

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON
THE POSTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY IN
REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND THE FUTURE YEARS

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Washington, D.C.

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7
8 U.S. Senate

9 Committee on Armed Services

10 Washington, D.C.

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12 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:33 a.m. in
13 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed,
14 chairman of the committee, presiding.

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

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

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

4 Before we start, I would like to acknowledge the UH60
5 Blackhawk training accident that occurred last night at Fort
6 Campbell. Our thoughts are with the Army family today and I
7 know this hits General McConville in a particularly
8 difficult way as an aviator and as a former commander of the
9 101st Airborne Division. You know and you feel it
10 personally.

11 It also demonstrates the enduring risks our men and
12 women who volunteer to serve our nation face every day, not
13 just in combat zones but in rigorous training. So all of
14 our thoughts and prayers are with these families and with
15 the Army today. Thank you.

16 The committee meets today to receive testimony on the
17 President's budget request for the Army for fiscal year
18 2024. Our witnesses today are Secretary to the Army
19 Christine Wormuth and Chief of Staff of the Army General
20 James McConville.

21 Thank you both for your service and please convey this
22 committee's appreciation to the men and women serving under
23 your command.

24 General McConville, as this will be your last posture
25 hearing before your retirement, on behalf of the committee I

1 would like to offer you our sincere gratitude and
2 congratulations. The nation is safer and the United States
3 Army is on a path of generational transformation because of
4 your leadership.

5 We thank you for your many decades of selfless service
6 and we thank your family for their continued support, and
7 most particularly for their continued service. I believe
8 that every one of your sons is in the United States Army and
9 that your son-in-law is in the United States Army. Am I
10 correct?

11 General McConville: And my daughter, Senator --

12 Chairman Reed: I am sorry. You must be Irish. How
13 many children do you have?

14 [Laughter.]

15 Chairman Reed: The Army is faced with historic
16 challenges, though, and even as the service is undertaking
17 its most thorough modernization effort in 40 years while in
18 the midst of the most difficult recruiting environment in
19 half a century, the Army is being called upon to increase
20 its forward operating presence.

21 The Army's strength has always been drawn from its
22 soldiers and its leaders and its tenacity to get the job
23 done, and that characteristic grit is certainly needed
24 today.

25 In its fiscal year 2024 budget the Department of

1 Defense has requested \$185 billion to the Army, marking the
2 fourth straight year of a flat budget for the service. Even
3 as every other service and element of the department has
4 benefited from significant increases, the Army has seen its
5 funding essentially plateau.

6 Understandably, the department is focused on the pacing
7 threat in the Indo-Pacific where the nature of competition
8 relies heavily on our nation's sea and air strength.

9 However, I am concerned that inadequate investment in
10 the United States' primary land component may create
11 vulnerabilities. Combat credible ground forces are
12 fundamental for deterrence, as we are witnessing every day
13 in Europe.

14 Furthermore, the Army has a critical role to play in
15 the Indo-Pacific including providing long-range fires and
16 ground forces, training and experimentation with our
17 partners and allies, and enabling logistics and
18 prepositioned stocks.

19 We risk the Army's combat credibility if we do not
20 provide it with the resources it needs to continue to field
21 modernization and to continue to be a force to be reckoned
22 with.

23 Even as we focus sea and air resources to the Indo-
24 Pacific, the Army will be relied upon to maintain a reliable
25 presence around the world. With that in mind, I am

1 interested in hearing about the Army's view of its mission
2 globally as well as how the service is adjusting its
3 operating concepts and force posture to support the National
4 Defense Strategy to include the Indo-Pacific.

5 To remain competitive with China and Russia we must
6 continue to invest in cutting-edge technologies that will
7 define future battlefields across all domains.

8 The Army specifically has been pursuing modernization
9 in key areas like long-range fires, air defense, vertical
10 lift, and deep sensing, among others. These are ambitious
11 and farsighted objectives.

12 I am particularly encouraged by the Army's announcement
13 yesterday of the creation of a new cross functional team
14 focused on contested logistics. This team, under the
15 direction of Army Futures Command, will address the need for
16 more resilient and agile logistics in dangerous environments
17 like the Indo-Pacific.

18 Secretary Wormuth, General McConville, I would ask you
19 update the committee on the Army's modernization efforts and
20 what resources are needed to effectively continue them.

21 As I mentioned, the Army's most valuable asset has
22 always been its people. I am pleased to see this budget
23 request placed as a priority on taking care of our soldiers
24 and Army civilians by providing an across the board pay
25 raise of 5.2 percent and investing in barracks improvements.

1 At the same time, the Army is struggling to recruit new
2 soldiers. Last year, the service fell far short of its
3 recruiting goals and the same appears likely this year.

4 There are a number of factors contributing to this
5 challenging recruiting environment, including low national
6 unemployment rates, lingering problems from COVID-19, and
7 historically low numbers of Americans eligible for or
8 interested in military service.

9 I understand the Army is conducting an overhaul of its
10 recruiting and retention practices including the launch of a
11 major new marketing campaign and an expansion of the Future
12 Soldier prep course.

13 I would ask for an update on how you plan to recruit a
14 broader pool of potential recruits and grow back end
15 strength in the coming years.

16 Finally, the Army was continue to improve its readiness
17 in the context of long-term strategic competition. The Army
18 is focused on large training exercises including Defender
19 Europe and Pacific Pathways, and its leadership in the
20 Project Convergence series demonstrate a commitment to
21 regional preparedness.

22 These large-scale events not only test system
23 capabilities, unit skills, and logistics resilience, they
24 also facilitate experimentation and training with our
25 allies, reflecting how we would fight in future operations.

1 We are seeing the importance of efforts like this right
2 now in Ukraine. I would ask for an update on how the Army
3 is designing large-scale exercises to support its focus on
4 our pacing threats, China and Russia.

5 Again, I thank the witnesses for their participation
6 today. I look forward to the testimonies. Now let me
7 recognize the ranking member, Senator Wicker.

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

3 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to
4 thank our witnesses for being here. I also join the
5 chairman in offering my condolences to the families of those
6 killed at last night's training accident Fort Campbell.

7 On this committee we take the safety of our service
8 members seriously and will seek a clearer understanding of
9 exactly what happened. I will also say that when it comes
10 to the Army, the distinguished chairman of this committee
11 knows whereof he speaks and I am fortunate to have him as a
12 teammate.

13 I want to also thank General McConville for his service
14 to the United States. Since earning his commission from
15 West Point in 1981 he has faithfully served his country as
16 an Army aviator and as a general officer.

17 I also want to recognize General McConville's family,
18 as the chairman has done, and I do not know if we have
19 recognized the favorite family member, which I understand is
20 his youngest -- his grandson, Patton.

21 No U.S. soldiers are fighting against Russia in its
22 brutal invasion of Ukraine. This is Ukraine's fight and it
23 is fighting well and valiantly. Even though no U.S. troops
24 are directly engaged in the fight, the United States Army is
25 providing critical on-the-ground support for Ukraine.

1 Thousands of U.S. soldiers are deployed to provide logistics
2 to supply Ukraine's military. Thousands more are training
3 Ukrainian military personnel, and the result is a
4 significantly degraded Russian military, as Secretary Austin
5 testified earlier, and that is a positive development.

6 The lessons of Ukraine should be an example of our
7 efforts in the Pacific. The Army is and will continue to be
8 on the leading edge of efforts to rebalance our Western
9 Pacific forces.

10 United States Army Pacific, through Pacific Pathways
11 and other engagements, has established significant
12 relationships with allies and partners that promise to
13 enable access and maneuvering capabilities across the
14 theater.

15 Further, the Army has successfully and rapidly pushed
16 the envelope to rebuild our arsenal of democracy through
17 significant capacity expansion, investments, and proposed
18 multiyear contracts, though more work remains.

19 The Army also has an important role to play in
20 contested logistics and in providing more options for
21 sensors and shooters to the joint force. I am heartened by
22 the speed with which the Army has sought to reshape itself
23 to provide deterrent value against the Chinese People's
24 Liberation Army but we should still do more to accelerate
25 this effort.

1 In particular, we should capitalize on the progress
2 made on the precision strike missile and the mid-range
3 capability weapon system. For next-generation combat
4 vehicles platforms like the optionally manned fighting
5 vehicle and the armored multipurpose vehicle may soon
6 replace or reinforce their aging counterparts.

7 I hope to hear more about these advancements and those
8 in network, soldier lethality, future vertical lift, and air
9 and mission missile defense. None of these achievements or
10 capabilities would work without the dedicated soldiers of
11 the United States Army and I join the chairman in noting
12 that we are in the front edge of a recruiting crisis.

13 I would like an update on this year's recruiting goals
14 and how the Army has changed its strategy to meet its
15 recruitment and retention objectives.

16 Along these lines, let me reiterate a position that I
17 have had for several years now during the markup of the
18 NDAA. I am strongly in favor of expanding the Junior ROTC
19 and I do believe this is a valuable program not only for
20 potential military members but principally for citizenship
21 and public service in our young people.

22 And then, sadly, I must mention the Biden
23 administration's disservice to the Army in the fiscal year
24 2024 budget submission. In that regard, I associate myself
25 with the remarks of the distinguished chairman of this

1 committee.

2 When accounting for inflation, this year's budget is
3 about a 2 percent cut compared to last year. The impact of
4 that cut is even more severe at a time when personnel
5 expenses are rapidly increasing.

6 Meanwhile, General McConville submitted a list of
7 almost \$2 billion worth of unfunded priorities the Army
8 needs, including support for partnership-building exercises
9 in the Indo-Pacific, and I do appreciate those submissions
10 because it informs this committee.

11 Further, the budget request fails to use multiyear
12 procurement authority for critical missiles like PAC-3 and
13 GMLRS. I am confident my colleagues on a bipartisan basis,
14 again, will join me to correct this inadequate budget and
15 ensure the Army has the right resources to confront the
16 nation's current and future challenges.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we share very many
18 views along this and we look forward to hearing the
19 testimony directly from these distinguished witnesses.

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

21 Secretary Wormuth, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE E. WORMUTH,
2 SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

3 Ms. Wormuth: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker,
4 distinguished members of the committee, thank you for your
5 ongoing support as we continue to build the Army of 2030,
6 and thank you for your comments and thoughts and prayers for
7 the families of our soldiers who were killed in the crash.
8 Our hearts go out to them. It is a heavy day for the Army,
9 I would say, in that regard.

10 We are pleased to appear before you today. I am, as
11 you noted, joined by General McConville and want to thank
12 him for his years of service and leadership of our Army. I
13 am grateful to work with him every day. We have
14 accomplished a lot this year but we have a lot of work ahead
15 of us.

16 We remain focused on our three key priorities --
17 people, modernization, and readiness. The fiscal year '24
18 budget allows us to support the National Defense Strategy,
19 to provide ready forces to the combatant commanders, and to
20 take care of our people.

21 By investing over \$39 billion in procurement and RDT&E,
22 we are maintaining our momentum on our modernization
23 programs and we are, largely, on track to bring 24 systems
24 into the hands of soldiers and across the finish line in
25 fiscal year '23.

1 This is a big year for long-range precision fires.
2 Prototypes of the precision strike missile, the mid-range
3 capability and the long-range hypersonic weapon will be in
4 the hands of soldiers this fiscal year.

5 It is also a big year for next-generation combat
6 vehicles. Mobile protected firepower is in production and
7 AMPV is also being fielded, and it is a big year for our
8 integrated air and missile defenses and the future vertical
9 lift program as well.

10 As we shift from two decades of counterinsurgency and
11 counterterrorism operations to large-scale combat operations
12 we are also transforming our force structure. We are going
13 to need to adapt our force structure to make room for things
14 like the multi-domain task forces as well as other new units
15 like the indirect fire protection capability and our M-
16 SHORAD battalions.

17 We are a ready army and we continue to emphasize
18 readiness in everything we do. We are funding 22 Combat
19 Training Center rotations this year.

20 We have a robust exercise program and we are
21 implementing our new readiness model, which lets us balance
22 modernization, training, and ongoing missions. We are also
23 investing in Army prepositioned stocks, which have been key
24 in everything that has been going on in Europe and will
25 serve us well in other theaters as well.

1 To assist Ukraine in fighting Russia the Army has
2 provided over \$20 billion of lethal assistance including a
3 wide range of munitions, radars, combat vehicles, and other
4 things, and one of the most important lessons we have
5 learned from Ukraine is the need for a more robust Defense
6 Industrial Base. So in our budget this year we have \$1.5
7 billion to invest in our arsenals, ammo plants, and depots.

8 We are also working very closely with our partners in
9 industry to increase munitions production so that we can
10 continue to help the Ukrainians but also, very importantly,
11 to replenish our own stocks, and even as our soldiers
12 provide lethal assistance and train Ukrainian soldiers we
13 are not taking our eye off the pacing challenge of China.

14 INDOPACOM may be a theater named after two oceans but
15 the Army has an important role to play there. The best way
16 to avoid fighting a war is to show that you can win any war
17 you might have to fight.

18 So the Army is contributing to strengthening deterrence
19 in INDOPACOM every day as we campaign in the region through
20 our exercises and partnerships, and if deterrence fails the
21 Army will be a key player on the joint force team in the
22 event of a conflict.

23 As important as it is to build new weapon systems and
24 maintain our readiness, people are the strength of our Army.

25 This budget increases soldier and Department of Army

1 civilian pay by 5.2 percent and funds important quality of
2 life improvements like family housing, barracks, childcare
3 initiatives, and other important programs.

4 We also, of course, want to build cohesive teams of
5 soldiers that are trained, disciplined, and fit. So the
6 Army is committed to building positive command climates
7 across the force so our soldiers can be everything they can
8 be.

9 And since appearing before you last year we have taken
10 steps to build out a prevention workforce that will help us
11 in our efforts to reduce harmful behaviors across the Army,
12 which in turn will help us with recruiting and retention.

13 We are also continuing to strive to prevent suicide in
14 our ranks. Suicide is a national challenge but we have to
15 do everything we can to reduce suicide in the Army. So we
16 are pursuing a range of initiatives to help our soldiers be
17 more resilient.

18 One of the most important things we can do is to make
19 sure that we have engaged leaders at every level who know
20 their soldiers and make sure that their soldiers know their
21 leaders and are connected to their buddies and families.

22 Our Army is the greatest army in the world but if we
23 are going to keep it that way we must solve our recruiting
24 challenge. The difficult recruiting landscape we face did
25 not appear in one year and it is going to take us more than

1 a year to solve it.

2 But we are laser focused on this challenge and we are
3 not going to lower our standards to solve the problem. The
4 whole Army leadership is adapting and changing how we are
5 recruiting.

6 We are generating positive momentum from initiatives
7 like our Future Soldier prep course, our soldier referral
8 program, and our new advertising campaign "Be all you can
9 be."

10 Our efforts are geared towards doing one thing,
11 reintroducing the Army to the American public and inspiring
12 a renewed call to service. We very much need your help to
13 be successful in this effort.

14 I am proud of all that our soldiers do to protect our
15 country every day, and I look forward to your questions.

16 [The prepared statement of Ms. Wormuth follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

2 General McConville, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL JAMES C. MCCONVILLE, USA, CHIEF
2 OF STAFF OF THE ARMY

3 General McConville: And thank you, Secretary, for your
4 leadership.

5 Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, distinguished
6 members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity
7 to be here today.

8 And before I start I would like to express my sincere
9 condolences to the families of the crews, the medivac
10 helicopter from 101st, who are being informed today of their
11 loss. They served our country proudly and very, very proud
12 to serve with them, and they remain in our thoughts and
13 prayers as we go out throughout the day.

14 The United States exists for one purpose and that is to
15 protect the nation by being ready to fight and win our
16 nation's wars as a member of the joint force, and we have
17 hundreds of thousands of soldiers training every single day
18 around the world to make that happen, just like those
19 medivac pilots.

20 To do this the Army has three clear priorities --
21 people, readiness, and modernization, or, in other words,
22 future readiness. We have remained aggressively committed
23 to these priorities while answering the nation's call during
24 every crisis and every challenge.

25 This year, the Army continues to undergo its greatest

1 transformation in almost 50 years and we are delivering on
2 modernization because we have been consistent and we have
3 been persistent on our modernization priorities.

4 Last year, we officially updated our capstone
5 warfighting doctrine to multi-domain operations, which
6 incorporates emerging lessons from Ukraine. We continue to
7 stand up new organizations to support our new doctrine.
8 Last June we reactivated the historic 11th Airborne Division
9 in Alaska.

10 In September, we stood up the third of the five multi-
11 domain task forces. As the Secretary noted, we are on track
12 for 24 signature weapon systems in '23.

13 But at the end of the day, we must get the right people
14 in the right place in order for any of these initiatives to
15 be successful. That is why people remain the Army's number-
16 one priority.

17 We want every young person, every parent, to know that
18 service in the Army is a pathway to success both in and out
19 of uniform. Whether you serve for four years or 40 years,
20 the Army offers endless possibilities.

21 We are not a profession of arms but a profession of
22 professions. You can be whatever you want to be in United
23 States Army. In fact, you can be all you can be.

24 I am often asked how people can help us and my answer
25 is inspire young men and women to serve, because when we get

1 the call we go with the Army we have. The Army we have is
2 the world's greatest fighting force because we serve with
3 the world's greatest soldiers.

4 With your continued support we are going to keep it
5 that way. I look forward to your questions.

6 [The prepared statement of General McConville follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, General
2 McConville.

3 Secretary Wormuth, our munitions situation has come
4 into very, very sort of focused and graphic dimensions with
5 the Ukrainian fight. Not only do we have to continue to
6 supply the Ukrainians, we also have to replenish our
7 supplies.

8 So what obstacles are in your way to do that and what
9 should we do as a Congress to assist you?

10 Ms. Wormuth: I think, Senator, the biggest obstacle --
11 there are perhaps two obstacles but let me first say I think
12 we are buying at the absolute edge of defense industrial
13 capacity right now and we are really working to expand that
14 capacity in real time, and that is why you see us investing
15 \$1.5 billion in our own organic industrial base so the ammo
16 plants, for example, at Scranton that build 155 shell
17 casings we are investing in that plant to increase its
18 production capacity, and we have done a lot with industry,
19 as I said.

20 The multi-year procurement authorities that we have
21 been given are very, very helpful and that is one thing that
22 I think is helping us quite a bit.

23 The biggest obstacles, really, are twofold, I would
24 say. One, some of the machining tools that are needed to
25 open up new production lines are just very large, complex

1 machines themselves and take time to fabricate and time to
2 install, and there is just a limit to sort of what we can do
3 to compress that timeframe.

4 And then the other issue is, of course, some of the
5 fragility in the supply chain that we have seen throughout
6 the pandemic and we are, again, working very closely with
7 our defense industry partners to try to help them strengthen
8 those supply chains wherever we can.

9 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary.

10 General McConville, we are at an unfortunate impasse in
11 efficiently nominating and confirming general officers and
12 flag officers. Can you tell us what the real-world effect
13 of this is, unit readiness but also, I think, morale and the
14 personal decisions of families about whether they are going
15 to stay in the service or depart?

16 General McConville: Senator, right now at the Senate
17 we have three three-star generals. One is the space missile
18 commander and the G-4 and also our ASALT and there is also
19 37 other one-star generals.

20 The impact is probably most felt in some ways on the
21 families and the kids. Even though it looks like it is only
22 40 generals there is probably four or five other transitions
23 that have to happen so as someone moves up, someone moves,
24 and works their way through.

25 So what it really does it affects the families and some

1 of the kids. They are trying to figure out where they are
2 going to go to school, when they are going to move, and all
3 those things kind of come in to the readiness of the force.

4 And, as you know, we have some major transitions coming
5 up this summer, and we talked about -- I am going to retire
6 by law and that is going to be in August and so there will
7 be a replacement that will go through the process.

8 But with every -- at this level there is probably eight
9 moves we made. There will be a promotion to the chief,
10 whoever that person becomes. All those jobs are going to
11 have to change.

12 All those officers have families and kids that are
13 going to be affected, and anything we can do to help smooth
14 those transitions will put us in a much better position for
15 readiness.

16 Chairman Reed: I think there is another aspect here,
17 too, is that we have some extraordinary talented -- in fact,
18 I would say they are all extraordinarily talented -- the
19 senior officers and even captains and majors who could walk
20 out the door tomorrow and command million-dollar salaries as
21 crypto specialists, et cetera.

22 Is that a dynamic, too, that is being affected?

23 General McConville: Well, I hope not. I mean, you
24 know, most officers do not do it for the pay. I mean, if
25 you take a look at, you know, the one-star pay, it is

1 \$180,000. People go, that is a lot of money. But most of
2 these folks are sitting with 30 years in so actually it is a
3 net of about 45. They make -- they do these jobs for
4 \$45,000 a year and generals do it for nothing because we are
5 at 40 percent in those type things.

6 But people do not do it for the money. I think they do
7 it for the respect, and so I think that is very, very
8 important that we actually take a look at what they do.
9 These general officers and these leaders that are coming up
10 in the Army are the best I have ever seen.

11 I have been doing this for a long time. I have seen a
12 lot of generals. They are all combat proven. Their
13 families have been through 20 years of continuous combat.
14 They are the best I have ever seen and I would ask that we
15 do all we can to get them confirmed.

16 Chairman Reed: Well, thank you very much. My time is
17 rapidly diminishing and just let me commend Madam Secretary,
18 you and General McConville for, again, looking at this
19 contested logistics cross functional team.

20 Napoleon, I think, said an army moves on its stomach,
21 and in the Pacific, particularly, we might be able to
22 produce the munition but if we cannot get it to the front
23 lines we will not prevail.

24 With that, and I will try to be -- I will stop now and,
25 again, thank you.

1 Senator Wicker, please?

2 Senator Wicker: It is hard to stop, is it not, Mr.
3 Chairman?

4 Let us talk about unfunded priorities, General
5 McConville and Madam Secretary.

6 The Army budget request includes investments to support
7 prototyping for the long-range hypersonic missile flight
8 test, the mid-range capability missile, initial fielding of
9 the precision strike missile, both the MRC and PRISM, our
10 own INDOPACOM commanders' unfunded priorities list.

11 So I want to ask you to talk about that. And also the
12 commander's unfunded priorities list includes \$377 million
13 for Army campaigning. Tell us, and we will, first, General
14 McConville, do you agree that expanding the Pacific Pathways
15 program gives us more deterrence in the Indo-Pacific and
16 would you discuss, please, specifically those unfunded
17 priorities?

18 General McConville: Yes. I think it is very important
19 that we continue campaigning in the Indo-Pacific. That is
20 how we build strong allies and partners and relationships,
21 and those are very important in any future conflict.

22 Senator Wicker: Okay, but why -- do you have any idea
23 why they were not funded? Did this come down from OMB?

24 Secretary Wormuth, would you comment on that?

25 Ms. Wormuth: Senator Wicker, we have funding in our

1 base budget for Operation Pacific Pathways. I do not have
2 the number off the top of my head but it is, I think, over
3 \$100 million for Pacific Pathways.

4 I think the unfunded list that you are referring to is
5 the INDOPACOM commanders' unfunded priority list.

6 Senator Wicker: Indeed, yes, that is my question.

7 Ms. Wormuth: And I have no doubt that Admiral Aquilino
8 would like to see more invested in both exercises and weapon
9 systems. He is very focused on his theater.

10 We in the Army have to balance across all of our
11 requirements across the European theater or across the
12 INDOPACOM theater. We have got to be able to invest
13 sufficiently in our modernization systems and take care of
14 our people.

15 So we have invested in Pacific Pathways. We are
16 investing in modernization of the precision strike missile,
17 the mid-range capability.

18 I just suspect that Admiral Aquilino would like to see
19 us do more but again --

20 Senator Wicker: Well, would you like to see us do
21 more? If we found the extra money that would be
22 advantageous for national security in the Indo-Pacific,
23 would it not?

24 Ms. Wormuth: Certainly, if Congress were to give the
25 Army more money I think we would look at investments in the

1 INDOPACOM region, yes.

2 Senator Wicker: Okay. Now, let us talk about
3 recruiting, and I think, General McConville, you mentioned
4 inspiring young people and, of course, you have inspired the
5 next generation of McConvilles to do this.

6 Secretary Wormuth, you are married, I believe, to a
7 retired naval officer.

8 It occurs to me that with base closures and the
9 shrinking military presence around the country that there
10 are fewer and fewer young Americans who actually grow up
11 knowing members of the military and seeing them go off to
12 work and having them as members of their families.

13 Yes or no, General McConville, this is part of the
14 problem, is it not?

15 General McConville: I believe so. Eighty-three
16 percent of the young men and women that come into the
17 military come from a military family and that population
18 with 1 percent serving is getting much smaller.

19 Senator Wicker: Right. I have been a strong advocate
20 for expanding high school junior ROTC since I became aware
21 of a RAND Corporation study which basically sang the praises
22 of Junior ROTC as a subset of high achievers within a
23 school.

24 You could even have a poorly performing school but the
25 subset of students there who are participating in Junior

1 ROTC stay in school longer, they graduate with higher
2 grades, and they achieve better in life.

3 I have never found a superintendent or principal who,
4 when asked about Junior ROTC, did not say they would like to
5 have Junior ROTC in their school or they are delighted that
6 they have them.

7 General McConville, if we went beyond what the DOD is
8 asking in expanded Junior ROTC in the high schools how
9 helpful would that be?

10 General McConville: What I know, Senator, is that 44
11 percent of the young men and women that come into the
12 military come from a high school that has JROTC and 10
13 percent of the high schools have JROTC not necessarily in
14 that, and I think what is really important is the structure
15 and the exposure that they get.

16 But more importantly is the instructors. We got to
17 make sure whoever the instructors are are of the quality
18 they are going to help inspire young men and women to serve.

19 Senator Wicker: Indeed, these are probably retired
20 senior officers or retired senior enlisted persons who are
21 very inspiring.

22 General McConville: Many are, and but it only takes
23 one to not live up to that standard that can hurt the
24 program. So I think it is extremely important we have
25 strong vetting in place and make sure we have the right

1 people leading these programs.

2 Senator Wicker: And I agree with you there. Thank you
3 very much.

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

5 Senator Gillibrand, please?

6 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Secretary Wormuth, in October you ordered inspections
8 into toxic mold on military installations and found that
9 over 2,000 Army facilities have mold problems.

10 I understand that the proposed budget for new barrack
11 buildings would only pay for five new barracks buildings.
12 How much does the Army need to remediate these mold issues
13 or rebuild impacted facilities?

14 Ms. Wormuth: Thank you, Senator.

15 Yes, we found mold. We inspected 68,000 buildings and
16 found mold in about 2,100, and we are investing \$3.5 million
17 to remediate the mold in those 2,100 building and we are
18 going to continue to keep a very close eye on mold in the
19 barracks.

20 We are spending about a billion dollars a year across
21 all three components -- active, Guard and Reserve -- on
22 barracks, both renovations and building new barracks, and we
23 are going to continue to do that through 2030.

24 The challenge we have, Senator, is just we have such an
25 enormous inventory of barracks that we are not able to

1 rebuild all of them in one to two years as we might like and
2 still be able to, again, invest in new weapon systems and
3 invest in other initiatives that we need to do. So we are
4 trying to strike a balance.

5 Senator Gillibrand: Are you doing any medical
6 monitoring of the service members who have been exposed to
7 toxic mold?

8 Ms. Wormuth: I think we probably need to do more there
9 to make sure that we are tracking that. I know that there
10 has been a DOD IG report recently that touches on that.

11 Senator Gillibrand: I would like you to submit an
12 analysis about what you intend to do to make sure the
13 service members who have been exposed are healthy.

14 Ms. Wormuth: Okay. Thank you.

15 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you.

16 General McConville, I was deeply concerned to hear of
17 Private Ana Basaldua Ruiz's death on Fort Hood earlier this
18 month. Yet another young woman who was allegedly sexually
19 harassed is now deceased.

20 Can you discuss how the Army is progressing in building
21 a prevention workforce and implementing the Independent
22 Review Commission's recommendations to decrease the
23 incidence of sexual harassment and how are you protecting
24 your young service members from these crimes?

25 General McConville: Yes, Senator. Just like I said,

1 parents send their sons and daughters to us. I have sent
2 our sons and daughters to the Army and we have a sacred
3 obligation to take care of them. Commanders will be held
4 responsible.

5 But it really comes down to from the bottom up,
6 building cohesive teams where everyone takes care of each
7 other, everyone treats everyone with dignity and respect.
8 And when that does not happen we are going to investigate.
9 We are going to hold those accountable that did it.

10 But the Army's trying to really get after that. There
11 is a lot of prevention for us getting -- how do you get
12 ahead of these type things, how do you make sure it comes
13 back to readiness. Everyone has to be a valued member of
14 the team. Everyone has to be treated with dignity and
15 respect, and that is what our commanders are doing.

16 Senator Gillibrand: So with regard to Fort Hood, the
17 previous report said that the climate was so toxic that it
18 was permissive for sexual assault and sexual harassment.
19 What are you doing to address the climate at Fort Hood?

20 General McConville: Well, we have. We changed out --
21 from that report we actually took out 14 leaders, which has
22 never been done in, really -- at least I know in the history
23 of the Army.

24 But the leadership that is in place at Fort Hood I have
25 tremendous confidence in. They are after this. They are on

1 top of it. They are doing everything they can to get the
2 investigation and get the information and they are working
3 very closely with the family.

4 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you.

5 Secretary Wormuth, will you talk about the development
6 of multi-domain operations and how you have shifted
7 personnel to ensure that multi-domain task forces are fully
8 resourced? How has staffing for these roles been impacted
9 by the Army failing to hit its recruitment goals by
10 thousands of soldiers?

11 Ms. Wormuth: Thank you, Senator.

12 As you know, we now have three multi-domain task forces
13 and we will eventually build a fourth and fifth multi-domain
14 task force. They vary a little bit in size. They are
15 tailor made to the theaters that they support and work in,
16 and right now they are fully manned.

17 I would expect that we will continue to make sure that
18 they are fully manned even as we work through how we are
19 going to deal with the Army getting slightly smaller and
20 dealing with recruiting challenges.

21 But they are very, very important because they bring
22 capabilities that are kinetic through the long-range fires
23 battalions but also very important nonkinetic work. They
24 work on intelligence and developing targeting. They have
25 cyber capabilities, electronic warfare capabilities, and

1 they are going to be very, very important in both Europe and
2 Indo-Pacific.

3 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. Can you discuss in
4 this setting how Project Linchpin is integrating artificial
5 intelligence into Army systems? I understand that the
6 project aims to improve navigation systems, anticipate
7 maintenance needs, help with targeting, and aid intelligence
8 analysis.

9 Will you address how this project will or will not keep
10 a human in the loop on intelligence and targeting analyses?

11 Ms. Wormuth: That is an important project and we are
12 very much trying to integrate and bring more artificial
13 intelligence capabilities into our Army in various ways.
14 That is very much going to be a wave of the future, I think,
15 clearly.

16 An Army Futures Command is going to be looking as we
17 think -- start thinking about the Army of 2040 how can we
18 bring even more AI capabilities.

19 So we are using AI right now with some of the work that
20 we are doing with the experimentation we are doing with the
21 18th Airborne Corps. We also have an AI Integration Center
22 at Carnegie Mellon University that we are working with very
23 closely and many of the fellows coming out of that program
24 are going into different parts of the Army to help us do
25 more with AI capabilities.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Gillibrand.

2 Senator Fischer, please?

3 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Senator Wicker briefly touched on the -- really, the
5 need and the value that we receive as members of Congress
6 from the unfunded priority list that you provide and I would
7 say that the majority members of Congress view that as a
8 useful tool so that the committee can use that and you can
9 convey what is needed to meet the challenges that you face.

10 So I do thank you, General, for the visibility that you
11 have provided on the importance of your needs so that it
12 will allow us to make more responsible, I think, resourcing
13 decisions on those needs.

14 If I could, I would like to ask both of you -- the Army
15 has spent the last 20 years primarily conducting
16 counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations in the
17 Middle East and can you provide an update on how you plan to
18 rebalance your forces, restructure training and exercises,
19 or develop unique capabilities in order to meet the
20 increased demand that we are going to see in the INDOPACOM
21 area? And I would especially like to know what you learned
22 from the Project Convergence exercises.

23 Ms. Wormuth: Certainly, Senator Fischer.

24 We are doing a lot to shift from COIN and CT to large-
25 scale combat operations through exercises like Defender

1 Europe -- excuse me, and Pacific Pathways in the Pacific.

2 We have come out with a new field manual, 3-0, which is
3 our vision and doctrine for multi-domain operations, and I
4 would say when we look at the Indo-Pacific we are really
5 going to be focused on establishing and setting up and
6 securing staging bases for air and maritime forces,
7 contested logistics.

8 The Army will play a huge role in terms of making sure
9 that the joint force has the supplies that it needs, and
10 many of the new air and missile defense systems that we are
11 developing are directly designed to deal with the anti-
12 access area denial threats that China poses, for example.

13 So our entire modernization program is focused on
14 developing the kinds of capabilities that we need for large-
15 scale combat.

16 Senator Fischer: And, General, with Project
17 Convergence what did you learn?

18 General McConville: Yeah, I think Project Convergence
19 is really the future. It is the ability to take deep
20 sensing, different types of sensors, and quickly move
21 information to an integrated battle command system, take
22 advantage of artificial intelligence, and then move that
23 data to an effective lethal means.

24 And a good example of that is countering unmanned
25 aerial systems. So we are going to have a whole bunch

1 coming at us and you do not necessarily want to be shooting
2 Patriot missiles at \$100,000 UASs and so if you think about
3 the future battlefield there will be multiple threats.

4 We will have multiple sensors to pick up those threats.
5 We will bring them quickly into an integrated battle command
6 system, take advantage of the technology, and then get them
7 to the right weapon systems that can deal with that problem.

8 And we are seeing this nascent right now in Ukraine.
9 They are doing a very good job taking advantage of the
10 sensor they have with the fires they have and that is how --
11 a lot to do with how effective they have been.

12 Senator Fischer: When you look at the change in the
13 battlefield, and we talked about this a little bit earlier
14 this week, can you provide the committee an update on the
15 development of the Army's long-range hypersonic weapon?

16 General McConville: Yeah. Right now we have a battery
17 that is already fielded. The systems are ready to go. We
18 are doing testing. We have some -- a couple more tests to
19 do on the weapon systems and we had to test that we are
20 working through like every test to get it to the final
21 configuration.

22 But at least the schedule we have right now we
23 anticipate having a hypersonics capability by the end of
24 this year, which has been pretty remarkable.

25 Senator Fischer: Yeah. Thank you.

1 Madam Secretary, we spoke earlier this week about the
2 Future Soldier prep course. Can you highlight to the
3 committee some of the successes of the program?

4 Ms. Wormuth: Certainly. This program has been very
5 successful. We have it at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and
6 also Fort Benning, Georgia. We have had about 8,000 young
7 Americans go through the program. There is two components.
8 It is sort of like a mini boot camp.

9 There is an academic component, which is designed at
10 helping young people who have not quite scored high enough
11 on the ASVAB raise their scores, and then we have a physical
12 fitness component because in some cases we have got young
13 kids who want to serve but they are not quite within our
14 body fat composition requirements.

15 It has been very successful, both pathways, if you
16 will. About 97 percent of the folks who go into it have
17 graduated and have gone on to basic training, and many of
18 them are performing very well at basic training as well.

19 Senator Fischer: So that is a way to reach -- get
20 closer to the goals that you have for the recruitment --

21 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, absolutely, and to do so in a way
22 that does not lower our standards, which both the chief and
23 I feel is very important.

24 Senator Fischer: Exactly. Thank you very much.

25 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer.

1 Let me remind my colleagues that when we conclude this
2 open session we will recess and start a closed session in
3 SVC 217.

4 Senator Hirono, please?

5 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Thank you both for being here and, General McConville,
7 thank you very much for your service and best wishes on your
8 retirement.

9 Secretary Wormuth, we have talked a number of times
10 about the state of the military's infrastructure in Hawaii,
11 and I know you have visited Hawaii several times to see the
12 failures for yourself.

13 I appreciate your attention in this area but as you
14 know there are still rolling blackouts at Schofield
15 Barracks, issues with the water systems at Tripler, and UXO
16 removal concerns on the Big Island.

17 A majority of the Army's facilities in Hawaii are
18 failed or failing with an estimated cost of repair of almost
19 \$5 billion. Fixing this will not happen in one year but we
20 must start taking these projects off the unfunded lists and
21 make real progress.

22 Madam Secretary, how are we going to chip away to the
23 \$5 billion in fixing that we have to do? Do we not need to
24 get more of these projects off the unfunded list?

25 Ms. Wormuth: Thank you, Senator Hirono.

1 We do have considerable infrastructure challenges in
2 Hawaii, as you note, and I would say both above ground in
3 terms of buildings and barracks -- I saw some barracks that
4 were not in good shape at Schofield Barracks -- as well as
5 our underground infrastructure in Hawaii.

6 And the chief and I right now as we look to the next
7 budget -- we are building the next five-year budget -- are
8 looking at how we can invest more in infrastructure. We
9 actually sent out a team from Army Materiel Command and from
10 our installations' energy and environment team to assess the
11 infrastructure.

12 They came back with, frankly, a multibillion-dollar
13 bill and so what we are trying to do is look at how we can
14 find more resources to put towards that problem and we also
15 want to do it in a way, frankly, that is mindful of the
16 limited construction capacity that is on Hawaii.

17 So there is -- it is going to be complex to sort of
18 figure out how many projects we can do a year and how do we
19 phase that in in such a way that we do not overtax the
20 capacity on islands.

21 Senator Hirono: It makes a huge difference to the
22 community when the military writ large -- because the
23 community is not necessarily making distinctions that Red
24 Hill, oh, that is a Navy issue and Pohakuloa is an Army
25 issue. It is all combined, and every time we can make real

1 progress in dealing with the infrastructure needs I think it
2 would be -- it really helps the community to understand that
3 the military is there as part of our community and they are
4 making progress or they are doing good things. We need to
5 think of it in that way and I know you recognize that.

6 Senator Wicker has have asked these questions, General
7 McConville. The National Defense Strategy makes clear that
8 the priority theater is the Indo-Pacific. So efforts like
9 the Army's Operation Pathways, the newly constituted multi-
10 domain task force in Hawaii, and the INDOPACOM aligned fifth
11 security force assistant brigade are crucial to the Army's
12 success in this area.

13 And, yet, despite Admiral Aquilino identifying the need
14 for our \$473 million investment in Pacific Pathways what is
15 being requested is only \$123 million and -- because Pacific
16 Pathways, though, that mainly pays for exercises with
17 allies. Is that not right, General?

18 General McConville: That is correct.

19 Senator Hirono: So I assume that when there is such a
20 big gap between what Admiral Aquilino wants and what he is
21 getting that it just means that we are doing far fewer
22 exercises in the Indo-Pacific AOR, and I do not know what
23 the numbers are. But at some -- is that a good way to think
24 about it, that we are funding far fewer exercises than what
25 Admiral Aquilino thinks is necessary?

1 General McConville: Well, as the Secretary said, we
2 are trying to balance the exercises with the barracks with
3 the training and in the modernization, and we have requested
4 additional funding if it is available to support that
5 campaign and I stand by the notion the more campaigning, the
6 more resources we have, I think the stronger our allies and
7 partners will be and the stronger our presence will be.

8 Senator Hirono: I tend to agree with that and, yeah,
9 the military has over an \$800 billion budget and one would
10 think that some of these priorities can be better met.

11 You were asked about the sexual harassment of -- both
12 of you -- and it continues to be a scourge in spite of the
13 efforts of this committee, particularly with Senator
14 Gillibrand's leadership.

15 And so, General McConville, you noted that it starts at
16 the top and it goes all the way down. I think both of you
17 agree. I am glad that you took swift action with regard to
18 the culture at Fort Hood.

19 But with the most recent tragic suicide, I realize the
20 investigation is still going on but I think that how we deal
21 with sexual assault and harassment really impacts our
22 ability to recruit women to the military. Would you agree
23 with that, Madam Secretary and General?

24 General McConville: I think it affects readiness. I
25 think --

1 Senator Hirono: Yeah.

2 General McConville: -- one of the secret sauces of
3 good units is cohesive teams and if you have sexual
4 harassment, you have sexual assault, you have any type of
5 racism, any of those type things hurt the cohesion of a unit
6 and we do not want that in our Army.

7 Senator Hirono: We can do a lot more, I know that. So
8 thank you very much.

9 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hirono.

10 Senator Cotton, please?

11 Senator Cotton: On behalf of all our Arkansans I also
12 want to express my condolences for the soldiers whose lives
13 were lost in the crash of two Blackhawk helicopters near
14 Fort Campbell overnight.

15 It is terrible tragedy for all their families and the
16 101st community, and if you have served time there as I know
17 General McConville has served more than a day or two at Fort
18 Campbell, it is especially hard hitting.

19 And, General McConville, I want to add my thanks and
20 congratulations to you for a highly distinguished and
21 decorated career of service to the Army. I know you are not
22 retiring yet and you will run through the tape later this
23 year.

24 But we are very grateful for what you have done for our
25 country and we are glad that in the middle of a recruiting

1 crisis we are getting a four for one McConville trade. We
2 may be losing you but we have got three children and one in-
3 law. So thank you and your family for your service.

4 Secretary Wormuth, I want to talk about the Army Combat
5 Fitness Test and this ongoing years-long saga of that. Last
6 year the Army unveiled gender-based standards after many
7 years of promising gender-neutral standards.

8 As a result, this committee directed the Army within
9 180 days of the enactment of last year's NDAA to promulgate
10 new gender-neutral standards for combat arms, MOSs. What is
11 the status of those new standards?

12 Ms. Wormuth: Thank you, Senator. We are looking
13 forward to coming to brief you in June about where we are on
14 that NDAA requirement, and I know you and the chief had a
15 discussion about this.

16 The language in the bill, as you know, talks about
17 gender-neutral standards for combat, military occupational
18 specialties, and we will be able to lay out for you how we
19 have approached that to date.

20 We also, as you know, are coming up on the deadline for
21 the active duty component to finish taking the test for
22 record, the Army Combat Fitness Test. The Guard and Reserve
23 folks have until October to take that test for record.

24 But we can also give you an update on the data that we
25 are seeing from that and what we can take away from that and

1 what we can learn in terms of how we might adapt the ACFT,
2 going forward.

3 Senator Cotton: So the law calling the Army to
4 establish the standards by June, not to brief Congress by
5 June, are you going to -- are you prepared to meet that
6 requirement to establish the standards?

7 Ms. Wormuth: We actually have standards in a DA Pam
8 that lay out requirements for all of the combat MOSs that
9 are gender neutral and we can brief you on those.

10 Senator Cotton: Can you tell us what those combat MOSs
11 are today or what branches, at least?

12 Ms. Wormuth: I believe that we have them for all of
13 the MOSs, Senator.

14 Senator Cotton: Okay. But it is your understanding --
15 the expectation of this committee is that we have a single
16 standard for the combat arms branches and then for all the
17 other noncombat arms branches there will be a male and a
18 female standard?

19 Ms. Wormuth: These are -- as I have read the law that
20 you all put in last year these are standards. They are
21 physical gender-neutral standards for combat, military
22 occupational specialties, yes.

23 Senator Cotton: Yes, because I mean -- and I was not
24 the only one. I mean, Senators Ernst and Gillibrand and
25 Duckworth expressed concerns about this as well as did most

1 of the committee.

2 I mean, when you are talking about things like the
3 infantry there is irreducible physical demands. You have to
4 be able to carry a 75- or 100-pound pack or carry a 250-
5 pound wounded comrade, whether you are a man or a woman. Or
6 if you are an artillery or armor you have to be able to
7 handle shells that can weigh up to a hundred pounds.

8 The standard, we all think, should be somewhat
9 different if you are, say, working on a computer. That work
10 is very vital but it is not the same kind of physical
11 demands that the combat arms are, and in the middle of a
12 recruiting crisis I do not think we should be taking steps
13 to dissuade anyone, young men or young women, who may not be
14 up to the physical rigors of armor and artillery but are
15 able to perform all those other roles. That is your
16 understanding of what this Congress intended, right?

17 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, the DA Pam spells out exactly
18 those kinds of things. I think the issue has been is --
19 there is our combat. There is the fitness test and then
20 there are the standards for the MOSs and there is a
21 distinction there.

22 Senator Cotton: Correct. I mean, this has been a long
23 saga, as I said, and in retrospect, I mean, we had an Army
24 that, let us see, toppled a Marxist government in Grenada,
25 toppled a narco government in Panama, kicked Saddam Hussein

1 out of Kuwait, toppled the Taliban, toppled Saddam Hussein,
2 doing pushups, sit-ups, and a two-mile run.

3 So I think those guys were pretty physically fit that
4 did all those things. But we are where we are. We have
5 moved to the combat fitness test. I do not think the issue
6 are the events on it.

7 The issue is making sure that we have high standards
8 that are suited for the demands of the battlefield and we
9 just want to make sure that that is what we are going to get
10 from the Army by the 180-day deadline.

11 Ms. Wormuth: Yes.

12 Senator Cotton: Thank you.

13 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cotton.

14 Senator Kaine, please?

15 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to our
16 witnesses, thank you for your service to the country. I add
17 my sentiment to those who have expressed just sorrow over
18 the incident with the servicemen and women at Fort Campbell.

19 I know that it is tough for the whole Army family and the
20 committee shares in that.

21 I just want to share with my committee colleagues, I
22 had the opportunity to do something six days ago. I was at
23 the first of the nine base renamings. Two years ago in the
24 NDAA this committee in a bipartisan way decided that bases
25 that had been named for Confederates should be renamed for

1 American heroes who whom all could admire, and it was a --
2 it is a pretty tough task.

3 The naming commission considered about 7,000 or 8,000
4 names and then reduced that to 2,000 and then to about 500,
5 and eventually reduced it down to 87 names and from those
6 names had to find nine. Talk about a commission I am glad I
7 was not on.

8 But the first renaming was Fort Pickett, which had been
9 built right before World War I and named in honor of General
10 Pickett, the Confederate general. It was renamed Fort
11 Barfoot.

12 Van Barfoot was a Choctaw from Mississippi who
13 enlisted, came to train at Fort Pickett, and then was
14 deployed overseas in World War II and fought courageously in
15 Italy and won a medal of honor under the most unusual
16 circumstances, demonstrated great heroism in killing a lot
17 of Germans and capturing scores of Germans and then saving
18 the lives of many Americans.

19 He then came back and continued to serve in the Army in
20 Korea, served in the Army in Vietnam. When he retired from
21 active duty he was connected deeply to the Virginia National
22 Guard, which is headquartered now at Fort Barfoot. Was very
23 involved in the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond that
24 honors those who lost their lives in recent wars.

25 He last made news when he was about 90 years old

1 because he hung an American flag that was too big, according
2 to his homeowners association, and they had the foolishness
3 to try to test a Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

4 The ceremony was just amazing. It was led by tribal
5 representatives from Virginia, Virginia's recently
6 recognized tribes, and everyone in this community --
7 Dinwiddie and Blackstone and Crewe and Lunenburg, Brunswick
8 Counties -- was so proud to be there and the naming
9 commission did a remarkable job.

10 And just to see the family -- Colonel Barfoot's
11 daughter spoke, other family members were there, and to talk
12 to the naming commission about the care that they used in
13 approaching this and knowing something about the other names
14 that are forthcoming -- the other base names -- will be done
15 in the months to come.

16 I just wanted to say job well done to the Army and to
17 the naming commission and doing it and just to report back
18 to my colleagues.

19 Everyone here around this dais supported that at the
20 time in committee, and I think if you go to one of these you
21 will be really proud, as I was, to have played a little part
22 in it and appreciate the Army approaching it the right way.

23 General McConville, I have a couple of questions for
24 you. In watching the Russian invasion of Ukraine we realize
25 how different a conflict is where you have contested

1 logistics and contested airspace versus the war on terrorism
2 where we often had dominance in airspace and there was not
3 such a contest.

4 Can you share your thought -- you have talked a little
5 bit about this already this morning -- on the contested
6 logistics and how the Army will conduct logistics operations
7 in contested environments and the plans that you are putting
8 in place to do that?

9 General McConville: Yes, Senator. I think, again, one
10 of our biggest changes in our training and how we operate is
11 we are able to operate fairly without any type of enemy
12 contact from here all the way to Iraq, Afghanistan, and we
13 know that is not going to be the case. It is not going to
14 be the case in the Pacific if we have to fight in the
15 Pacific. It is not going to be the case here.

16 So what we are doing is building those capabilities and
17 some of it is just by prepositioned stocks. We cannot
18 assume we are going to be able to just sail across the seas
19 safely. So we want to position equipment and ammunition in
20 the theater. We need to disperse it. We need to protect
21 it.

22 And there is that old saying about amateurs study
23 tactics and professionals study logistics and what we see is
24 those tanks and artillery pieces and aircraft become
25 expensive paperweights if they do not have fuel, if they do

1 not have parts, and they do not have ammunition.

2 So all that is part of what this contested logistics is
3 about, and you can think about here, I mean, with cyber
4 capability right now. So we are going to be attacked by
5 cyber. We are going to -- they are going to use space.

6 We use space a whole bunch right now to move things,
7 and even how we move by air or sea we are going to have to
8 protect our systems and we are going to have to be aware of
9 that and we are going to have to basically fight our way
10 across.

11 And that is where our allies and partners become so
12 important, the fact we have developed these relations, we
13 have access and presence, we can quickly move into the --
14 whether it is ports or airfields, and then we have the
15 equipment and we have forces in the right place that can
16 facilitate all of this.

17 Senator Kaine: Just one fact for my colleagues as I
18 conclude, and it will inspire a question for the record.

19 In World War II we used 1.67 gallons of fuel per
20 soldier. In Iraq and Afghanistan that had gone up to 27.3
21 gallons of fuel per each member of our troops. The
22 contested logistics with respect to deployment of fuel that
23 we will need will be a real challenge and I will ask a
24 question about that for the record.

25 I yield back, Mr. Chair.

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

2 Senator Rounds, please?

3 Senator Rounds: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you
4 to both of you for coming before our committee today.

5 General McConville, thank you for your service and
6 thank you to your family for their service to our country as
7 well.

8 You make a very good point when we talk about the
9 number of places that you have been but also the fact that
10 we lost young soldiers who were training and that it is not
11 just those that are facing an adversary but those that are
12 training throughout the year throughout our country that
13 also take risk on a daily basis, and our thoughts and
14 prayers are with you, the entire team, and the family of
15 these soldiers.

16 General McConville, as you know, there is an effort by
17 some in Congress to require sharing of all or some of the
18 3.1 to 3.4 or .5 band of the electromagnetic spectrum, also
19 known as the S-Band, and that is -- right now it is held by
20 DOD and some of the private sector needs it for 5G
21 development, which is also important.

22 But can you confirm that the Army has systems critical
23 to our national security that reside on this portion of the
24 spectrum?

25 General McConville: Yes, I can, Senator, and from

1 where I sit it is -- I know there is a study that is being
2 done. I think it is really important we do our independent
3 study, take a look at what that means, and it happens to
4 some of our bases with encroachment when people want to move
5 close and we understand that that can happen.

6 But if we cannot do the training we need to do, same
7 thing with these systems. I understand perspectives where
8 you want to develop the communications capability.

9 But the only thing I would advise if asked is just take
10 a hard look at -- independent people looking at that and we
11 know the risks to national security when we make that
12 decision.

13 Senator Rounds: Thank you. I think part of the point
14 that we try to make is is we are practicing at multiple
15 bases across the entire United States. So we have that risk
16 at multiple locations across the entire United States during
17 our training sessions.

18 Let me just take a step forward here, Secretary
19 Wormuth. Thank you for what you do and your looking ahead
20 in terms of what the Army will be facing.

21 Part of what it is, and it was just mentioned a minute
22 ago, and that is the -- within the cyber domain and the
23 challenge that we literally will not go to war without
24 having a cyber presence.

25 How well do you believe that the fiscal year 2024

1 budget supports the growing cyber threat, and where is the
2 Army taking risk in the cyber domain and where would
3 additional funding be most helpful in buying down that cyber
4 risk?

5 Ms. Wormuth: Thank you, Senator. We are making a lot
6 of investments related to cyber in this budget because it is
7 such an important area, and ensuring that we have good
8 cybersecurity is really critical, particularly for our
9 modernization programs.

10 We have got to make sure that they are secure and not
11 able to be stolen by our adversaries. We have over \$400
12 million in this budget for implementation of our zero threat
13 approach to cybersecurity. We are spending about a half
14 billion dollars to continue moving to the cloud.

15 One of my objectives is for us to become a more data-
16 centric Army and, certainly, having our data in the cloud is
17 critical. We have got about \$600 million in the budget for
18 modernizing our cryptography and retiring some of our
19 technical debt with our tactical radios.

20 So I do not think that we are taking a lot of risk in
21 this budget in the cyber area because it is so important.
22 My own view is if there is a place where we are taking risk,
23 and I think this is a place where as an entire joint force
24 we may be taking risk, it is in -- I worry a lot about
25 threats to the homeland, particularly through the cyber

1 domain and so much of the critical infrastructure in our
2 country is outside in the private sector, that figuring out
3 how we work more closely with state and local governments,
4 with private companies, to make sure that we are secured
5 outside the fence line that is where -- that is where I
6 think we have risk and that is, in my view, more about how
7 do we work together better organizationally necessarily than
8 about the amount of money you spend.

9 Senator Rounds: And I agree with you. I also think
10 that you have taken a major step forward, once again, in
11 terms of coordinating with other sectors.

12 I know that you have entered in or are entering into an
13 agreement with Dakota State University in South Dakota on
14 some advanced cyber activity as well and we appreciate the
15 opportunity to be a part of the solution.

16 General McConville, I have two thoughts. First of all,
17 I am just going to ask this rather quickly. I understand
18 that the Army is the executive agent for the theater,
19 integrated air and missile defense, including the protection
20 of fixed sites like airfields and supply depots.

21 The missile threat to fixed and semi-fixed sites seems
22 one of the most challenging threats to the joint forces.
23 What additional investments, if any, does the Army need to
24 make in air and missile defenses?

25 General McConville: Senator, I agree with you. It is

1 a significant threat and we are making significant
2 investments. We are going to build more Patriots. We are
3 building indirect fire protection capability, nine of those
4 units. We are building counter UAS batteries.

5 I think on the future battlefield we are going to
6 protect it. But what we are also doing is taking advantage
7 of an integrated battle command system and, again, this
8 sensor, this convergence of having multiple -- getting away
9 from having one radar for one air defense system.

10 So you take advantage of all the sensors that are out
11 there and you use an integrated battle command system and
12 you get better sensors so we can see things coming in.
13 Taking advantage of the technology when it comes to
14 artificial intelligence and so we can deal with those
15 systems early on.

16 But I think when the Secretary and I talk about it that
17 is why air and missile defense is so important, especially
18 in the Pacific, and we want to be able to do that.

19 Senator Rounds: Thank you.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

22 Senator Peters, please?

23 Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 First, Madam Secretary and General McConville, I want
25 to add my condolences to my colleagues' here for the

1 horrible accident in Kentucky. I know that my heart goes
2 out to their family, friends, and the entire Army community
3 right now, who I know is all grieving.

4 Secretary Wormuth, in 2018, the Army requirements
5 oversight councils were held for both the Abrams and the
6 Stryker programs.

7 A modernization goal was set for the Abrams program at
8 a rate of one full brigade per annum funding cycle, and
9 similarly for the Stryker a modernization goal was set to
10 upgrade one half a brigade each year.

11 Congress has continually and consistently supported
12 these programs and maintained these desired modernization
13 rates with significant congressional adds along the way to
14 support what Army leadership describes as, quote, "enduring
15 programs that the Army will depend on for decades."

16 So my question for you, ma'am, does the Army continue
17 to support the Abrams and Stryker programs and at a
18 modernization rate that is workable to support the
19 industrial base that makes this equipment?

20 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, we do very much support the
21 Abrams and Stryker programs. Those vehicles -- I think we
22 have the best tanks in the world. I think if you asked the
23 Poles and the Australians they would say the same, the
24 Ukrainians as well.

25 The challenge that we have is that we are trying to

1 both continue buying important enduring platforms like
2 Abrams, like Stryker, while at the same time investing in
3 developing new next-generation combat vehicles like AMPV,
4 like the optionally-manned fighting vehicle, and with the
5 budget that we have we are only able to buy the volumes that
6 you see in the budget that we have presented.

7 I do think in terms of Abrams, for example, as I said,
8 there are significant foreign military sales that have been
9 made and I think that will be very helpful with sustaining
10 the industrial base for those programs.

11 Senator Peters: Very good.

12 General McConville, for decades the Latvian -- we have
13 had Latvian troops training with the Michigan National Guard
14 up at Camp Grayling to learn skills necessary to counter
15 potential Russian invasion in Latvia and, certainly, never
16 has this training been more relevant than it is right now.

17 But in addition to Latvians, we routinely have other
18 European allies as well as INDOPACOM partners trained at
19 Camp Grayling to take advantage of the size and the
20 capabilities that that installation offers.

21 Our National Guard installations, and I hope you agree,
22 are a hidden gem. They offer capacity and unique training
23 environments for not only U.S. forces but also our allies as
24 well.

25 So my question for you, General, is how does the Army

1 budget invest in the National Guard and in particular into
2 its military installations, its ranges, its training areas,
3 to help enable the Guard to conduct the multi-domain
4 operations training that is so essential today?

5 General McConville: Senator, first of all, let me
6 highlight what a great job the National Guard is doing with
7 Michigan and these partners, and if you take a look at
8 Ukraine, you take a look at Latvia, these state partnerships
9 have been going on for quite a while and, quite frankly, why
10 these armies have the capabilities, that they have the
11 capacity and the competence.

12 What we do in the National Guard is we talk to them
13 very closely. We want to resource them within our means we
14 can and we come to their priorities and we lay them out and
15 you will see some of those even on our unfunded priority
16 list that did not quite make it in the budget.

17 And, really, like the Secretary said, to us it is all
18 about balance. We have a fixed budget, as both sides have
19 said. Some would argue that you cannot transform an Army
20 without having 3 to 5 percent real growth.

21 That is what -- we are trying to do that and we are
22 trying to do the best we can with what we have and deliver
23 the best Army we can do with the resources we get.

24 Senator Peters: Thanks.

25 And, General, the National Defense Strategy places

1 great emphasis on the ability of our forces to operate in
2 contested environments and the need to overcome enemy
3 disruption, and my question for you is how is the Army
4 empowering commanders and local installations to replicate
5 live electromagnetic effects during home station training
6 scenarios focused on operating in these domains?

7 General McConville: Yeah, that is something we are
8 trying to get to. I would say we are doing a better job at
9 our National Training Centers as such because that is
10 expensive and also the places you can actually do that we
11 have to work our way through it when you start using those
12 type systems.

13 But as you say, Senator, that is something that is
14 really the big shift that we are seeing. We are going to be
15 jammed in the battlefield. They know how important data is
16 for us.

17 If you go to the National Training Center right now you
18 have a very different experience than you did a couple years
19 ago. You cannot expect to have -- if you are emitting as a
20 command post or you are trying to do things we are going to
21 take all those things that you depend on away from you so
22 when you are in actual combat it should be a lot easier.

23 Senator Peters: Right. Right. Thank you, General.

24 General McConville: Thank you.

25 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Peters.

1 Senator Ernst, please?

2 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and my
3 condolences as well to the families and the fellow soldiers
4 all within the 101st Screaming Eagles family. We are
5 sincerely, sincerely upset about the loss of those soldiers
6 and it hits home for so many of us.

7 But thank you for being here today, Secretary Wormuth
8 and General McConville.

9 On Saturday I will have the great opportunity to attend
10 a retirement of a dear friend of mine from the Iowa Army
11 National Guard, and it seems that many of us that have gray
12 hair are seeing many of our friends and family members
13 retire through the years and, General McConville, I wish the
14 best to you and to your family as well.

15 And we know as we are stepping out of the uniform and
16 out of the boots and leaving the ranks behind that we need
17 young soldiers to step up into those ranks and so I do want
18 to address some of the recruiting challenges that we are
19 seeing today.

20 On Tuesday, Chairman Milley had told us that the
21 threats of America are at its highest since World War II and
22 our Army is smaller now than it is required to be. By
23 September Army end strength could fall to 445,000 soldiers
24 and that is a 7 percent decline just over the past two
25 years.

1 So today I want to focus on our high schools and how
2 some of those high schools are truly failing our military
3 and their students.

4 The law requires high schools that receive federal
5 funding allow access to our recruiters and as the Department
6 of Education admits on its very own website only about 95
7 percent of the schools actually follow the law by allowing
8 military recruiters access to their students.

9 And, Mr. Chair, if I could enter into the record --
10 this is from the Department of Education's website.

11 Chairman Reed: Without objection.

12 [The information follows:]

13 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Ernst: Thank you.

2 And it does raise a question. So 95 percent do allow
3 some level of access. So what about the 5 percent of
4 schools that deny access to military recruiters? It really
5 is about following the law of the United States.

6 But it is not just about the law. It is about the
7 opportunity that is extended to those students and it is
8 about patriotism.

9 So, General McConville, I am going to ask you to put on
10 a recruiter's badge for a moment -- through your years of
11 experience you know this very well -- but how would you
12 explain the benefits of service to the many students in the
13 1,100 schools who deny access? Who have not been able to
14 meet a recruiter?

15 General McConville: Yeah. What I would say to those
16 superintendents or those teachers or those counselors that
17 do not want military recruiters you may be depriving your
18 students of doing maybe the most important thing in their
19 life and having an impact.

20 And we use the -- kind of the slogan or the motto of be
21 all you can be but there is just so many stories of people
22 that have rose to the highest levels, have gotten an
23 education, whether they did it in the military or gone
24 further.

25 But I just think that everyone should have an

1 opportunity to serve, not necessarily in the Army or the
2 military but just in general. They will be much better
3 citizens, they will do a much better job, they will get
4 training, they will get education, they will get leadership
5 and they will just be -- and when they are older and gray
6 like some of us and they look back on their lives they will
7 say, I served in the 101st Airborne Division.

8 Senator Ernst: Yeah.

9 General McConville: I was part of the Band of
10 Brothers. There was a young woman from the 82nd. We asked
11 her why she joined the military, and she was at Kabul and
12 did some incredible things and what she said to us -- she
13 goes, "I did not want to go through life without having an
14 impact."

15 And we just had another -- an officer. He was an All-
16 American at Duke, played basketball there. He went to --
17 played professional basketball and he was talking at an
18 event for us, and he served with the Rangers. He came back.
19 He goes, I worked on a Coach K. It was great team. I
20 worked -- played for two professional basketball teams. But
21 the best team I ever was on was the Army. So --

22 Senator Ernst: Outstanding, and I know one of my staff
23 members this morning he mentioned this is how he came to
24 serve was he met a recruiter at his school.

25 So I think it is really important that we allow that

1 access because, as you said, so many people that join they
2 join because they have a family member. But there is a
3 whole swath of young men and women that are incredible and
4 really deserve the opportunity to serve.

5 They just have to be exposed. They only know what they
6 know, and those recruiters can really take in discussions
7 about benefits and patriotism and so we think that that is
8 really, really important.

9 So I do have some questions that I will submit for the
10 record, Secretary Wormuth, for you as well in regards to
11 recruiting. But we, certainly, want to make sure that we
12 are correcting this by the high schools and I have
13 legislation I am working on to do that.

14 But I thank you both very much. General McConville,
15 thank you for your service.

16 Thank you, Secretary.

17 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Ernst.

18 Senator Kelly, please?

19 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I could
20 not agree more with the senator from Iowa on this, the
21 opportunity to serve, and as you mentioned, General, some of
22 it -- just somebody talking about it later, my dad served in
23 the 82nd Airborne, and I would hear it from him all the time
24 and one of the reasons I took my path not in the Army but in
25 the Navy.

1 Also, I want to share my condolences on yours and,
2 Madam Secretary, for you, too, and the Army's loss. We
3 often expect losses in combat. Training accidents are --
4 especially mid-air accidents are just horrific, and so we are with
5 you in sharing the grief over this.

6 General, you talked a little bit about training
7 opportunities. I want to talk about a place specific to
8 Arizona because for the last several years we have been
9 hearing from witnesses as we prepare for this pacing threat
10 of China that we need to be doing everything we can to
11 prepare for this fight that we, obviously, do not want to
12 get in and the best way we can -- in my opinion, that we can
13 avoid staying out of a fight is to make sure that our
14 adversaries understand that they are not going to win and
15 that means being as prepared as possible.

16 Electronic warfare is something we have talked about a
17 lot lately. It is a critical mission. I am really pleased
18 to see that DOD has taken a fresh look at our capability
19 here because it is going to be part and a big part of a
20 potential future fight, especially if it is in the Western
21 Pacific.

22 So I have been looking at this issue closely and I know
23 some of my colleagues on the committee have as well. But we
24 need expanded airspace. The stick is longer than it used to
25 be. We need more space. The threat is more significant,

1 and we need to be able to replicate the high-end threat and
2 have areas where we can put emitters and have the dynamic
3 opportunities to best equip their forces and train them.

4 DOD has had officials out to see the electronic proving
5 ground at Fort Huachuca in Arizona and folks agree that this
6 has the -- this place has the capacity and it also has the
7 expertise and they are willing to do more.

8 So, General, can you please talk to the Army's vision
9 and strategy for ensuring that our military is prepared for
10 the advanced electronic warfare threats that we will face in
11 the future?

12 General McConville: Yes, Senator, you make a great
13 point about Fort Huachuca. There is a reason why we have
14 the unmanned aerial system training out there.

15 There is a reason why we have electronic warfare
16 capability at areas like that. It takes special places.
17 Certainly, got to have the size. But it is also where you
18 can do it. There is -- I mean, we do a lot of stuff at the
19 National Training Center. We do it out at Fort Huachuca.

20 But it is something that is going to be more important
21 in the future. We got to train the way we are going to
22 fight. We got to expose our commanders to that environment,
23 and our intent is that our training centers are so rigorous
24 that when they actually go into combat it is an easier day.

25 Senator Kelly: Yeah. That is what you want, right.

1 You want the training to be the most challenging thing.

2 General McConville: That is right.

3 Senator Kelly: Not often the case. You know, Fort
4 Huachuca also offers geography and a landscape that really
5 does not exist anywhere else, this natural bowl where you
6 can transmit on a lot of different frequencies at very high
7 energy.

8 This is a real opportunity, too, and it has got a lot
9 of potential to help the Air Force with their F-35s that
10 every -- not every but a lot of their training missions they
11 need to be considering the high-end threats.

12 We can put emitters at Fort Huachuca. We also have
13 opportunities to extend the size of the Barry Goldwater
14 Range and may be connected to a MOA. The Jackal MOA, I
15 think, that is north of Fort Huachuca.

16 So in my remaining time I am going to have another
17 question for the record on the Fort Huachuca range. But I
18 have got about 30 seconds and I really do not want to go
19 over.

20 So, Madam Secretary, I am going to submit another
21 question for the record about your vision for human machine
22 teaming and working together. That offers a lot of
23 opportunities for us in future conflicts.

24 Thank you, and I will yield back my eight seconds.

25 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kelly. I appreciate

1 that very much.

2 Senator Scott, please?

3 Senator Scott: Thank you, Chairman. Thank each of you
4 for being here. Thank you for what you do.

5 General, can you talk about why should communist China
6 or why should Russia, any of our enemies -- why should they
7 be concerned about the capacity that our Army and our
8 military has and why should they -- when they look at our
9 recruiting we are not hitting our recruiting numbers.

10 Support of the military is not what it used to be.
11 Should they be concerned? Should they have -- be concerned
12 whether if they want to invade Ukraine or China wants to go
13 in Taiwan or North Korea wants to do something in South
14 Korea? Should they be concerned or not?

15 General McConville: I think when I look at our
16 adversaries, should they be concerned about the United
17 States Army, absolutely, yes, they should be. It is the
18 most lethal and ready army in the world and I think when we
19 -- I have spent a lot of time traveling around the world so
20 when I go to Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Romania, you name it,
21 that is the respect that our soldiers have.

22 Every one of those countries wants us to be a partner
23 with them and I think it is the same thing in the Pacific.
24 And I think it is only going to get better with resources as
25 we transform the Army to make sure that we have the

1 capabilities as part of the joint force that are going to
2 make maybe an amphibious type of assault or an airborne
3 assault or an air assault very difficult to do.

4 And but as far as for people side of the house do we
5 have some challenges? Absolutely. But we are looking for
6 everyone's help to work our way through these problems, to
7 inspire young men and women to serve.

8 Senator Scott: What do you think about Taiwan's effort
9 to put themselves in a position that communist China will
10 not want to invade? Do you think they are doing all the
11 right things?

12 Do you think they are -- they have a big enough
13 military and do you think they have made -- are going to
14 make it difficult for them?

15 General McConville: What I would like to do, Senator,
16 is take that to the -- if we can take it to the next
17 session.

18 But here is what I would say, generally. I think there
19 is some good lessons learned when we deal with allies and
20 partners from Ukraine, and what I would say is take a look
21 at what are their capabilities, what are their capacity,
22 what is their competence, and by capabilities what type of
23 weapon system they have.

24 Do they have the right weapon systems to defend
25 themselves? Do they have enough of those weapon systems?

1 Are they competent in those weapon systems?

2 But, to me, the most important thing is do they have
3 the will to fight, and if they do not have the will to fight
4 to defend their country like the Ukrainians did we need to
5 take a hard look at that.

6 Senator Scott: What do you think about -- what do you
7 think about the capacity of the military in South Korea and
8 the willingness of the people to defend their freedoms?

9 General McConville: I think the South Koreans have
10 very good capacity and I think they are very committed to
11 defending their freedom.

12 Senator Scott: So you think that North Korea should be
13 -- should be concerned if they wanted to invade?

14 General McConville: I think North Korea should be
15 concerned.

16 Senator Scott: Okay. What about -- what about our
17 NATO allies? Do you think they are building the capacity
18 they need and they have the willingness?

19 I mean, if you look at Germany as an example and you
20 look at their pathetic response to the invasion of Ukraine
21 where they have not put up the resources they should, they
22 have not built the military they should -- I mean, what do
23 you think about what NATO allies are doing?

24 General McConville: I think NATO allies respond to
25 their interests. There is a lot of things that go on in

1 each country. I look back to General Marshall when he had
2 my job. He said, you know, when I had the time I did not
3 have the money. Then when I got the money I did not have
4 the time.

5 We are seeing that kind of play out right now and that
6 is why it is very important that we invest in our militaries
7 during a time we are not in a major conflict and that is why
8 we want to develop these future systems right now while we
9 have the time and we have some money before it is too late.

10 Senator Scott: Do you think that -- do you think that
11 our NATO allies are doing their part?

12 General McConville: I think the NATO allies I have
13 seen -- again, the ones that are most in, I would say,
14 harm's way absolutely. If you look at what the Poles are
15 doing, you look at what the Romanians are doing, you look at
16 what the Lithuanians are doing, Estonia, things have
17 changed.

18 I have seen a fairly significant change in how NATO has
19 come together because they see a real threat.

20 Senator Scott: Do you think the American public
21 understands enough about the threat of communist China?

22 General McConville: I think Americans may or may not.
23 I would not speak for the Americans. But I think in a lot
24 of ways people are focused on what is happening in this
25 country and when you start to talk about what is happening

1 in Ukraine or what happens in Taiwan it gets to this world
2 order bit, and for a lot of people they are not quite sure
3 how that plays into their lives.

4 But we can show that regional conflicts have global
5 implications and we want to avoid regional conflicts. It is
6 no one's interest to have a Ukraine or have a Taiwan.

7 Senator Scott: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

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

9 Senator King, please?

10 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 First, Secretary Wormuth, I want to compliment you on
12 something in the budget. In these hearings you rarely have
13 that happen. The fact that you have a significant increase
14 in R&D I think that is very important because my next
15 question is going to be to General McConville, which is
16 about the changed nature of warfare.

17 We have seen enormous changes -- cyber-directed energy,
18 all of space, all of those things that are -- have become so
19 much part of conflict that in the first day, I guess, the
20 question is are your Army units going to be able to maneuver
21 if they cannot communicate and if GPS is gone? That is the
22 kind of environment that we are facing.

23 General McConville: I think what we are doing is we
24 are prepared for that environment. So, in fact, one of our
25 cross functional teams is we call it alternate precision

1 navigation timing. Basically, it is how do we figure out
2 what happens when they jam a GPS.

3 So I come from the philosophy you never want to be a
4 one option commander. You never want to be dependent on one
5 option. You never want to be dependent on the weakest link
6 of a supply chain.

7 So, as you mentioned so eloquently, Senator, we are
8 moving from air-land battle -- if you think about it that is
9 two domains we are kind of focused on fighting, that has
10 been the doctrine used for last 40 years -- to multi-domain
11 operations.

12 So we are going to be contested in space because we all
13 -- the Army uses space a lot. Certainly going to be
14 contested in cyber all the way to the homeland because we
15 are going to have to basically fight from port to -- from
16 fort to foxhole.

17 We are, certainly, going to be contested in the air.
18 You can see how right now even Ukraine we have been
19 contesting the sea. Ships are getting sunk and that
20 matters. And then definitely on the ground.

21 So it is going to be a very complex battlefield. We
22 have to teach our soldiers. Many of you have visited our
23 soldiers in the field and our operation centers. They were
24 huge operation centers. They had stadium seats. They had
25 big screens on them. That is not the future. They are

1 going to have to learn to move, and how they emit and how
2 they communicate is going to become extremely important.

3 Senator King: And are you satisfied that we are taking
4 adequate in terms of both training, expenditure, and
5 culture, if you will, to be thinking in new and different
6 ways in order to deal with this entirely new threat
7 environment?

8 General McConville: I think we are, Senator, but I
9 think we can always do more. But if you go out to our
10 National Training Center and our Joint Readiness Training
11 Center and other training centers, that is what we are
12 making them do.

13 So they cannot set up the big operation centers. We
14 make them move every couple hours, and they are seeing
15 swarms of unmanned aerial systems and so they are getting
16 their radios jammed. They are getting their GPS jammed.
17 And so what we have to do to our soldiers, who a lot of them
18 have spent the last 20 years doing counterinsurgency and
19 counterterrorism, this is the new fight and we built new
20 doctrine.

21 We are building new organizations to get after that.
22 We are doing talent management differently now. We are
23 going to be coding on the battlefield. We are going to have
24 to have people that can actually code on the battlefield
25 because then they are going to be trying to defeat

1 algorithms and we have to be able to do that.

2 Senator King: Well, I appreciate that, and I have been
3 asking the same kind of questions of the Navy. In fact, the
4 Secretary of the Navy showed up at my office last week with
5 a sextant just to prove that GPS was not the be all and end
6 all.

7 A question relating to my service on the Veterans
8 Affairs Committee. One of the issues that we have
9 identified with our veterans is the transition between
10 active duty and veteran status and how we can facilitate
11 that in a more active way.

12 Suicide -- the disproportionate number of suicides
13 occur within two or three years of separation from active
14 duty.

15 General, I hope this is something that you are focused
16 upon because it is critical to make sure that that
17 transition happens smoothly and that the new veteran knows
18 that there is available services and that there is somebody
19 that cares about them when they leave the service.

20 General McConville: Senator, as you and I talked
21 about, I am absolutely committed to that. I want to make
22 that work.

23 Transitions are the most dangerous time. I am a
24 student of suicides. They break my heart every time we lose
25 a soldier and they happen during transitions, whether it is

1 a transition in their relationship, transition in their job,
2 transition in their financial status, or even transition out
3 of the military.

4 When they leave that warm web of friends, and we have
5 to do a better job of -- we do not want them to have a
6 smooth landing. We want them to have a smooth takeoff. How
7 do they leave the Army or the military as a whole and get
8 into that welcome that we talked about and we have to have a
9 -- we have to manage that transition for them.

10 Senator King: I appreciate that and I also -- I want
11 to end with a compliment to you not only for your many years
12 of incredibly distinguished service but when you were
13 talking about Taiwan you listed capability and capacity and
14 I was madly writing notes, and you anticipated because you
15 came down to the conclusion of the most important factor is
16 will to fight -- will to fight -- and that is the one thing
17 that we have learned from Ukraine was so critical. So thank
18 you for your service and thank you for your important
19 testimony here today.

20 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King.

21 Senator Budd, please?

22 Senator Budd: Thank you, Chairman. Again, thank you
23 both for being here. I just want to extend my condolences
24 to the family of those killed at Fort Campbell last night.
25 I come from a family of aviators including a Blackhawk

1 pilot, so we are certainly keeping them in our prayers.

2 Secretary Wormuth, quality of life is a major factor in
3 retaining soldiers and their families, as you know. The
4 Army is investing to replace barracks and built a new child
5 development center at Fort Bragg in my home state in North
6 Carolina. These are going to go a long way but there is
7 much more to be done.

8 Can you please discuss how the Army is investing in
9 quality of life initiatives this year?

10 Ms. Wormuth: Certainly, Senator.

11 One important quality of life investment we are doing
12 is barracks, both building new ones, as you said, and
13 renovating ones that we have.

14 So we have got about a billion dollars in this year's
15 budget for barracks across active, Guard, and Reserve and we
16 are going to keep that kind of investment until 2030 to
17 really try to get after our entire inventory. And, in fact,
18 General McConville and I are looking at can we find a way to
19 invest even more in barracks.

20 We are also investing quite a bit in family housing and
21 we work very, very closely with our five privatized housing
22 partners to try to make sure that they are building new
23 inventory and maintaining the inventory that we have.

24 We have had some challenges with those companies a few
25 years ago but I think we are in a better place with them

1 now, although there is always work to do.

2 Another big set of quality of life investments we are
3 making are in -- related to child care. In the last couple
4 of years we have built a number of new CDCs. What we are
5 really focusing on this year is trying to make sure that we
6 are staffing our CDCs at the highest level possible so we
7 can operate at maximum capacity.

8 So we have raised the minimum wage for our daycare
9 workers. We have raised the fee assistance for our soldiers
10 from \$1,500 a month to \$1,700 a month. We are giving
11 recruiting bonuses basically for CDC workers.

12 We are giving bonuses for our in-home child providers
13 -- spouses, in many cases, who open up their own homes. If
14 they move from one duty station to another and stay with the
15 program there is a bonus for that as well. So we are really
16 trying to focus on child care.

17 Senator Budd: Very good. Do not let up, particularly
18 in North Carolina. If you would keep your eye on that,
19 appreciate it.

20 General McConville, are the Army and the Marine Corps
21 -- are they interoperable in the INDOPACOM theater?

22 General McConville: I believe so. I think we work
23 very closely together. We have done what we call Project
24 Convergence where we are bringing together the forces. We
25 are all trying to get to the point where we have a combined

1 joint all-domain command and control capability and I know
2 that the commandant and the chief level we work very
3 closely. They are training together out there. We are
4 sharing capabilities and, quite frankly, there is plenty of
5 work for everybody out there.

6 Senator Budd: So you mentioned their capabilities but
7 how do their missions and their capabilities differ and how
8 are they mutually supportive?

9 General McConville: I think when we take a look at the
10 -- when I take a look at the Marine Corps, if you are going
11 to do it, when you think about forced entries, okay, I have
12 looked at the Marine Corps as the experts on amphibious
13 operations.

14 I look at the Army as the experts on airborne
15 operations from 82nd Airborne Division, 18th Airborne Corps,
16 101st, the expert on air assault operations.

17 So when you take a look at those type of operations
18 that is where it plays out. But the Marine Corps has,
19 certainly -- from the maritime environment can do great
20 things. But at the end of the day, where the where the Army
21 comes in is, quite frankly, the capacity and the scale.

22 You are going to do large-scale combat operations on
23 land. You can do them in the United States Army in
24 conjunction with the Marine Corps.

25 Senator Budd: Thank you.

1 So how is the Army incorporating multi-domain task
2 forces into theater operational plans and theater formations
3 to operate in a denied or degraded environment?

4 General McConville: Yeah. I think we are going to see
5 the multi-domain task force being in tremendous demand by
6 all combatant commanders. Quite frankly, it already is. We
7 are seeing some of the value, and I can talk a little more
8 about that in a classified session of what they are doing.

9 But when you think about what they exist to do is they
10 provide long-range precision fires. So you are going to see
11 hypersonics. You are going to see mid-range capability to
12 sink ships. PRISM can do that.

13 But they also provide long-range precision effects. So
14 they are in intelligence. They are in IO -- information
15 operations. They do cyber. They do electronic warfare in
16 space, and you can also bolt in air and missile defense.

17 So when you start thinking about the ability to assist
18 in maybe a no-fly zone with -- from the ground we can assist
19 in that because we will have integrated air and missile
20 defense.

21 If you think about maybe you want to have a no-sail
22 zone or assist in that because we are going to have anti-
23 ship capability, anti-axis capability, that organization
24 will play very well into that.

25 Senator Budd: Thank you very much. I have another

1 question but I will submit it for the record. Thank you
2 both.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Budd.

4 Senator Blumenthal, please?

5 Senator Blumenthal: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you
6 both for your very articulate and informed testimony today,
7 and I join in condolences to the family -- the larger family
8 -- Army family of the nine soldiers who died at Fort
9 Campbell.

10 Secretary Wormuth, I want to focus for the moment on
11 helicopters, the Sikorsky and Bell competition for the next
12 long-range assault aircraft contract.

13 That contract was awarded to Bell. I am sure you are
14 familiar with efforts on my part and our delegation's part
15 to get some of the basic facts, which we are entitled to
16 receive as a matter of oversight.

17 I am deeply disappointed that we have received none of
18 the essential facts that underlie the Army's decision to go
19 with Bell rather than Sikorsky when, in fact, Sikorsky may
20 have a less expensive, more maneuverable longer-range
21 helicopter under FLRAA.

22 But as disappointed as I am with the decision I am more
23 disappointed with the lack of an explanation and, in fact,
24 the reliance, apparently, on a regulation, which Deputy
25 Secretary Hicks acknowledged does not bind. The Army has

1 not bound it in the past, does not bind it now from
2 providing this information to us.

3 I am not going to get into a debate on the legalities
4 here. What I am interested in knowing is your commitment to
5 give us that explanation when the source selection process
6 has concluded, which will be next week when the GAO issues
7 its opinion.

8 Will you commit to give us a briefing and an
9 explanation next week when the GAO finishes it?

10 Ms. Wormuth: Absolutely, Senator. I have already
11 asked Doug Bush, our Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, to
12 be prepared to give you that briefing the minute the GAO
13 completes its review.

14 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you.

15 General McConville, I am struck by your quotation -- I
16 do not remember who it is attributed to -- General Marshall,
17 that when I had the time I did not have the money; when I
18 had the money I did not have the time.

19 I am afraid that aptly describes our situation in
20 Ukraine, or more specifically, the Ukrainians' position vis-
21 a-vis are providing the money, the arms, the weapons that
22 are needed because I too had been impressed with the will of
23 Ukrainians.

24 When I visited three times over the last, roughly,
25 year, speaking not only with President Zelensky but with his

1 top military leadership, with everyday Ukrainians, they will
2 fight to the last person. They will fight with pitchforks,
3 if necessary. They do not want our troops on the ground.
4 They want what we would give our troops if they were on the
5 ground.

6 And I have also been impressed, and I hope you will
7 take this message back to the men and women under your
8 command, with the training that we provide. I visited
9 Grafenwohr in Germany and watched the training that our
10 soldiers are providing to those Ukrainian freedom fighters,
11 men and women who six, eight, 10 weeks ago were bakers,
12 computer programmers.

13 Now they are about to go to the trenches in Ukraine,
14 and the bond between them and our soldiers is really
15 inspiring and the kinds of skills that our soldiers are
16 imparting to them really inspiring.

17 I hope we can give to them the arms that they need and
18 you, as a professional -- and I underscore the word
19 professional -- not only distinguished but a man who knows
20 how wars are won will also support the kinds of increased
21 arms that are needed now because time is not on our side.
22 The spring is an essential time to provide that aid.

23 And so I want to ask you whether you think Ukrainians
24 are getting enough now to win because if they do get enough
25 they will win, and in your professional judgment whether we

1 should be doing more.

2 General McConville: Some of that question I could talk
3 in a classified session about. But I agree with you as far
4 as on the Ukrainians.

5 I mean, they learned to operate our Patriots in weeks,
6 which is really pretty incredible, and same thing over in
7 Grafenwohr where they come in, they are really serious about
8 the training, they are very, very professional, and they
9 want to do it.

10 And they are taking our things that people thought were
11 not possible, some of our very sophisticated systems, which
12 historically you could never give to another military
13 because they could not maintain.

14 It is nice to have the gear but you have to maintain
15 it, you have to sustain it, and so far, I think, they are
16 doing a magnificent job of working that. And we are
17 learning a lot from telemaintenance to teletraining and when
18 they are down range and they are very innovative on taking
19 our systems and doing that extremely well.

20 And from our standpoint we are giving them the weapon
21 systems that are requested from us at the same time the
22 Secretary and I are trying to make sure that we have what we
23 need to go and do the job, and we appreciate your support in
24 replenishing not only the ammunition but also allowing us to
25 modernize the Army while we go ahead and provide them with

1 the systems they need.

2 Senator Blumenthal: My time is expired, but thank you
3 both.

4 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Blumenthal.

5 Senator Sullivan, please?

6 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and General.

7 Madam Secretary, welcome. Thanks for your great service.

8 Appreciated the call yesterday.

9 My condolences as well to the Army family members in
10 this recent crash. It reminds us that it is a risky
11 profession 24/7.

12 I wanted to ask you -- first, compliment both of you
13 and then ask kind of a two-part question. How is the 11th
14 Airborne Division doing? We love them in Alaska. Very
15 proud of them in Alaska.

16 General, it was great being with you for the patching
17 ceremony in Fairbanks and Anchorage last year. And then I
18 know that the Army is looking at standing up two or three --
19 two more multi-domain task forces, and I am not trying to be
20 greedy here but I just happen to live in the state that
21 Billy Mitchell called the most strategic place in the world
22 and, by the way, so did the NORTHCOM commander last week in
23 a hearing. Best training in the world by far, and a gateway
24 to the Arctic, gateway to the Pacific, a couple of miles
25 away from Russia and the Taiwan Strait and -- I am talking

1 about Alaska.

2 So we would love to have a multi-domain task force base
3 in our great state. But maybe if you can talk about both
4 11th Airborne and where you are looking for the next multi-
5 domain task force that would be great. Both of you.

6 Ms. Wormuth: Thanks, Senator Sullivan.

7 We are very pleased with the 11th Airborne Division. I
8 think the reestablishment of that division has really
9 reinstilled our soldiers in Alaska with a sense of purpose.
10 I think morale is quite high as we --

11 Senator Sullivan: Is it not the most -- the highest?

12 Ms. Wormuth: I was just about to say that. Yeah.

13 Senator Sullivan: Okay. Sorry. Did not want to steal
14 your thunder.

15 Ms. Wormuth: It is the most popular -- most popular
16 duty station right now. One of the --

17 Senator Sullivan: In the U.S. Army. So everybody is
18 requesting it more than -- that is so great.

19 Ms. Wormuth: Yeah. Exactly. They just completed a
20 major training exercise, which went very, very well. I
21 think we set a goal in our Arctic strategy a few years ago
22 to really bring back our cold weather expertise and we are
23 really starting to do that in a way that I think is going
24 very, very well.

25 And as you know, General Eifler and Command Sergeant

1 Major Daley are -- and all of the leaders below them are
2 very engaged and I think the division is doing great things.

3 Senator Sullivan: Good. General? And then maybe you
4 can talk multi-domain task force as well.

5 General McConville: Yes, Senator. It is really
6 interesting when you take a look at a unit that gets
7 purpose.

8 Senator Sullivan: Yeah.

9 General McConville: In the Army those who have served,
10 like, little tabs, little patches --

11 Senator Sullivan: Mean a lot.

12 General McConville: -- mean a lot.

13 Senator Sullivan: Oh, yeah.

14 General McConville: And what I see is there has been a
15 huge change in Alaska because of the focus and now they --
16 it used to be people were trying to survive up in the
17 Arctic. Now they are thriving --

18 Senator Sullivan: Good.

19 General McConville: -- and they are becoming the best
20 in the world and becoming masters of their craft, and now
21 they are working with -- around the world in other places,
22 too, where we understand the importance of the Arctic as a
23 strategic environment that we are going to have to deal with
24 and a lot of people look in the Arctic and now we have a
25 force that is fully capable of doing that.

1 They have taken that mission on from an airborne and
2 air assault. Again, those type tabs mean a lot to our
3 soldiers and I think they are making a huge difference.

4 On the multi-domain task force right now we are kind of
5 taking a look. I think we are not going to -- certainly,
6 not commit here where we are starting to look, but in the
7 Pacific when you start thinking about why you would want
8 that capability is the anti-access capability.

9 You want the capability to provide maybe a no-sail
10 zone, maybe a no-fly zone capability in conjunction with the
11 joint partners, and then it is just a matter of the type of
12 capabilities.

13 We are going to have long-range precision fires. Where
14 is -- and they do not necessarily have to be all together
15 but you start to kind of lay that down how do you want to do
16 that and then how do you want to position forces or rotate
17 forces forward so they are also operating in the theater,
18 and all those have to come together?

19 Senator Sullivan: Okay. If you can keep me and this
20 committee informed on what you are looking at for the next
21 deployment and stationing of those that would be great.

22 My next question is on the budget, and I kind of took
23 Secretary Austin and General Milley to task here. The Biden
24 administration keeps putting forward defense budget cuts,
25 three in a row. We bolster it up in a bipartisan way. I

1 think that is leading from behind. They know we are going
2 to do that so they put forward significant cuts, and I
3 pressed General Milley and Secretary Austin.

4 The current budget right now shrinks the Navy, shrinks
5 the Marine Corps, and shrinks the Army to 450. It is a
6 pretty low number for the U.S. Army, and I think this -- but
7 they also say it is the most dangerous time since World War
8 II. It is kind of a disconnect there in terms of the signal
9 we are sending, emboldening people like Putin and Xi
10 Jinping.

11 Can you comment, Madam Secretary or General, on the --
12 going from 485 to 450 and how does that enhance America's
13 national security in terms of end strength for the U.S.
14 Army?

15 Ms. Wormuth: Thanks, Senator. I really appreciate the
16 question because I want to make clear that the fact that
17 Army's end strength is decreasing is not due to the budget.
18 It is not because we have been told cut the Army or there
19 is not enough money to invest in a larger army.

20 The issue, frankly, is really our recruiting challenge
21 and we have talked a little bit about that with you. We
22 have got to solve our recruiting challenge and what you can
23 see in the five-year budget that we submitted is our intent
24 to build back our end strength.

25 So over the next five years we hope to start increasing

1 our end strength by about 4,000 a year. But we are going to
2 have to work really hard on recruiting to do that.

3 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Sullivan.

5 Senator Warren, please?

6 Senator Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would
7 also like to express my condolences to the family and the
8 friends of the nine soldiers who were killed in the Army
9 helicopter crash at Fort Campbell. It is a reminder of how
10 much we owe to every one of our service members who put
11 themselves in harm's way on our behalf. So it is a very sad
12 day.

13 I want to thank our witnesses for being here today.
14 What I want to talk about today is behavioral health.
15 Improving behavioral health resources and access for our
16 service members is critical to supporting those who are
17 already sacrificing so much to serve our country, and I am
18 deeply concerned that we are not doing enough to address the
19 crisis of substance use disorder for our service members.

20 So last fall I sent a letter to the Defense Department
21 along with my colleagues Senator Markey, Senator Cornyn,
22 Senator Murkowski, and Senator Heinrich on reports of high
23 levels of fatal drug overdoses involving opioids and
24 fentanyl at Fort Bragg, Fort Bliss, and West Point.

25 In DOD's response we discovered a total of 15,293

1 active duty service member overdoses from 2017 to February
2 of 2023. There were 332 fatal overdoses.

3 Now, this is a problem for all of the services but the
4 Army had the highest rate of overdose death.

5 Secretary Wormuth, one of the ways for us to be able to
6 address this issue is to understand the extent of the
7 problem. Is there any kind of annual public reporting on
8 service member overdoses?

9 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, I am sure that we track that
10 data. I am actually --

11 Senator Warren: I did not ask if you track the data.
12 I asked if you had a regular reporting of the data because I
13 could not find one.

14 Ms. Wormuth: We may not and we probably should have
15 one.

16 Senator Warren: Okay. There is no annual reporting,
17 and I just want to make clear the only reason we know the
18 numbers that I just cited is because DOD provided it as an
19 answer to our letter.

20 Public data that are updated on an ongoing basis would
21 help us better understand and track this problem and whether
22 any new policies that DOD implements are effective. We got
23 to collect the numbers to know what is happening here.

24 Now, one other aspect of this DOD's data showed that
25 more than 80 percent of fatal overdoses by service members

1 were accidental. One thing that could help us prevent
2 accidental overdoses from becoming fatal overdoses is easy
3 accessibility of the overdose reversal drug Naloxone.

4 Secretary Wormuth, DOD says that it provides Naloxone
5 in high-risk cases, which is a good best practice. How
6 often has the Army provided Naloxone to service members and
7 their families?

8 Ms. Wormuth: I do not have that information, Senator
9 Warren, off the top of my head. I do know that we have
10 established a public awareness campaign for our soldiers
11 called One Pill Can Kill and, for example, at Fort Bragg
12 every single newly arriving soldier gets that prevention
13 training because we are deeply concerned, particularly with
14 fentanyl being as prevalent as it is -- we are deeply
15 concerned about making sure our soldiers know the dangers
16 there.

17 Senator Warren: And I want you to know I very much
18 appreciate that you are trying to engage in other harm
19 reduction techniques here. I am in favor of that.

20 But I want to make the pitch that it needs to be more
21 coordinated and that we need better accountability. You got
22 to have the numbers -- what programs are you trying and what
23 effect is it having on outcomes.

24 We know across this country now that harm reduction
25 services save lives. We need to be doing everything that we

1 can to mitigate overdoses among our service members
2 including using harm reduction services that are available
3 and then tracking whether or not they are having the
4 outcomes that we hope for.

5 So I would like to be able to work with you more on
6 this and see if we can get a stronger program in place.

7 Ms. Wormuth: We would welcome that.

8 Senator Warren: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Warren.

10 Senator Shaheen, please?

11 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank
12 you, Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, for being
13 here this morning.

14 And I would also like to offer my condolences. I was
15 in Romania at the end of February and had a chance to meet
16 personally with a number of members of the 101st Airborne
17 who were there from Kentucky. So I can only imagine how
18 devastating it is for the people, for everybody in the 101st
19 but especially for the families.

20 I would like to begin, Secretary Wormuth, with asking
21 you about the enhanced night vision goggle binoculars, or
22 ENVGBs, because Congress stepped in to restore the full \$300
23 million in funding for 2023 after the Army budget request
24 did not include any funding for the ENVGBs, and as I have
25 heard from a number of companies and soldiers it is very

1 important to this critical program to maintain the
2 industrial base for it.

3 And that is why I was very concerned and did not really
4 understand why again this year the Army has requested only
5 \$30 million for fiscal year 2024 for the ENVGB program and
6 that is especially after, in the words of the Army's
7 unfunded priority list last year, failure to fund the ENVGB
8 program, and I quote, "decreases soldier survivability."

9 So how does the Army justify this decision?

10 Ms. Wormuth: Thank you, Senator. The enhanced night
11 vision goggle binoculars are a great product, great system.
12 Our soldiers -- they are very, very popular. They have got
13 a lot of great capabilities.

14 I would say our approach to funding the ENVGBs is
15 similar, in some cases, to other important systems like
16 Abrams and Stryker. We are trying to strike a balance
17 between investing in enduring programs or well tested
18 systems like the enhanced night vision binoculars while also
19 making sure that we have sufficient resources to invest in
20 some of the new systems that we are developing.

21 So our judgment was that that funding level was
22 sufficient and allowed us to be able to strike a balance
23 across our program.

24 Senator Shaheen: Well, again, I understand and we have
25 had these conversations before about the IVAS program and I

1 know the Army has now ordered an IVAS 1.2 variant.

2 But I think it is not at all clear and, in fact, I
3 would like, Mr. Chairman, to submit for the record the
4 Integrated Visual Augmentation System report here that was
5 done by the Inspector General -- well, it was done by fiscal
6 year 2022 directors of Operational Test and Evaluation. It
7 is their report.

8 But it confirms, I think, what the Inspector General
9 found when he said the Army is at risk of wasting, and I
10 quote, "wasting up to \$21.88 billion in taxpayer funds to
11 field a system that soldiers may not want to use or use as
12 intended and the fact is this report found that IVAS did not
13 demonstrate improvements to deficiencies and that soldiers
14 were, in fact, performing worse than they had without the
15 system.

16 So, again, I understand the balance that you are trying
17 to strike but it is hard for me to understand how much
18 longer we are going to spend money on a program that does
19 not seem to be accomplishing what you say is the intent.

20 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, what I would say there is we
21 have had some challenges with the IVAS program, that is for
22 sure, and the \$22 billion figure that is cited in that
23 report assumes that we buy it for the entire Army, which is
24 not our current plan.

25 With the 1.2 variant if Congress funds that what we are

1 going to try to do is see if it can be successful. We are
2 working very, very hard with Microsoft. But it is a new
3 system that will allow us to train, to rehearse, and to
4 fight and it gives some additional capabilities beyond the
5 night vision goggles, which, again, are superlative.

6 So if we think it can work then we will invest in it.
7 If it does not prove out this time then we will move on.
8 But I think we believe that we should give it a chance. It
9 is a very important step forward in terms of wearable
10 technology for our soldiers.

11 Senator Shaheen: And, again, I understand the intent
12 and why on paper it looks like a technology that would be
13 worth investing in. But the fact is to date it has not
14 proven to be a technology that soldiers can use and improve
15 their ability to operate.

16 So I would again urge you to take a look at that
17 program and to really question how far down the road we want
18 to go investing in something that is not working.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Chairman Reed: All right, and without objection the
21 report will be submitted for the record.

22 [The information follows:]

23 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

24

25

1 Chairman Reed: Senator Rosen, please?

2 Senator Rosen: Well, thank you, Chairman Reed. I
3 appreciate you holding this hearing. I would like to thank
4 the witnesses for being here to testify today and, of
5 course, for your service to this nation.

6 General McConville, as this will be your last time
7 before the committee, thank you for your decades of
8 distinguished service leading the brave men and women of the
9 United States Army.

10 We appreciate you, and I also, too, like all of my
11 colleagues want to express my deepest condolences for the
12 families, the fellow soldiers, of those that were lost in
13 last night's tragedy at Fort Campbell, and just to express
14 my heartfelt sympathies.

15 So I am going to talk a little bit about Nevada and,
16 General McConville, I want to revisit an issue that I raised
17 with you last year. Thank you for your commitment to ensure
18 that Nevada will finally have its first small arms
19 qualification range, and as we discussed, Nevada's Guard and
20 Reserve soldiers are traveling to surrounding states in
21 order to qualify or satisfy their annual weapons
22 qualification, and it is about an average cost of around
23 \$500,000 a year per unit.

24 And so I appreciate your commitment to look into this,
25 which spurred the effort underway to build a permanent range

1 in Hawthorne Army Depot by fiscal year '25. I understand
2 that the Nevada Army National Guard is on track to complete
3 their planning and design to meet that timeline and so,
4 General McConville, can I again have your commitment that
5 the Army will see this project through in fiscal year '25 so
6 that soldiers can meet their annual requirements at greater
7 convenience and lower tax cost to the taxpayer?

8 General McConville: You have mine but I just want to
9 check with the Secretary because she is going to be here.
10 You have my commitment.

11 Ms. Wormuth: We will follow through on it, Senator
12 Rosen.

13 Senator Rosen: I have been to where they proposed it,
14 at Hawthorne Army Depot. Everyone is so excited. The plans
15 are really great and everyone is looking forward to having
16 that in Nevada and with all the rest of our military there
17 and Reserves there how it can be used for everyone in our
18 state. So thank you for that. Really appreciate it.

19 And, again, I am going to move on to you then
20 Secretary, about Hawthorne Army Depot. It is the world's
21 largest ammunition depot and demilitarization facility, and
22 the depot stores demilitarizes munitions and ensures
23 munitions readiness for the DOD.

24 And despite its size and crucial role that Hawthorne
25 plays it is in desperate, desperate need of significant

1 infrastructure upgrades. As an example, I heard from folks
2 in Hawthorne earlier this month that the boilers, which were
3 installed in 1974, were inoperable and the facilities were
4 without heat.

5 The need to invest in our munitions depots has only
6 become more acute in light of our need to ramp up munitions
7 production not to only arm Ukraine but to, of course,
8 backfill our own stockpiles.

9 And so given this, does the Army have plans to invest
10 in repairs or upgrades to the munitions depot, and if it
11 does not can I have your commitment that we can include
12 Hawthorne in Army's -- in the Army's next future years
13 defense planning unfunded priority list so that we can -- we
14 really need to care about our munitions readiness.

15 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, Senator Rosen.

16 First of all, I would say on life, health, and safety
17 issues we always want to take care of those. So I will make
18 sure that we go out and look at the -- at Hawthorne and
19 assess whether there is a life, health, and safety issue
20 with the boiler because if there is we will want to take
21 care of that right away.

22 We have a 15-year \$18 billion organic industrial base
23 strategy and plan to try to address modernizing all of these
24 facilities and many of them are quite old, as you know.
25 They are sort of vintage World War II.

1 Again, we cannot do all of the modernization in one
2 year so we try to phase that over time and, certainly, I
3 believe that there are investments planned for Hawthorne
4 depot a couple of years from now.

5 But we are -- we constantly assess that plan every year
6 and will talk to General Hamilton, the new head of Army
7 Materiel Command, to make sure that we have got investments
8 in Hawthorne in the right prioritization.

9 Senator Rosen: Yeah. I think that -- well, first of
10 all, about the boilers not all of Nevada is a desert so it
11 does get cold there and, really, our munitions readiness,
12 building up our stockpile, they have been -- they are always
13 so busy but it has really played an even more integral role
14 since we have been in Ukraine.

15 And I guess I will go on to this. Ukraine keeps
16 receiving more advanced equipment -- the Abrams tanks, the
17 Patriot missile defense system -- and those demands for
18 those teams and capabilities continue to grow.

19 So what are you doing to expand the current programs
20 and ensure that we are equipped efficiently and accurately
21 to respond to requests from the battlefield, especially as
22 it relates to Ukraine?

23 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, we are investing \$1.5 billion in
24 the organic industrial base this year to try to expand
25 production for munitions precisely so that we can continue

1 to supply Ukraine what they need but also to replenish our
2 own stocks, and we are using some of the supplemental money
3 that Congress has given us to replenish our stocks and not
4 just buy new old stuff but we are buying new new stuff. So
5 we are replacing M-113 vehicles with the new AMPVs, for
6 example.

7 We are also working really closely with industry to try
8 to see how they can increase the scope and scale of their
9 munitions production to, again, try to make sure we can keep
10 supplying the Ukrainians.

11 Senator Rosen: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen.

13 Senator Duckworth, please?

14 Senator Duckworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 I do want to express my condolences.

16 General McConville, you and I know inherently the --
17 how dangerous the job is, especially that of our helicopter
18 crews, and I personally gave you some heavy, heavy nights in
19 Iraq a lifetime ago when my own aircraft went down while you
20 were in -- where we were supporting your unit, the first CAV
21 there. So know that I have been thinking about those crews
22 and their families.

23 Good morning to both of our witnesses. I appreciate
24 our candid conversation earlier this week. In your written
25 testimony you highlighted the critical importance of

1 contested logistics in both short sharp operations as well
2 as for protected conflict.

3 My colleagues have heard me talk about these
4 difficulties in this committee for some time now, especially
5 as we look into the Indo-Pacific region.

6 General McConville, in what ways does this year's Army
7 budget request support contested logistics for the joint
8 force and what efforts are you making to bolster sustainment
9 capabilities and capacity, especially in Southeast Asia?

10 General McConville: Thank you, Senator. As we take a
11 look, one of the big things we have done right off the bat
12 is stand up a cross functional team for contested logistics.

13 As you know very well, I mean, we cannot do what we do
14 without logistics. We are seeing it playing out in Ukraine,
15 and Ukraine is such a great lesson for us all because we are
16 seeing it play out.

17 But it is on land and we have very robust capability to
18 support logistics in Europe. We need to do the same thing
19 in the Pacific and that is working with allies and partners.

20 In the budget there is funding for watercraft.

21 There is funding for prepositioned stocks, which is
22 really important moving them forward, fuel distribution, all
23 these type things that we are going to need to operate these
24 weapon systems.

25 These weapon systems without fuel, without parts,

1 without bullets do not perform their duty. So we are
2 working that very hard and we think it is very important.

3 Senator Duckworth: Thank you.

4 A critical vulnerability for any military, as we said,
5 is the logistical tail associated with delivering
6 operational energy to its fielded forces. Both our
7 readiness and our allies' and partners' readiness will be
8 bolstered by, one, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and
9 employing more diverse and renewable operational energy
10 sources; developing innovative delivery systems; distributed
11 storage, as you said pre-po; sources flexible contracting
12 and improved automation; and, of course, ensuring supply
13 lines are resilient in the face of climate change,
14 disruption through energy supplies and also cyber attacks.

15 Secretary Wormuth, General McConville, how important is
16 logistics cooperation in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, and
17 what efforts in your budget request work towards operational
18 energy security and resilience?

19 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, as General McConville said,
20 logistics are going to be critical. It is that old saying
21 of amateurs do strategy and professionals do logistics, and
22 we have made substantial investments in that area in this
23 budget.

24 Specifically on operational energy, I would say we have
25 got over \$1.3 billion in our budget this year for two big

1 areas -- about a billion dollars in installations
2 resilience, really making sure that our installations are
3 adapting to extreme weather.

4 But the other \$300 million is investing more in
5 operational energy and looking at electrification of our
6 vehicles, looking at investing in developing hybrid
7 vehicles.

8 So, for example, we have a hybrid Bradley that I was
9 able to see, as well as hybrid JLTVs, for example, and those
10 are really important because they are going to be much more
11 fuel efficient, which means that we will not have to have
12 the kinds of fuel convoys that we saw in Iraq, for example,
13 which means we are going to put fewer soldiers at risk.

14 But those hybrid vehicles are also lower signature,
15 which is really important when you are looking at the kind
16 of contested environment, and they are very, very quiet,
17 which is going to increase their survivability and,
18 ultimately, our lethality.

19 So those operational energy investments are really
20 important.

21 Senator Duckworth: I just -- DOD put out a statistic a
22 while ago about Iraq that said that 80 percent of our
23 casualties in Iraq came from convoy operations and over 50
24 percent of those convoys were for logistics and fuel --
25 movement of fuel. I think it is highly important.

1 But when you look to the Indo-Pacific region we are
2 going to have to be able to partner with so many folks both
3 in terms of partner military and allies and friends but also
4 commercial resources as well, and I think it is important to
5 make sure that we plus up our cyber capabilities and that of
6 our allies also.

7 I know that the Army Futures Command in particular is
8 leading efforts when it comes to developing members across
9 the total force with skill sets in advanced technology areas
10 such as computer programming, coding, AI, ML.

11 I wonder -- I would like to hear from each of you about
12 the benefits to the department that comes from leveraging
13 the digital skills of its total force service members,
14 particularly those in the Reserve component who have tech
15 skills from their civilian careers.

16 Ms. Wormuth: Sure, Senator.

17 Just briefly, I would say we desperately need to build
18 out our tech skills, our cyber capabilities. They are going
19 to be incredibly important -- our AI capabilities -- and we
20 need to be able to leverage them not just in the active
21 component but in the Guard and Reserves.

22 In many cases where we cannot compete, frankly,
23 financially with the salaries that people can get in the
24 commercial sector, being able to draw on cyber capabilities
25 from people in the Guard and soldiers in the Reserves is a

1 great way to sort of thread that needle.

2 Senator Duckworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Duckworth.

4 Thank you, Secretary Wormuth, General McConville. We
5 will recess the open hearing and reconvene at 1200 hours in
6 SVC 217, and I have been informed there is a vote that will
7 commence at 11:45.

8 Thank you very much and we will see you shortly, and
9 thank you.

10 And we recess.

11 [Whereupon, at 11:44 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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