin: Senator, there is a great phrase in  
13 the weapons school that says it depends, and I know that is  
14 not a satisfying answer but if I could maybe talk about what  
15 it may depend on.

16 We have revalidated throughout our Air Force -- over  
17 the past 18 months we have revalidated what we call our  
18 mission essential tasks. Moving from 20, 30 years of  
19 counter VEO fights, understanding the nature of the  
20 environment in which we are going to need to fight in the  
21 future, we have revalidated those tasks.

22 Understanding how well we do on those tasks tells us  
23 how many sorties we are going to need. We are also moving  
24 into a world to where -- when I was flying it was -- if you  
25 were in the simulator you were not getting that much



1 training. You need to actually be flying.

2 The advancement of the synthetic environment and the  
3 ability to work in some of the key mission areas without  
4 actually being in the cockpit changes that equation as well.

5 So I would say I do believe we could -- we could fly  
6 more and be better. But to give you a precise amount I  
7 think would be probably folly because there are other  
8 elements with respect to mixing with a live virtual  
9 construction environment that will help offset the need for  
10 pure airborne flying.

11 Senator Tuberville: Yeah, there is nothing like the  
12 actual experience and I think you would agree with me on  
13 that and I just hope that we are ready and willing and ready  
14 to go. And I do not know the difference in the airplanes.  
15 I am sure there is a difference of sorties in terms of the  
16 F-35 and all the different versions we have.

17 But, again, thank you for what you do. I wish they  
18 would bring you to the floor today. I would vote for you to  
19 be confirmed. Hopefully, that happens in the near future.

20 Thank you very much.

21 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator  
22 Tuberville.

23 Senator Warren, please?

24 Senator Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 General Allvin, congratulations on your nomination.

1 Gina, it is good to have you with us today.

2 So as chair of the Subcommittee on Personnel I want to  
3 thank you for your leadership on behalf of the airmen and  
4 their families and particularly your support for military  
5 family housing and making sure that families have access to  
6 child care.

7 I appreciate your focus on these issues and how  
8 important they are on both recruiting and retention and how  
9 much leadership you have shown in this area.

10 For nearly nine months now the senator from Alabama has  
11 personally blocked the Senate from approving promotions of  
12 more than 300 military leaders. These are all leaders that  
13 Senator Tuberville voted for here in committee but the  
14 senator from Alabama is angry about a Pentagon health care  
15 policy so he has decided none of the leaders can take up  
16 their jobs, the jobs that are needed to maintain our  
17 national security. The Air Force has the most senior  
18 officers who have been trapped by Senator Tuberville.

19 General Allvin, does this block on promotions for top  
20 military leaders help or hurt our ability to recruit and  
21 retain service members, particularly in fields like  
22 cybersecurity where we are fighting hard to try to get the  
23 best talent?

24 General Allvin: Senator, I will tell you that while we  
25 do not have specific hard data my experience and my personal

1 judgment says that that this does hurt recruiting and  
2 retention. We hear anecdotal evidence.

3 First, we have great airmen who are going to go out and  
4 do the mission and those who are serving in the positions,  
5 whether they are acting or they have deferred their  
6 retirement, they are going to continue to serve with honor  
7 and so with that I could not be more proud.

8 What I do think about and, again, without more than  
9 anecdotal evidence is the signal that this may send and with  
10 that signal understanding that if there is a perceived  
11 disruption or distraction by our force we want to maintain  
12 and retain the strongest and the best in our Air Force, and  
13 if those best have other options and their families have  
14 other options and they see this as a potential distraction  
15 then we run a greater risk than if these were not in place  
16 of losing those.

17 So that is the sort of retention concerns that I have,  
18 and as people look and if they see disruption and  
19 distraction we want to make sure we are also an employer of  
20 choice.

21 And so I think, anecdotally, I believe it affects us in  
22 both of those areas of recruiting and retention.

23 Senator Warren: Okay. So you are saying -- we focus  
24 on the 300-plus people who are directly being blocked but  
25 you are saying the impact is felt far beyond that in

1 retention and even recruitment, potentially?

2 General Allvin: Senator, I believe it could  
3 potentially just because they see it as a distraction to the  
4 normal way of doing business.

5 Senator Warren: I hear you.

6 Okay. So the senator from Alabama has said that  
7 blocking all top level promotions does not have any impact  
8 on our national security. That was not the view of the NATO  
9 leaders in Brussels. When Senator Blumenthal and I met with  
10 them just a couple of weeks ago they shared serious concerns  
11 about the impact of the blockade on our NATO operations.

12 General Allvin, if U.S. leadership in NATO were to wane  
13 would that be a national security concern, in your view?

14 General Allvin: Senator, it would. If U.S. leadership  
15 in NATO were to wane I believe it would and I think we need  
16 look no further back than the Ukraine war and how we were  
17 able to act as a responsible ally and sort of shore up and  
18 improve what I believe is the alliance's response to that,  
19 and I believe -- so if our influence in NATO waned I believe  
20 that would be a national security issue.

21 Senator Warren: Okay. And when I met with NATO  
22 leaders I heard concerns that leaving so many senior  
23 positions unfilled is leading our allies to question our  
24 commitment to NATO.

25 I will be blunt. The actions of the senator from

1 Alabama have become a national security nightmare. Instead  
2 of trying to embarrass the United States in front of its  
3 allies and trying to embolden our enemies the senator from  
4 Alabama should lift his holds and let our top military  
5 leaders do their jobs.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Warren.

8 Senator Budd, please?

9 Senator Budd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Let us just remember that Leader Schumer can bring all  
11 these wonderful nominees, highly qualified nominees, to the  
12 floor for a vote and rather than being here having this  
13 discussion -- it is an important discussion -- we could be  
14 here voting and moving these nominees through.

15 And also Secretary Austin could change this with the  
16 stroke of a pen. By this afternoon we could have this  
17 resolved if Secretary Austin would revert to the historical  
18 policy that we have had for decades in the Pentagon.

19 But, General, good morning. Thank you and  
20 congratulations on your nomination. I really enjoyed our  
21 conversation last week, and congratulations as well and  
22 thank you to your family, Gina and your three children, who  
23 have served right there with you. So we thank them as well.

24 In the conversation last week and many of the  
25 conversations I have heard this morning we are -- there was

1 a concern about joint force readiness so let us talk about  
2 that just a little bit more, and a growing fighter capacity  
3 gap and the threat posed by China both in the near term and  
4 in the long term as well, General.

5 So given budget constraints the Air Force has decided  
6 to divest to invest -- that is, to divest aging aircraft  
7 that you have mentioned this morning in favor of investing  
8 in research and developing future platforms like the B-21  
9 and next-generation air dominance family of systems.

10 So do you agree with that overall strategy, General?  
11 Yes or no.

12 General Allvin: I do.

13 Senator Budd: Thank you. So divest to invest does not  
14 come out with -- does not come without significant risks,  
15 particularly when it comes to fighter and intelligence,  
16 surveillance, and reconnaissance, or ISR, capacity given the  
17 growing threat posed by China and before these systems come  
18 online in the early 2030s.

19 So I am interested in ways that we can mitigate that  
20 risk to ensure that we are both ready today and better  
21 prepared for tomorrow. So talk to me, if you would, about  
22 ways that we can accomplish both modernization and improve  
23 current readiness rates. We talked a little bit about this  
24 in my office last week.

25 General Allvin: Well, yeah, Senator, thank you, and I

1 also very much enjoyed that conversation and specifically  
2 the joint aspect of it because I think as we understand how  
3 we are going as an Air Force we need to make sure that is in  
4 concert with our joint partners because there is also ways  
5 we can mitigate risk across the joint force.

6 But, Senator, to your point specifically on how we  
7 might be able to mitigate the transition as we move from  
8 where we are to where we need to be there are tough choices  
9 ahead. There is no question about it.

10 However, as we look towards doing some smart things  
11 such as, I would say, within our bomber fleet, obviously, we  
12 are working on the B-21 but we have got a B-52 that is  
13 likely to live to be a centenarian and it is because we are  
14 looking at can it operate in the environment that it is used  
15 to operating in, can it still be relevant, and how do we  
16 make it relevant.

17 So as we do that we want to look to take those that we  
18 cannot find a relevance for in the future and look to divest  
19 those to be able to reap those savings. However, as we look  
20 to the future and air superiority -- that is why we were  
21 speaking earlier very briefly about collaborative combat  
22 aircraft -- we have to find a way of having affordable mass,  
23 the ability to do air superiority and the ability to  
24 function in the Indo-Pacific in a way that is not cost  
25 prohibitive and that is why the faster we can get to some of

1 these modernization initiatives like CCAs, which we are  
2 absolutely focused on, the shorter that sort of  
3 vulnerability period is and the more we can mitigate that  
4 risk with the resources that we have been given, and if I am  
5 confirmed I commit to continuing to work and have that  
6 dialogue back and forth with this body on that.

7 Senator Budd: Thank you, General.

8 Just yesterday Secretary Kendall said that given  
9 combatant commanders' insatiable appetites for forces that  
10 we should exercise strategic discipline and prioritize  
11 deployment of ISR platforms and other forces to maintain  
12 readiness. Do you agree with Secretary Kendall?

13 General Allvin: I do agree with that, and  
14 understanding the context within which we have had  
15 conversations on that that context is that when we ask for  
16 ISR I think they are used to asking for it in a certain way  
17 with a platform when in fact what is the capability that you  
18 need -- what is the situational awareness that you need and  
19 can we provide that in a different way.

20 And when he says that they have an insatiable appetite  
21 it is not meant to be pejorative. It is with an  
22 understanding that if I am that combatant commander I have a  
23 certain area of risk that I have to sort of buy down that as  
24 well and so I would be asking for that as well.

25 And so it is with an understanding of that tension and



1 maybe a way to break through that.

2           Senator Budd: In recently reported remarks Admiral  
3 Aquilino, commander of INDOPACOM, he stated that his metric  
4 for success is the ability to find, fix, and finish 1,000  
5 targets within 24 hours. I appreciate that clarity.

6           With the Air Force divesting significant numbers of the  
7 platforms needed to do that how can the department improve  
8 its readiness and posture to ensure that it can enable the  
9 Indo-Pacific with the forces necessary to accomplish such a  
10 vital task in the event of conflict?

11          General Allvin: Senator, thank you for that.

12          I would say in brief if we are to seek to meet that  
13 goal of finding, fixing, and finishing a thousand targets we  
14 are not going to be able to do that with our current  
15 capabilities.

16          It is only with transitioning to platforms that move as  
17 part of a system that we are going to be able to scale and  
18 keep that situational awareness with networks that are  
19 resilient enough to where you do not have a single point of  
20 failure and you can recover and self heal and still be able  
21 to prosecute those targets.

22          That is not the capabilities we fully have today but  
23 that is what we envision being able to transition to in  
24 order to meet Admiral Aquilino's

25          And our department's vision for having that speed and

1 scale.

2 Senator Budd: General, I wish you luck. Thank you  
3 and, again, your family.

4 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Budd.

5 Senator King, please?

6 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 General, as I look down my list of questions I am going  
8 to give you a lot of assignments, I realized. The first is  
9 on availability.

10 You and I have talked about this. The range of  
11 availability for Air Force airplanes is in the 60s,  
12 generally. Perhaps some are below. Maybe one or two are  
13 above. That is unacceptable, and these are expensive  
14 platforms. In the private sector you would never have a  
15 \$100 million item that is only available 60 percent of the  
16 time.

17 I hope that you would do a study -- order a study of  
18 availability and readiness and what the bottlenecks are, and  
19 is it parts, is it maintainers, is it -- what are -- what is  
20 causing us to have to have so many planes stranded for such  
21 long periods of time?

22 Would you commit to taking a very serious look at this  
23 question?

24 General Allvin: Senator, I absolutely will.

25 I would say, if I could just make a point on that, it

1 is true that these availability numbers need to come up. We  
2 are starting that. I can definitely report back to you on  
3 what we are doing and how we are doing.

4 I think one of the challenges is we do not control all  
5 the levers that commercial industry was doing. I think we  
6 mentioned we would love to be able to benchmark ourselves by  
7 Delta. But Delta would never keep airplanes for as long as  
8 we keep airplanes.

9 So those are some of the things that we are trying to  
10 be able to manage. But I will be happy, Senator, to get  
11 back to you and --

12 Senator King: Well, one part of this, it seems to me,  
13 is 3D printing and getting to the point where when we buy a  
14 platform we also buy the IP so that we can print our own  
15 parts when necessary.

16 General Allvin: Senator, again, that was a great  
17 conversation we had in your office, and I agree with that.  
18 And it is not only just in 3D printing some parts and we  
19 talked about the air worthiness is -- it is not the -- it is  
20 a subset. It is not --

21 Senator King: But we have to work with the FAA to be  
22 sure we can get them certified.

23 General Allvin: Absolutely. But this idea of additive  
24 manufacturing is not only in our aircraft. It is in the way  
25 that we deploy. We need to think about how we travel

1 lighter and so those sort of things.

2 The advent of additive manufacturing is not only just  
3 to increase the reliability of our weapon systems but it is  
4 also to increase our lethality and performance in combat.

5 Senator King: Agreed. I want to associate my comments  
6 also with my co-chair of Strategic Forces, Senator Fischer,  
7 with regard to the Sentinel program, one of the largest  
8 projects ever undertaken by the United States government.

9 Again, the second assignment -- keep an eye on it.  
10 Keep a close eye on it because, both in terms of cost,  
11 timeliness, it is a critical part of our triad and, yet, it  
12 is a very complex project.

13 So I hope that this is going to get the attention it  
14 must have in order to be on time and within budget.

15 General Allvin: Senator, you have my commitment on it.

16 Senator King: Future conflict is going to involve an  
17 immense challenge of logistics, particularly if we are  
18 talking about the Pacific, and I think -- I hope that there  
19 is thought going on in the Air Force about what future  
20 conflict looks like.

21 It is not going to be like it was 10, 20, or 50 years  
22 ago. It is going to be a very different conflict and  
23 logistics, particularly fuel, is going to be a major  
24 challenge. Do you see that as part of the war planning for  
25 any future conflict?

1           General Allvin:  Senator, I do, and to your point the  
2 future conflict is going to happen at such a speed and scale  
3 and pace that whoever gets choked up on logistics first that  
4 could be -- that could be the critical difference maker.

5           Senator King:  Well, that is -- that was going to be my  
6 next point.  The first thing that is going to go is GPS and  
7 all of the electronic systems that we have come to depend  
8 upon, and we would -- we have all these very sophisticated  
9 platforms but many of them depend upon things like GPS or  
10 alternatives.

11           So I hope that there are -- I pushed the Navy on  
12 teaching people at Annapolis how to use a sextant.  I do not  
13 know if you can do that in a jet aircraft.  But there has to  
14 be some thought given to the fact that electronic warfare is  
15 going to be the first phase of any conflict.  The first  
16 thing that is going to happen is we are going to be blinded.

17           General Allvin:  Senator, I think that is a realistic  
18 expectation, and as we look at -- through our S&T portfolio  
19 we look at things like alternate position navigation and  
20 timing those are things that we are investigating, as well  
21 as I would lean to my brothers and sisters in the Space  
22 Force in building the resiliency to be able to ensure that  
23 we do not have that as much of a critical Achilles' heel.  
24 But your point is well taken and that understanding that the  
25 first shot may actually happen nonkinetically or in space

1 and we need to be able to adapt and respond to that.

2 Senator King: I would say not may. I would say almost  
3 certainly.

4 And the final piece of it, of course, is communications  
5 and command and control. Again, command and control is  
6 going to be essential and we have to -- that has got to be  
7 as we upgrade the triad command and control. I view it as a  
8 quad actually, that command and control is part of the  
9 triad.

10 General Allvin: Senator, I agree with you and I think  
11 that is why when we talk about the triad we talk about the  
12 Air Force has two-thirds of the triad plus three-quarters of  
13 the NC3, understanding that all those four elements -- you  
14 do not have effective strategic deterrence without those.

15 Senator King: Thank you. Thank you, General.  
16 Congratulations, and I look forward to, hopefully, a timely  
17 confirmation.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King.

20 Senator Scott, please?

21 Senator Scott: Thank you, Chairman.

22 General, thanks for being here. Congratulations on  
23 your unbelievable service. You are clearly qualified to do  
24 this -- the next job. So I look forward to working with  
25 you.

1 First, I just want to bring up something that -- and  
2 just to repeat -- and thanks for coming by my office. But  
3 when the Air Force decided to move 623 service members out  
4 of the Panhandle without calling us and telling us anything  
5 about it concerned me.

6 I think probably any governor did what we did in  
7 Florida is we put a lot of effort when I was governor to  
8 make sure that we were BRAC safe and we put a lot of effort  
9 in making sure we are the place where people want to fulfill  
10 their mission and the military can do their mission.

11 And so I just want to tell you I was disappointed that  
12 the Secretary would not call back and explain why he moved.  
13 There might be a lot of legitimate reasons for it but not  
14 calling to tell us why did not make any sense to me.

15 First, a couple questions. Next, Homestead -- we  
16 talked about this a little bit -- it is, I think, the  
17 closest airbase to Latin America and simple a way to project  
18 power to Latin America.

19 It is important to the community of Homestead Air Force  
20 Base, and when General Brown was testifying he said that he  
21 believes that, quote, "So as Homestead still has a mission  
22 we will still have a platform to operate from there."

23 So can you talk about what you believe is going to  
24 happen with Homestead over the next five years?

25 General Allvin: Senator, as we look at our future

1 modernization plans and how that plays out I would say that  
2 each individual installation -- I cannot give you a firm  
3 answer as to what will or will not happen but as we  
4 discussed in your office we certainly -- we look to those  
5 who have missions to continue with those missions and what I  
6 can -- if I am confirmed what I can commit to is continued  
7 dialogue early on in that process.

8 Senator Scott: Thank you.

9 Next, we talk about this Hurricane Idalia. The Air  
10 Force missed about six hours of a mission to provide data to  
11 the National Hurricane Center, which for a state that has  
12 -- at least right now seems like we have a lot of hurricanes  
13 -- doing that was a significant problem.

14 So can you talk about what happened and what you will  
15 do to make sure that the National Hurricane Center gets the  
16 services they need?

17 General Allvin: Yes, Senator, and, again I would like  
18 to say that hats off to the recovery effort that was there  
19 and we feel terrible about the damage that was caused by  
20 Idalia. But Florida has certainly proved to be resilient to  
21 hurricanes.

22 With respect to the Hurricane Hunter mission, I will  
23 say that, as usual, during hurricane season they are very,  
24 very closely associated and in conversation with NOAA and  
25 they positioned themselves in a place where they see as the



1 largest threat, if you will, of the hurricane. And so they  
2 were dispersed in places like St. Croix where there was also  
3 a storm brewing, and as the situation changed they did  
4 reprioritize and put more assets in backup.

5 In that interim time we still had the platform  
6 available. Unfortunately, there was a maintenance delay  
7 with that and so that is why the potential gap. But by the  
8 time it became a Cat 2 we already had the forces from St.  
9 Croix redeployed and ready to support Idalia and I would say  
10 I should not get off the stage without just congratulating  
11 what those hurricane hunters do, much like the folks who do  
12 the massive firefighting. That is dangerous business and  
13 they do it every summer.

14 Senator Scott: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I do not think I would  
15 want to be up there -- what they do.

16 The -- next, the Air Force activated the 350th spectrum  
17 warfare wing at Eglin on June 25th, 2021, to support the  
18 consolidation and modernization of the Department of the Air  
19 Force electromagnetic spectrum enterprise.

20 Can you talk about the importance of this and how do  
21 you see what the Air Force's role is going to be going  
22 forward with regard to this?

23 General Allvin: Yeah, Senator, thank you. We have  
24 been talking here -- in bits and pieces here about  
25 electromagnetic warfare and spectrum and maintaining the

1 spectrum.

2 This is something that we are understanding it is  
3 evolving from something we used to think about as spectrum  
4 management, which was when you operate in different  
5 frequencies here.

6 We are finding this is much more integrated into the  
7 way of war and the idea of a spectrum warfare wing that  
8 understands not only how we operate within the spectrum but  
9 what our vulnerabilities might be, what the adversaries'  
10 vulnerabilities might be, and this spectrum warfare is  
11 really integrating with the other traditional parts of  
12 warfare and ensuring that we can have our air superiority,  
13 we can support our strike missions, all those, by not just  
14 managing spectrum but protecting our own vulnerabilities and  
15 exploiting those of our adversaries and I think that is the  
16 exciting part.

17 I see this as an expanding mission because it is going  
18 to be part and parcel to the future of warfare and if we are  
19 going to try and prosecute that many targets in that amount  
20 of time we have to be able to dominate spectrum, and I am  
21 really excited about what the folks are doing down at the  
22 350th.

23 Senator Scott: Thanks for your service and  
24 congratulations on your nomination.

25 General Allvin: Thank you, Senator.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Scott.

2 Senator Peters, please?

3 Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 General Allvin, it is good to see you again and  
5 congratulations to both you and your family for this  
6 nomination to become our next Chief of Staff of the Air  
7 Force.

8 I just want to first just quickly acknowledge something  
9 that you and I discussed in my office earlier and that is  
10 recent steps by the Air Force to install treatment systems  
11 in Michigan, which is a welcome and certainly a -- the right  
12 direction to address the PFAS contamination we have on our  
13 state. So, again, I am pleased with the initial action that  
14 is being taken.

15 However, I also want to stress as I stressed with you  
16 at length -- we do not need to go over it again -- but at  
17 length that there is still more work to be done to expedite  
18 these cleanup efforts and I am going to continue to hold the  
19 Air Force and other federal agencies accountable for  
20 protecting public health in Michigan and as well as ensuring  
21 that Michigan's defense installations, particularly  
22 Selfridge Air National Guard Base, remain central to our  
23 national defense and long-term strategic goals as well and  
24 look forward to, if confirmed, future conversations related  
25 to that.

1           But my question for you, General Allvin, is that during  
2 our visit we briefly discussed innovation and opportunities  
3 for the Air Force to expand and speed up autonomy  
4 development for the next-generation air dominance platform  
5 as well as the collaborative combat aircraft.

6           And given your comments and concerns for ensuring the  
7 Air Force can outmatch and outpace our adversaries my  
8 question is, if confirmed, would you recommend additional  
9 testing and training sites where the Air Force can test,  
10 integrate, and validate autonomous mobility for next-  
11 generation platforms?

12           And I am asking this question because given the CCAs  
13 will be an autonomous platform to me that seems to open up  
14 the possibility for changes in the standard Air Force  
15 operational test and evaluation doctrine. If you could  
16 speak to that, please.

17           General Allvin: Yes, Senator, thank you for that  
18 question because as I look forward I really do believe that  
19 central to our success as an Air Force and, quite frankly,  
20 as a joint force I believe will be our ability to tackle and  
21 really leverage autonomy and AI in the battle space in a  
22 responsible manner.

23           We are starting down that path and associated with  
24 that, to your point, operational test and training  
25 infrastructure is going to be key. As we evaluate what will

1 be required and what the systems and the associated ranges  
2 and airspace that will be required we need to look at those  
3 that are not just, perhaps, in the traditional testing  
4 ranges but I can see opportunities for more in the synthetic  
5 environment or, perhaps, more in the actual environment in  
6 different ranges.

7 So while I am not wanting to commit to a certain thing  
8 I believe that that is going to be part and parcel in our  
9 transformation of understanding how one can move uncrewed  
10 aircraft in a different airspace and a different  
11 environment.

12 Senator Peters: Well, thank you for that and I look  
13 forward to working with you on that.

14 And in the spirit of innovation, partnership, and  
15 collaboration I want to highlight a recent conversation that  
16 I had with Assistant Secretary Chaudhari, who recently  
17 attended exercise Northern Strike in Michigan. The  
18 assistant secretary seemed particularly impressed with the  
19 Michigan Guard's ability to host and lead a multi-national  
20 multi-component joint force training exercise using assets  
21 like the Selfridge Air National Guard Base as well as Camp  
22 Grayling and basically the vast physical space and spectrum  
23 that is available in northern Michigan.

24 So my question for you, sir, is if confirmed how would  
25 you resource and budget for joint force exercises like

1 Northern Strike that can provide invaluable opportunities  
2 for airmen to train with the -- not only the joint force but  
3 with our foreign partners as well?

4 General Allvin: Well, Senator, first, I would say that  
5 -- I would like to add my congratulations for how successful  
6 Northern Strike continues to be because this is not the  
7 first year.

8 Obviously, it has been very successful over the years,  
9 continues to grow, and as we continue to look at different  
10 ways of supporting the joint warfighting concept I can see  
11 these particular exercises as being particularly useful.

12 I also want to congratulate the Air National Guard for  
13 how they do -- they sort of host all of this and bring it  
14 all together from a joint perspective, which shows that,  
15 again, we are a total force -- Air Force and a total force,  
16 joint force.

17 If confirmed, I will continue to advocate for these  
18 types of exercises that can advance on our joint warfighting  
19 concept. The Joint Staff J7 also is one of those elements  
20 that has -- looks over their joint training exercise  
21 program.

22 So if confirmed as a member of the Joint Chiefs I will  
23 also look to work with them to ensure that our joint  
24 training exercise program leverages all of the capabilities  
25 and all of the competencies for things like Northern Strike

1 to be integrated into our exercising and training, going  
2 forward.

3 Senator Peters: Great. Well, thank you, General.  
4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Peters.

6 Senator Schmitt, please?

7 Senator Schmitt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Thank you for being here, General, and thank you for  
9 your service to our country.

10 I want to start by just noting I have serious concerns  
11 about our military remaining neutral in the political  
12 sphere. If confirmed, you have a duty not only to protect  
13 the country but also to protect the reputation of the  
14 military by your words and actions, of course.

15 Previous actions and comments by some in our military  
16 command have thrust our military into political issues that  
17 are both distracting and inappropriate. As we get  
18 increasingly concerning reporting about China's military  
19 growth and ambitions I fear that the People's Republic of  
20 China poses a threat to our country like none other we have  
21 had in our history, both militarily, economically, in their  
22 designs.

23 A potential conflict with China would necessarily rely  
24 heavily on the Air Force and our preparedness for such a  
25 scenario is my chief concern. I look forward to hearing

1 your thoughts on that.

2 General Allvin, your nomination comes at a time when  
3 the threat posed by Communist China has reached critical  
4 levels. It also comes at a time when the Air Force is at a  
5 crossroads for decommissioning old platforms while also  
6 investing in future platforms like the B-21, which is  
7 critical in deterring PRC aggression.

8 I look forward to hearing more about the direction you  
9 envision for the Air Force and how those decisions we are  
10 making today will strengthen deterrence in the Indo-Pacific.

11 The first thing I want to touch on is during the August  
12 recess had a chance to get to Whiteman, which we are very  
13 proud of, in Missouri, of course, and we look forward to  
14 those B-21s making their way there.

15 But there is also -- the 442nd fighter wing is there,  
16 and I know this is not a new issue but I do want to hear  
17 from you. There is a lot of trained people there that have  
18 worked on the A-10 over the years.

19 What -- when do you think the Air Force will finalize  
20 some of the transition plans for the A-10 like at the 442nd?  
21 How do you -- where do you see this moving? Because,  
22 obviously, once you lose kind of a trained workforce it is  
23 very hard to bring that back and I know that that follow-on  
24 mission is really important. What are your thoughts on  
25 that?



1           General Allvin: Well, thank you for that, Senator.  
2           And, of course Whiteman is -- it is a crown jewel and I  
3           think the people around Whiteman have gotten used to seeing  
4           interesting looking platforms flying around and being  
5           impressed by them and so I am sure the B-21 will not  
6           disappoint.

7           To your point about the 442nd, Senator, I think it has  
8           the distinction of really serving well with the A-10 and we  
9           know that that is a platform that does not necessarily find  
10          its place in the future with a fight with China.

11          As we look towards working with the Reserve Command and  
12          how we can leverage not only perhaps an association on the  
13          B-21 but for future missions, in any of these the first  
14          thing that we want to do is see if we can -- if there is an  
15          appropriate flying mission. If there is not an appropriate  
16          flying mission we at least want to continue in mission.

17          So as we go forward I believe the A-10 divestment in  
18          Whiteman is not until later in the FYDP. But we will -- I  
19          commit to you if I am confirmed we will be in dialogue about  
20          opportunities and the pathway that we are doing -- that we  
21          are approaching looking at the total force lay down as we  
22          are looking at a force design which is potentially going to  
23          have a larger overall Air Force footprint.

24          But how we can ensure that that total force, to your  
25          point, Senator, that the great skills and capabilities that

1 are resident in those maintainers and fliers are not lost as  
2 we have this very critical time in the fight with China.

3 Senator Schmitt: Well, as you know, and just talking  
4 with them, the longer -- and I am preaching to the choir  
5 here but I think it is important to note -- the longer that  
6 goes on people make decisions in the Reserve of where they  
7 go and so I think it is important, obviously, to kind of  
8 move that along just for some certainty.

9 But as I -- I do want to -- I have to ask you. I  
10 touched on this during my opening remarks. I have, which is  
11 not news here today, but serious concerns about injecting  
12 politics into our military.

13 I think it is incredibly divisive. There is no place  
14 in it and I do not -- I am not espoused -- and I do not want  
15 one particular ideology to take hold. I just -- I just feel  
16 like the military is there to be a lethal fighting force  
17 that needs to be prepared and so some of the things we have  
18 seen over the last couple of years are concerning. In the  
19 Air Force in particular some of the top brass have waded  
20 into this headlong.

21 General Allvin, you were not a signatory to this but I  
22 do want to ask you. Last year General Brown was a signatory  
23 to a memo that advocated for racial quotas for Air Force  
24 officers. Can you share your thoughts with that August  
25 memo?

1           General Allvin:  Senator, I will.  I will share my  
2 thoughts.

3           My thoughts are that our focus has always been about  
4 fielding the best, most capable, most lethal Air Force and  
5 my understanding of that memo was that it was designed to  
6 reach further out into the corners of the country to find  
7 the best available talent.

8           But we are a meritocracy and we are one that is focused  
9 on lethality and readiness, and to the point you made  
10 earlier in your statement, Senator, which could not be more  
11 correct, is that we have a growing threat and we have to  
12 focus and we have to maintain our readiness and our focus on  
13 a sense of urgency on being able to meet that.

14           And so it is and will be -- if confirmed, my continued  
15 focus is ensuring the readiness and lethality of this force  
16 to meet the threat and making sure our airmen stay focused  
17 on that as well.

18           Senator Schmitt:  Thank you, and I share your desire to  
19 reach out to as many people as possible and I have not heard  
20 anything from your testimony that you would be advocating  
21 for racial quotas.  Again, I think this is a -- this is a  
22 poison writ large but, certainly, in our military.  So I  
23 appreciate your answer.

24           General Allvin:  Senator, I will not and if confirmed I  
25 do not intend to at all ever advocate for racial quotas.

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

2 Chairman Reed: Thank you.

3 Senator Kelly, please?

4 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and General  
5 Allvin, great seeing you again. Enjoyed our conversation  
6 last week and congratulations on your nomination.

7 Thrilled that in July the Air Force announced that  
8 Davis-Monthan has been selected as the preferred location  
9 for the Air Force Special Operations power projection wing,  
10 and this is a critical step in the Air Force basing process  
11 and represents a formal decision by the Secretary to advance  
12 the transition plan on this and this important decision  
13 allows the Air Force to modernize to meet the pacing threat  
14 from China while still retaining critical capabilities and  
15 the flexibility that is necessary to engage any threat  
16 anywhere anytime, and there are a series of other actions  
17 including fleet modernization and new assets coming to  
18 Davis-Monthan as part of this transition.

19 So, General, do I have your commitment to closely  
20 monitor this transition and the activities around it at D-M  
21 to ensure that in each step in the process that it occurs in  
22 a timely manner without -- and without delay?

23 General Allvin: Senator, you absolutely have my  
24 commitment on that.

25 Senator Kelly: Thank you. And if you do wind up

1 encountering any delays or identify any need for additional  
2 resources I ask that you come to me and this committee right  
3 away.

4 So do I have your commitment to stay in close  
5 communication with me and with the rest of the Arizona  
6 delegation in particular on the status of these activities?

7 General Allvin: Senator, you do.

8 Senator Kelly: Thank you. Thank you, General.

9 And, General, an area that I am very interested in and  
10 that is very important to our national defense is electronic  
11 warfare. When I flew in the first Gulf War our ability to  
12 get ahead of our enemy in the EW spectrum was critical to  
13 our success in the air war in particular and I believe that  
14 the Defense Department needs to focus its efforts on  
15 electronic warfare because now even more than -- more so  
16 than in 1991 that is where the next war is likely to begin.

17 And for many years we looked at air superiority with  
18 electronic warfare support as being central to the way that  
19 we fight and win a war but I think in the future the  
20 electronic warfare's superiority is going to be more  
21 critical than ever.

22 And so I worked on some language that is now in the  
23 defense bill to direct the Joint Chiefs and the under  
24 secretary for research and engineering to strengthen  
25 capabilities at EW ranges like the range -- the electronic

1 proving ground at Fort Huachuca in Arizona and this training  
2 in a new Western Range complex demo that I proposed it is  
3 going to benefit all the services. I am pretty sure of  
4 that.

5 So, General, how do you intend to approach preparing  
6 the Air Force and all the services for the EW fight?

7 General Allvin: Senator, thank you very much for that  
8 -- for that question. I agree with your assessment when you  
9 mention your experience in Desert Storm. I think one would  
10 look and maybe be a bit disappointed in the progress between  
11 Desert Storm and maybe the last few years.

12 I think we have really moved out intellectually and now  
13 conceptually and then soon -- now we need to start getting  
14 on fielding the capabilities that recognize the point that  
15 you made about the centrality of electronic warfare.

16 Associated with that, as we look at moving from the  
17 types of electronic warfare we were familiar with into now  
18 thinking about cognitive EW, those sorts of things where we  
19 are actually -- to that next level of better understanding  
20 and needing to do it more rapidly and respond it becomes  
21 -- it becomes part of the air support and superiority  
22 mission. It becomes even more central to it.

23 And so, therefore, having the ability to do tests and  
24 training on representative systems that we can develop our  
25 TTPs on in the live environment or in the virtual

1 environment I think will be advantageous to our Air Force.

2 Senator Kelly: Yeah, and at the electronic proving  
3 ground because of the natural geography of the area  
4 representative systems can operate at a much higher power  
5 level than they can in other places.

6 Of note here we are going to get the first Compass Call  
7 airplane here pretty soon in Arizona, the EC-37B, the new EW  
8 plane for the Air Force. We were able to add four  
9 additional airplanes. That would give the Air Force about  
10 10. I think in the future we have got to continue to  
11 evaluate whether we could need more.

12 And then also I think I would note in my last eight  
13 seconds here airspace to train fourth- and now fifth-  
14 generation fighters is of a premium and as the stick gets  
15 longer the range gets bigger and we are going to have to  
16 look at stitching some of these ranges together.

17 We are doing that in Arizona. We have got a demo plan  
18 here to connect Barry Goldwater with the Jackal and MOA  
19 -- Jackal and Outlaw MOAs at least for certain periods of  
20 time. We are working with the FAA on that. I would like to  
21 have your support in making this a reality.

22 General Allvin: Senator, absolutely. Again, as the  
23 physical -- as the physical engagements in an actual combat  
24 get bigger we need to understand how to better replicate  
25 that even if not all the time but to work with the FAA to

1 make sure we have the ability to do that and I certainly  
2 look forward to working with you in the future if I am  
3 confirmed.

4 Senator Kelly: Thank you, General.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kelly.

6 Senator Sullivan, please?

7 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 General, good to see you again. Congratulations to you  
9 and your family. Thank you for your family's service.

10 Real quick on a whole host of issues but just following  
11 up from Senator Kelly's, you have to stitch together things  
12 in the lower 48 but let us talk about JPARC and how  
13 important JPARC is going to be for the future of the Air  
14 Force, future of the Navy, future for American aviation  
15 airspace. Bigger than Florida and expanding. We can expand  
16 it there. The only people that get a little upset are some  
17 of our moose hunters in the fall, and we can take care  
18 -- cooperate with them.

19 But talk about the importance of JPARC and how that is  
20 a premier range for training.

21 General Allvin: Senator, you basically said it very  
22 well. It is a premier range and it is one of those where we  
23 are committed to increasing the sophistication and the  
24 capabilities there because it is as threat representative as  
25 one can have and it also is in an environment with which we



1 can work with allies and partners that are in the  
2 neighborhood that can help us to train together in sort of  
3 the geographical area close to which we may have to fight.

4 Senator Sullivan: You are a student of history. I  
5 know the father of the Air Force, Billy Mitchell, referred  
6 to one part of America as the most strategic place not just  
7 for America but the most strategic place in the world. Do  
8 you know what he was talking about when he said that?

9 General Allvin: I believe that is when he was carrying  
10 mail as well up in Alaska.

11 Senator Sullivan: Yeah, he was talking about Alaska.  
12 So do you agree with that? He was the father of the Air  
13 Force so I think your answer is very limited in terms of  
14 your discretion to say yes or no.

15 General Allvin: Well, with my discretion I would say  
16 it is amongst the most important strategic areas in the  
17 world.

18 Senator Sullivan: I am not sure that is exactly what  
19 Billy Mitchell said but I take that as a yes.

20 So related to that, we have over a hundred fifth-gen  
21 fighters now in Alaska. There is no place on the planet  
22 Earth that has that kind of fifth-gen fighter power.

23 But as you and I have talked about, on the KC-46 the  
24 original basing plan after much study by the Air Force was  
25 to put all of the 179 original purchase to be based in the

1 lower 48.

2 My own view -- I have not dug into that a lot. I am  
3 not sure how strategic that was. That may have been more  
4 budget driven than strategy driven.

5 But now that there is -- the Air Force is leaning  
6 towards buying 75 more can I get your commitment to take a  
7 look once again at basing some of those in Alaska, co-  
8 located with the hundred fifth-gen fighters, co-located with  
9 JPARC, which is the best training probably in the world?

10 And as you know, General, if there is a fight in the  
11 INDOPACOM region even the aircraft in the lower 48, if they  
12 are getting over to Asia, are going to fly directly over  
13 Alaska. We have enormous ability to keep the jet fuel at  
14 Eielson.

15 Can I get your commitment to look hard at that issue?  
16 I know we are looking at the KC-135s but the KC-46s  
17 strategically makes a lot of sense. I just do not  
18 understand everything in the lower 48. It does not make  
19 sense to me. What am I missing?

20 General Allvin: Senator, you have my commitment that  
21 -- as we look at the bridge between the current KC-46 and  
22 the KC-135 recapitalization of however many it turns out to  
23 be you have my commitment that we will look at Alaska and  
24 evaluate that and stay in communication with you as we  
25 evolve towards that decision.

1 Senator Sullivan: Great. Thank you on that.

2 There has not been a lot of discussion on recruiting.  
3 The Air Force is going to miss 10,000 airmen. I think the  
4 Army is almost double that. We have an all-volunteer force.  
5 If that continues, I mean, we are going to -- we are going  
6 to really be putting at risk our all-volunteer force.

7 One of things that I have focused on is military  
8 recruiting access to high schools. There was an article  
9 recently in the Military Times that says, well, pretty much  
10 everybody has it.

11 But that was not that accurate because a lot of high  
12 schools do the bare minimum and say, okay, recruiter, you  
13 get your one time on campus, one a year.

14 Tell me what are we doing on recruiting. Is there a  
15 problem accessing high schools? Should not be, but what do  
16 we need to kind of get around this 10,000-person gap? It is  
17 a huge issue.

18 General Allvin: Senator, it is. It is a big issue. I  
19 will tell you that it is one we are laser focused on.

20 What I can give you is the progress between last year  
21 and this year and then allow for a couple thoughts very  
22 quickly. The total force -- the National Guard this year is  
23 looking to be 30 percent more recruiting this year than last  
24 year. The Reserves is 20 percent more this year than last  
25 year.

1 Senator Sullivan: You mean better?

2 General Allvin: More recruits this year than last  
3 year. The challenge is when you always recruit to end  
4 strength is that if you are 4,000 short one year then you  
5 got 8,000 the next year and then you got 12,000. So the  
6 idea of looking what you recruit against.

7 So I look at how many they recruited last year and how  
8 many they recruited this year, and we got three weeks -- two  
9 weeks left in the year and it looks like the Air National  
10 Guard will increase by 30 percent this year what they did  
11 last year and the Reserves by 20 percent.

12 The Air Force had to dig deep into our bench, that  
13 delayed entry program. We are refilling that bench. What  
14 it looked like we were going to be in February or March was  
15 going to be 6,000 short in the active duty. Now it looks  
16 like we are going to be closer to 2,900.

17 All that to say we are starting to look at these  
18 programs where we are reevaluating our policies without  
19 sacrificing standards. We are looking at some of the more  
20 incentives that we are enabling more folks to come in here.

21 But to your point, Senator, specifically about outreach  
22 we need to be more active about getting into the high  
23 schools consistently. I think we -- hopefully, we are at  
24 the end of the real post COVID not being able to get into  
25 the schools. That two- or three-year period is -- I think

1 we are done with that to being able to think about that as a  
2 cost.

3 So our getting back into those high schools and  
4 fundamentally meeting these prospective airmen where they  
5 are and reaching out to them digitally, I think, and we are  
6 looking at increasing the number of recruiters to be able to  
7 do that, and if I am confirmed it will remain.

8 I have been head of a task force to help move some of  
9 these forward and it will remain a focus of mine if I am  
10 confirmed.

11 Senator Sullivan: Great. Thank you.

12 And, Mr. Chairman, I know there has been discussion on  
13 this. I just want to make one comment.

14 Nobody is working as hard as you and I and others on  
15 this issue of getting our flag officers confirmed, trying to  
16 find compromise. I do think there is, certainly, a role  
17 with the majority leader to start bringing some of the  
18 members of the Joint Chiefs to the floor for votes.

19 That is what we have done for many years and to deny  
20 that that is a part of the responsibility we have been  
21 confirming all kinds of lower ranking people. I think the  
22 majority leader needs to get involved in this as well.

23 But I am going to continue to work with you, Mr.  
24 Chairman, on this issue. I know it is very important to our  
25 flag officers and I care deeply about it. But there is a

1 role for everybody. Thank you.

2 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Sullivan.

3 Senator Blumenthal, please?

4 Senator Blumenthal: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you  
5 for being here, General. Thanks for your candor in our  
6 meeting the other day and today as well.

7 I want to congratulate you and thank you and your  
8 family, Gina and your three children. I know you cannot do  
9 what you do without their support and they serve as well as  
10 you.

11 You and I talked the other day about training Ukrainian  
12 pilots. I know you have talked a little bit today about the  
13 F-16s and how important they are to the Ukrainians' fight  
14 against Russia's murderous aggression and atrocities -- war  
15 crimes -- there and I have visited Ukraine four times in the  
16 last 18 months.

17 I have advocated that we provide F-16s probably for the  
18 past year. You and I discussed a little bit the length of  
19 time required for training, the need to learn English, at  
20 least enough English to be able to be trained, and I wonder  
21 if you could tell me again, assuming that those Ukrainians  
22 have that language understanding, the linguistic ability,  
23 and how long it would take to train Ukrainians at Morris Air  
24 National Guard Base in Arizona where I understand that  
25 training is going to begin in this country.

1           General Allvin: Well, Senator, thank you for that  
2 question and I really have been -- throughout this hearing  
3 we have talked to Ukraine a little bit but I have not said  
4 how proud I think we all are of Ukraine for what they have  
5 done and their bravery.

6           And so in our support integrating with our European  
7 allies and partners in the training we did talk in your  
8 office about how long it takes to train.

9           Once they have sufficient English proficiency  
10 -- obviously, every student is different at their level of  
11 proficiency and advancing through the course but the course  
12 that we are putting them through usually takes approximately  
13 six months.

14          So if they were to start here next month or so it would  
15 be early into the spring. Following that, though -- that is  
16 just your basic F-16 training. There are some specificities  
17 about the actual platforms that are being donated from the  
18 Danes and -- that have specific peculiarities to them so  
19 there will be some small follow on.

20          But with respect to just learning the F-16 and then the  
21 follow on I would imagine that is somewhere between six and  
22 nine months.

23          Senator Blumenthal: I realize that different weapons  
24 platforms require different amounts of training. I had the  
25 privilege of visiting our base in Germany just outside

1 Munich -- Grafenwoehr -- and I think I observed to you that  
2 the training on Bradley and Stryker vehicles there is taking  
3 significantly less time than was projected and normally  
4 would be required and, in fact, I will just add I am very  
5 proud not only of the Ukrainians and our support for Ukraine  
6 but also of our own military men and women who are providing  
7 support now for the Ukrainians in training. They are all in  
8 and their dedication is really impressive.

9       So I am wondering whether those time periods can be  
10 compressed.

11       General Allvin: Senator, I can assure you that if the  
12 folks in Tucson see the advancement they will not hold them  
13 back. They will be proficiency advanced and they will train  
14 them to the level of their competency and if that takes less  
15 time then all the better. But they will just ensure that  
16 they are trained to a certain standard of competency.

17       Senator Blumenthal: I want to ask you briefly in the  
18 time that I have left -- we also discussed the importance of  
19 unmanned aircraft, the next-generation air dominance family  
20 of systems and the role that AI -- artificial intelligence  
21 -- can play.

22       Is that an area of investment where you think we should  
23 concentrate?

24       General Allvin: Thank you for that, Senator, because I  
25 think this is one of the areas where I think we need to,



1 perhaps, move the fastest. I believe that the side that  
2 understands how to leverage autonomy and do it in an ethical  
3 way to where the policymakers feel comfortable putting that  
4 type of a capability into combat I think is going to be key.

5 And so as we are looking at the collaborative combat  
6 aircraft we are focusing on not only just the platform but  
7 separately we are evaluating the autonomy to understand the  
8 left and right limits of what can be done so we can be  
9 discussing what should be done earlier on.

10 And then the third thing that we are doing is also this  
11 experimental operations unit. So we understand what the  
12 platform can do how do we base it, where do we base it, how  
13 do we integrate it with other elements of our Air Force.

14 Senator, we are trying to do those all at the same time  
15 so we can field that capability responsibly and effectively  
16 as soon as possible, and I think that is going to be a key  
17 to future combat.

18 Senator Blumenthal: Finally, let me just say I am  
19 going to enthusiastically support your nomination. I hope  
20 we will confirm you as quickly as possible.

21 But to Senator Sullivan's point, confirming just the  
22 very top officials of our military leadership will deprive  
23 them of the leadership that reports to them, and you cannot  
24 do your job without a team under you and you have observed  
25 to me how important you think that team is and I hope we

1 will resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

2 Thank you.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Blumenthal.

4 For the second round Senator Cramer, please?

5 Senator Cramer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,  
6 General, for hanging in there.

7 First of all, you have said the words collaborate and  
8 dialogue a lot and I think you mean them. I take you at  
9 your word. But if after confirmed you actually do that you  
10 will be unusual, just so you know. So we are looking for  
11 you to start a new tradition around here.

12 Now, I followed very closely the question with Senator  
13 Fischer, Senator King, Senator Budd, regarding the Sentinel.  
14 By the way, thanks for the shout out for the 100-year-old B-  
15 52. Incredible. You know it. We all know it in North  
16 Dakota.

17 But the Sentinel is equally important to us and  
18 modernization. Are you committed on behalf of the Air Force  
19 to see this thing through to all three bases of ICBMs being  
20 modernized to completion, realizing that the end will be  
21 after you and I are both gone probably?

22 But it is really important that we are committed to  
23 this all the way through.

24 General Allvin: Senator, I am absolutely committed and  
25 if for no other reason than it is required.

1 Senator Cramer: Yeah. Thank you.

2 General Allvin: The idea that we now have another  
3 country who is fielding nuclear capabilities in a very rapid  
4 pace we have -- will have an even more complex nuclear  
5 deterrence environment. And so to be able to ensure that we  
6 have that safe, reliable, and effective in a way that is  
7 modern is absolutely critical. It underpins this nation's  
8 defense.

9 Senator Cramer: Thank you. Well said. Thank you.

10 Then one last thing. I am going to get back to the  
11 previous discussion about Grand Forks, and thank you for  
12 accepting my invitation to come to the UAS summit as my  
13 guest.

14 You are one of two that will be there. As you know,  
15 General Saltzman is joining us as well. I want to take full  
16 advantage of all the jet fuel that is going to be used to  
17 get both of you there.

18 And I want to show you every corner of that base. I  
19 know you served there. You commanded. But what is going on  
20 on the private side, on the civilian side, is nothing short  
21 of remarkable. What General Atomics is doing training our  
22 pilots and our allies' pilots with Northrop Grumman their  
23 operation is incredible. Obviously, TRMC's use of the RQ-4s  
24 is remarkable stuff.

25 I want you to see that innovative ecosystem that has

1 been created and that is enhanced, frankly, by the  
2 University of North Dakota. Just last week, I was there to  
3 celebrate the very first National Security Fellowship at the  
4 at the School of Engineering.

5 We created that ecosystem that even -- that even the  
6 FAA recognizes and allows us -- and our radar system that  
7 allows us to test beyond visual sight.

8 And so I want to do that but you might have to stay  
9 more than a couple hours. That is my only point. I just  
10 -- I want to take full advantage of you and General Saltzman  
11 together and have these very serious conversations about the  
12 future.

13 General Allvin: Senator, I commit to that because I do  
14 look forward to that, and when you say the words innovation  
15 and ecosystem that sort of gets my blood going as well  
16 because I think that is part and parcel to our future is  
17 leveraging all the innovation that is out there in all  
18 parts.

19 Senator Cramer: Well, then I might have to do a  
20 roundtable with a bunch of smart deans and students as well.

21 Thank you.

22 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cramer.

23 Thank you very much, General. I look forward to seeing  
24 your rapid confirmation. I think you and Secretary Kendall  
25 will make a superb team and I commend you for your service

1 to the nation and just as importantly your family's service  
2 to the nation. You have made us all very proud.

3 Thank you. And with that, I will adjourn this hearing.

4 [Whereupon, at 11:41 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25