

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 2023 AND
THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Thursday, May 5, 2022

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 9:30 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 Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Warren, Peters,
17 Duckworth, Rosen, Kelly, Inhofe, Wicker, Fischer, Cotton,
18 Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Cramer, Blackburn, and
19 Hawley.

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

3 Chairman Reed: I would like to call the hearing to
4 order.

5 The committee meets today to receive testimony on the
6 President's defense budget request for the Army for fiscal
7 year 2023. Our witnesses this morning are Christine
8 Wormuth, Secretary of the Army, and General James
9 McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army. Thank you both for
10 your service, and please convey the gratitude of this
11 committee to the men and women serving under you.

12 President Biden's defense budget request for fiscal
13 year 2023 includes approximately \$178 billion in funding for
14 the Army, an increase of \$2.8 billion from the fiscal year
15 2022 enacted budget. The Army's request appropriately
16 focuses on taking care of its people, enhancing training and
17 readiness, and modernizing equipment, but it does so against
18 a largely flat budget. As such, the Army has prepared a
19 tightly crafted budget that attempts to balance all its
20 priorities. However, to maintain momentum on its signature
21 modernization efforts, the Army has significantly slowed its
22 procurement of enduring capabilities. This effort to hold
23 onto every program has inevitably led to inefficiency and
24 "spending more for less." To avoid triggering further
25 increases in cost per unit, I would like to know how the

1 Army can ensure it makes best use of its resources even as
2 it reduces procurement quantities.

3 The military is shifting its focus and resources to the
4 Indo-Pacific region, and the Army has a critical role to
5 play in this theater, including contributions to Joint Force
6 capabilities, enabling logistics and prepositioned stocks,
7 and strengthening relationships with our allies. With that
8 in mind, I am interested in hearing about the Army's view of
9 its mission globally, especially in the Indo-Pacific, as
10 well as how the service is adjusting its operating concepts
11 and force posture to support the National Defense Strategy.

12 The Army's most valuable asset has always been its
13 people. I am pleased to see this budget request places a
14 priority on taking care of our men and women in uniform and
15 the civilians who serve alongside them, including an across-
16 the-board pay raise for military and civilian personnel of
17 4.6 percent. At the same time, this budget would decrease
18 the Army's end strength to just under one million soldiers,
19 largely due to a difficult recruiting environment. I
20 understand the Army is conducting a holistic review of its
21 recruiting and retention practices, and I would ask for an
22 update on how you plan to identify and attract a broader
23 pool of potential recruits and grow back-end strength in the
24 out years.

25 The Army must continue to improve its readiness in the

1 context of long-term strategic competition. This budget
2 increases flying hours and training miles to improve the
3 readiness of the individual soldier. It also funds numerous
4 rotations to Combined Training Centers to maintain unit-
5 level readiness. Further, the Army's ongoing focus on large
6 training exercises, including the Defender series in Europe
7 and the Pacific, and its leadership in the Project
8 Convergence series, demonstrate a commitment to regional
9 preparedness. These large-scale events not only test system
10 capabilities, exercise critical skills like deployment of
11 the force, and demonstrate the value of prepositioned
12 stocks, they also facilitate joint and coalition
13 experimentation and training, reflecting how the United
14 States would fight in future operations. We are seeing the
15 importance of efforts like this right now in Ukraine.

16 The Army's budget request includes an overall decrease
17 in research, development, test, and evaluation, RDT&E, but
18 makes important increases in several cutting-edge technology
19 areas. To remain competitive with China and Russia we must
20 continue to invest in emerging technologies that will define
21 future battlefields across all domains. The Army
22 specifically has been pursuing modernization in the areas of
23 long-range precision fires, air and missile defense, soldier
24 lethality, next-generation combat vehicles, future vertical
25 lift, and the communications network. These are ambitious

1 and far-sighted objectives, but we must acknowledge that the
2 Army has historically struggled to modernize effectively.

3 The establishment of Army Futures Command and the
4 reorganization of associated commands injected tremendous
5 energy into modernization efforts, and Congress has provided
6 the Army with wide latitude to make programmatic and
7 structural changes. The Army recently published a directive
8 that refines and clarifies roles and responsibilities for
9 Army Modernization. Secretary Wormuth, General McConville,
10 I would ask that you update the committee on the Army's
11 modernization efforts and what resources are necessary to
12 effectively continue them.

13 Again, I thank the witnesses for their participation
14 today and I look forward to their testimonies.

15 And at this point let me now recognize the ranking
16 member, Senator Inhofe.

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

3 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Chairman Reed. I join you
4 in welcoming our witnesses. I had an opportunity, and have
5 in the past, several times, of getting to know them quite
6 well, and I appreciate the efforts and the challenges they
7 are facing right now.

8 For 4 years this committee has used the 2018 National
9 Defense Strategy and Commission report as the roadmap. We
10 have gotten our money's worth out of this thing over the
11 last couple of years.

12 And rightly, the Biden administration recently released
13 a defense strategy underscoring the accelerating threat of
14 the Chinese Communist Party and its unprecedented military
15 modernization.

16 Unfortunately, the Administration has sent to Congress
17 a budget request that does not provide the resources
18 necessary to combat that threat or others that we are facing
19 right now. Not only does it fail to provide the 3 to 5
20 percent real growth recommended that is in the NDS report
21 and that we have been following for a number of years, it
22 does not even keep up with the record-high inflation we are
23 facing.

24 The absence of real growth in the request, combined
25 with record-high inflation, would leave our military under-

1 resourced.

2 This is nowhere most evident in the budget request for
3 the Army. Of course, those of us old Army guys always
4 observe that Army gets the short end of this stuff when
5 changes are made. Am I the only one who ever observes this,
6 Mr. Chairman?

7 Chairman Reed: No, sir.

8 Senator Inhofe: Okay. Anyway, the request cuts
9 military construction by 39 percent, it cuts research and
10 development by 6 percent, and cuts procurement by 7 percent.

11 Notably, the procurement cut would substantially slow
12 modernization of armored brigade combat teams which are
13 essential to deter further Russian aggression.

14 Given the inadequate budget request, it is no surprise
15 that the Army's unfunded priorities list, what I call the
16 risk list, totals \$5.1 billion.

17 I look forward to understanding from our witnesses the
18 risks associated with this budget request. Additionally, I
19 look forward to hearing what will be done to overcome a
20 significant recruiting challenge. This is one that I have
21 not seen before, and I think it is more severe than any
22 challenge that we have had in the past, and that is that we
23 are now facing, just in this year, a request shortfall of
24 12,000.

25 So Mr. Chairman, clearly we have got a lot to do to

1 ensure that our military has the resources that they need

2 Thank you.

3 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

4 Let me now recognize the Secretary of the Army,

5 Christine Wormuth. Madam Secretary.

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

3 Ms. Wormuth: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and
4 distinguished members of the committee, thank you for your
5 ongoing support for the Army as we continue to work to
6 significant transform to meet future threats. I am really
7 pleased to appear before you today as I near the 1-year mark
8 of Secretary of the Army. We have accomplished a lot this
9 year but we have a lot of work ahead of us.

10 We remain focused on our three key priorities: people,
11 readiness, and modernization. The fiscal year 2023 budget
12 request enables us to support the National Defense Strategy,
13 take care of our people, and meet operational demands at
14 home and abroad. We will invest \$35 billion in
15 modernization, almost \$2 billion in military housing and
16 infrastructure, and fund 22 combat training center rotations
17 in fiscal year 2023.

18 We are modestly reducing our end strength from 485,000
19 soldiers in the active component to 476,000 soldiers this
20 year and about 473,000 soldiers in fiscal year 2023. We are
21 doing this because we are really focused on ensuring a high-
22 quality force. We did not want to have to lower our
23 recruiting standards. At the same time, we are working hard
24 to adjust our recruiting efforts, given the challenging
25 recruiting environment that we and the other services are

1 facing.

2 We are also committed to maintain our momentum on our
3 six major modernization portfolios. In fiscal year 2023
4 alone we will field four Long Range Precision Fire systems,
5 the first Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon battery, our ship-
6 sinking, midrange capability, the Precision Strike Missile,
7 and the Extended Range Cannon Artillery platform. We are
8 also modernizing our air and missile defense systems and
9 adding another Patriot battalion to our force structure. We
10 continue to fund both the develop of FLRAA and FARA, which
11 are scheduled to field in about 2030.

12 As important as it is to maintain momentum on
13 modernization, people are the strength of our Army and our
14 greatest asset. This budget increases soldier and Army
15 civilian pay and funds a number of important quality-of-life
16 improvements, including barracks family housing and
17 childcare initiatives.

18 We remain focused on building positive command climates
19 across the Army. Positive command climates begin with good
20 leaders, and our new leader assessment programs are truly
21 helping us to select the very best leaders for command.

22 To reduce harmful behaviors we are building out a
23 prevention workforce that will help us with our efforts to
24 build cohesive teams that are trained, disciplined, and fit.
25 Our SHARP Fusion Directorate pilot brings together, in one

1 place, all of the resources to assist victims of sexual
2 harassment and assault and those pilots are up and running.
3 We have also hired a new civilian director for our Criminal
4 Investigative Division, and we will establish the Office of
5 Special Trial Counsel later this summer.

6 We continue striving to prevent suicide in our ranks.
7 We have started conducting 100 percent mental health
8 wellness checks in some of our units, and we are surging
9 behavioral health resources to where they are most needed,
10 even as we confront a national shortage of providers.

11 And as we focus on taking care of soldiers and their
12 families and transforming to meet future threats, the Army
13 also plays a key role in adding threats in the here and now.
14 Today we have over 45,000 soldiers in Europe to reassure our
15 allies, deter aggression against NATO territory, and assist
16 Ukraine in its fight to defend itself. The Army, as you all
17 know, has provided a wide range of lethal assistance to
18 Ukraine, including Javelins, Stingers, Howitzers, drones,
19 ammunition, and even MI-17 helicopters.

20 And while we are focused on Europe we have not taken
21 our eye off the pacing challenge of China in Indo-Pacific.
22 Through Operation Pacific Pathways, we deployed thousands of
23 Army forces and equipment sets to the region for exercises
24 that strengthen Joint Force integration, demonstrate combat
25 capability, and promote interoperability. In just the last

1 2 years, our Fifth Security Force Assistance Brigade has
2 deployed 40 advisory teams to 14 different nations.

3 The interoperability and relationships our Army forces
4 are building with allies in the region increased the
5 potential for additional access and combined action in the
6 event of a future conflict. Our access presence and
7 influence around the world are enduring advantages that
8 contribute to integrated deterrence.

9 To continue building this enduring advantage relative
10 to our adversaries we have to pursue cutting-edge
11 experimentation and innovation. Much of our experimentation
12 activity will culminate this fall at Project Convergence
13 2022, where our sister services will join us with
14 operational units and new technologies to work together to
15 solve key operational challenges.

16 America's Army is fit, trained, and ready when called
17 upon to fight and win the nation's wars. We are
18 transforming for the future, which we have to do, given the
19 very dangerous security environment we face each day. I am
20 proud of everything that our soldiers do to protect our
21 country, and look forward to your questions this morning.

22 [The prepared statement of Ms. Wormuth and General
23 McConville follows:]

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

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1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL JAMES McCONVILLE, CHIEF OF STAFF
2 OF THE ARMY

3 General McConville: All right. Apache Pilot will get
4 that thing straight. Okay.

5 Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, distinguished
6 members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to
7 be here today and for your continued support to the Army and
8 our people, our soldiers of all components, our families,
9 our civilians, and our soldiers for life, our veterans, and
10 retirees. And speaking of soldiers for life, we would like
11 to thank Senator Inhofe for your many years of service in
12 support the Army and the nation, from basic training at Fort
13 Chaffee and all your years on Capitol Hill. We wish you all
14 the best in a well-deserved retirement. So thank you, sir.

15 The men and women of the United States Army stand ready
16 to fight and win our nation's wars, as a member of the Joint
17 Force, and I could not be more proud of each and every one
18 of them. The army is well-aligned with the National Defense
19 Strategy through our existing priorities of people,
20 readiness, and modernization. We win through our people.
21 They are our greatest strength, and they are our most
22 important weapon system, and that is why people remain the
23 Army's number one priority.

24 We are in a war for talent. That means recruiting our
25 nation's best and modernizing our talent management systems.

1 That means retaining our best. We recruit soldiers but we
2 retain families, so we are ensuring access to quality
3 housing, health care, childcare, spouse employment and PCS
4 moves. When our soldiers get the call that it is time to
5 deploy, we want them laser-focused on their mission, knowing
6 that their families will be well taken care of at home. And
7 above all, putting our people first means building cohesive
8 teams, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect,
9 and everyone, in every unit, is highly trained, disciplined,
10 and fit, and ready to fight and win.

11 But being ready today is not good enough. We must also
12 be sure we are ready tomorrow, and that is what
13 modernization is all about -- future readiness. The Army
14 continues to undergo the greatest transformation in over 40
15 years, and we remain committed to our six modernization
16 priorities. We will have 24 signature modernization systems
17 in the hands of our soldiers by fiscal year 2023, either for
18 testing or fielding, and also in fiscal year 2023 we will
19 stand up the third of our five multi-domain task forces.

20 The U.S. Army never fights alone, so we continue to
21 invest in strengthening our relationships with allies and
22 partners across the globe. We can see the return in those
23 investment in our response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
24 Never before have we asked so many to move so quickly, and
25 we could not do it without the access and presence our

1 allies and partners provide.

2 In less than a week, the 1st Armored Division of the
3 3rd Infantry Division was able to deploy from Fort Stewart,
4 Georgia, and be on the ground in Germany, starting live-fire
5 exercise with tanks drawn from the Army prepositioned stocks
6 in Europe. That is a testament to our tactical and
7 strategic readiness, to the quality of our incredible
8 logisticians, and to the investments Congress has made over
9 the last several years in setting the European theater.

10 When it is time to go, we go with the Army we have, and
11 the Army we have is the world's greatest fighting force. We
12 must ensure it stays that way, and with your continued
13 support we will.

14 I look forward to your questions.

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, General
16 McConville.

17 Secretary Wormuth, could you elaborate on the specific
18 investments and capabilities in this budget that supports
19 the 2022 National Defense Strategy?

20 Ms. Wormuth: Certainly, Chairman. As I said, we have
21 about \$35 billion for modernization in this budget, and that
22 is really focused on each of our six major modernization
23 portfolios, you know, whether it is Long Range Precision
24 Fires, air and missile defenses, next-generation combat
25 vehicles, Future Vertical Lift. All of those new systems

1 will contribute to us being able to continue to field
2 combat-credible forces, which are core to integrated
3 deterrence, which is one of the major lines of effort in the
4 National Defense Strategy.

5 We also have considerable, billions of dollars
6 associated, obviously, with operations and maintenance, and
7 that supports our ability to campaign day-to-day to be able
8 to compete against Russia and China. So for example, the
9 budget supports the operations that are underway right now.
10 You know, again, as General McConville and I mentioned, the
11 tens of thousands of Army soldiers who are in Europe right
12 now, for example, or our forces that are operating in the
13 Indo-Pacific through the Operation Pacific Pathways series
14 of exercise.

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Madam Secretary. And
16 General McConville, in producing these capabilities I know
17 you have got an eye on the Joint Force because the battles
18 of the future, as in mostly in the past, will be fought not
19 just by the Army but by the Joint Force. Can you tell us
20 how you are developing capabilities that benefit the Joint
21 Force?

22 General McConville: Yes, Senator. I think it starts
23 with a concept that we are all developing, a joint
24 warfighting concept. The enabler of that is what we call
25 the Joint All Command and Control System. I add a C to it

1 because I think are going to find combined. And what that
2 allows us to do is to move data and communications very,
3 very quickly between every sensor and shooter on the
4 battlefield. And by being able to do that we provide a much
5 more lethal force on the joint side. And then as the
6 Secretary mentioned, the Army does logistics. We do that
7 very, very well. We are providing long-range precision
8 fires. We are providing air and missile defense. All these
9 capabilities work to support the Joint Force in whatever
10 theater that we end up fighting.

11 Chairman Reed: You indicated in your response that the
12 first sort of major objective would be fully integrated and
13 fully secure communications. What is your sense in terms of
14 how far we are away from that objective?

15 General McConville: Well I think we are making a lot
16 of progress, Senator. We have conducted a think we call
17 Project Convergence, and we have been doing it over the last
18 3 years. The first time we did it we brought the Army out
19 there and we worked our systems back and forth. We just
20 finished one with the Joint Force and have had success, and
21 this year coming up we will bring out some of our allies and
22 partners to do that.

23 But we also stood up a Joint Systems Integration
24 Laboratory up at Aberdeen, and what that is, we bring in all
25 the different systems that we use to communicate and make

1 sure they could communicate before we take them out in the
2 desert in some extreme conditions, and we have found that to
3 be very successful.

4 Chairman Reed: Very good. And Secretary Wormuth, I
5 have a short bit of time left, but we had an opportunity to
6 discuss, and I think Senator Inhofe was also interested in
7 the issue of recruiting in a very complicated world. The
8 number of qualified individuals continues to shrink. But
9 what else is happening is that it is becoming somewhat
10 insular. I think General McConville indicated that
11 somewhere close to 80 percent of recruits come from military
12 families, and if you look at the geographic distribution it
13 is moving away from a more national focus, certainly as it
14 was under the draft, to more regional, the South and West.

15 So could you comment briefly on that? And I think my
16 colleague will probably pursue it also.

17 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, Senator. It is absolutely true that
18 a large number of young Americans that come into the Army
19 today come from families that have served in the military.
20 So I think one of the things we have got to do is find a way
21 to help all young Americans understand all of the great
22 opportunities that they can have in the Army and all of the
23 things that the Army will enable them to do.

24 So we are working hard, for example, on our marketing
25 efforts, to really try to reach out to as many Americans as

1 possible and to help them understand what the Army is about.
2 We are also looking at things like our Junior ROTC programs,
3 for example, which also expose young kids to the Army, and
4 we may look at expanding those programs, for example.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, and thank you both
6 again for your service, and please give our congratulations
7 to those who serve with you.

8 Senator Inhofe, please.

9 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I always
10 like to start off when we have General McConville here with
11 an update on his three kids. I can remember when they were
12 all three captains. Now they are moving up but still very
13 active. What is going on there?

14 General McConville: Well, they are very proud to
15 serve. They are serving around the world in Special
16 Operations Forces and I am very, very proud of what they are
17 doing. And I also have a son-in-law that is serving too.
18 So we are trying to get this recruiting effort going.

19 Senator Inhofe: Yeah. That is good. I know how proud
20 you are.

21 Chairman Reed: Ask him about Patton.

22 Senator Inhofe: Oh yeah, and Patton. Do not forget.

23 General McConville: Well, I am very proud to have our
24 first grandson. His name is Patton James Nancer, and he is
25 6 months old, and we are real proud of him. And he has

1 already got a hall named after him over at Fort Myer, Patton
2 Hall.

3 [Laughter.]

4 Senator Inhofe: Okay. That is great. Well, as noted
5 in my opening remarks the Army unfunded priorities total
6 \$5.1 billion, and I guess the first question I would ask you
7 would be is everything on your list executable at this time?

8 General McConville: Yes it is, Senator.

9 Senator Inhofe: As I highlighted in my opening
10 statement it is my understanding that the Army's reduced end
11 strength of the 473, that was talked about by both of you
12 before, but it is driven by recruiting challenges. And I
13 know that you have already talked about that a little bit,
14 but it is something that is more serious than any recruiting
15 challenges that I have experienced in the years that I have
16 been here.

17 In 2018, and General Milley testified before this
18 committee that we are shooting to get north of 500,000,
19 which was recommended in this document. That is in the
20 regular Army. And last year you said, and this is a quote
21 from you, you said, "I think the regular Army should be
22 somewhere around 540,000 to 550,000." Despite the
23 difficulty we are having right now, the biggest problem we
24 are having, I think, is recruiting at this time. And we
25 talked about that a couple of days in my office, and this is

1 still, I believe, the most serious problem.

2 In spite of the difficulty in recruiting the Army is
3 facing right now, that we discussed just a couple of days
4 ago, is it still your best military judgment that we require
5 an army greater than 500,000?

6 General McConville: Senator, I think we need a bigger
7 Army. I stand by the comments I made before.

8 Senator Inhofe: I say that knowing full well the
9 recruiting problem. Everything that you are trying and the
10 efforts there, I understand that. But where does that leave
11 us?

12 General McConville: Well, I also think that quality is
13 more important than quantity, and what we have to do to get
14 after this is, as the Senator said, right now 83 percent of
15 the young men and women that are coming into the Army are
16 coming from military family members. And it is nice that is
17 a military family business. We need this to be an American
18 family business. We need to attract others. We need to
19 expose others to the benefits of serving their country.
20 And, you know, again, what we are finding right now is 23
21 percent of Americans are qualified to serve in the military.

22 So we have got to do some work in our high schools and
23 we have to do some work in preparing young men and women to
24 come, because I do not think there is any better way to
25 serve, and I think we need to have a call to service.

1 Senator Inhofe: Okay. And I agree with that.

2 Madam Secretary, I know my time is expiring but the
3 conflict in Ukraine has revealed serious munitions
4 production challenges that we have at this time, and I know
5 that there is another member that is going to ask you about
6 that. But just as an overview, what should be done to fix
7 what I consider to be the second most urgent problem that we
8 are dealing with right now?

9 Ms. Wormuth: Well, Senator, I think what we need to do
10 is work closely with the defense industry to look at how we
11 can help them address some of the supply chain challenges
12 that they are having, for example. The money that Congress,
13 that you all providing through the supplemental will help us
14 do that, in terms of accelerating some of those productions.

15 And the Army has actually invested considerably more in
16 ammunition in its budgets in the last couple of years,
17 recognizing the criticality of the munitions issue.

18 Senator Inhofe: Okay. Well you are going to have an
19 opportunity to expand more on this urgent problem.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Inhofe.

22 Senator Shaheen, please.

23 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Thank you Secretary
24 Wormuth and General McConville for your service to the
25 country and for being here this morning.

1 I want to begin with a real concern I have, because
2 looking at the 2023 budget request I noted that it does not
3 include any funding, zero funding, to continue procurement
4 of the Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binocular, or ENVG-B. I
5 am concerned that this decision not only harms our soldiers
6 by limiting access to more advanced night vision systems but
7 also affects our nation's already limited night vision
8 manufacturing industrial base. And in fact, the Army's own
9 unfunded priority list notes that, and I quote, "A lack of
10 funding decreases soldiers' survivability" and, quote,
11 "places the manufacturer at risk of closing the production
12 line," end quote.

13 So can you talk about how you justify that decision to
14 cut a program that the Army's own unfunded priority list
15 says will affect soldiers' survivability? I think that is
16 probably for you, Madam Secretary.

17 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, we had made the judgment, I
18 believe, and I think General McConville can speak to this as
19 well because it is on his UPL, that we had procured the
20 quantities of night vision goggles that we thought would
21 meet our requirements. And again, a lot of what we are
22 trying to do with the resources that we have is balance
23 between making sure that we continue to have resources to
24 invest in the new modernization programs as well as continue
25 to invest in some of the enduring systems that we have. So

1 that is always a bit of a tightrope for us, and, you know,
2 those dials are ones that we may be able to adjust through
3 things like items that are on the unfunded priorities list.

4 Senator Shaheen: But just last month an audit by the
5 DoD inspector general found that the Army is at risk of
6 wasting up to \$21.88 billion in taxpayer funds to field a
7 system that soldiers may not want to use or use as intended.
8 I understand the need to continue development, and the IVAS
9 system is what appears to be the future, but I also
10 understood that the RDT&E for that had not been adequately
11 completed. So we are investing in a system that we are not
12 sure is going to work, and we are not sure we have enough of
13 the old system or the current system to address the
14 soldiers' needs. So I am not convinced on your argument.

15 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, on IVAS, you know, we have
16 worked very closely with our soldiers through the soldier-
17 centered design process to get their feedback all along the
18 way, and, you know, we did not fully agree with some of the
19 GAO findings. We have a major operational test with IVAS
20 that is starting this month and that will continue through
21 June, and we will be looking carefully at those results to
22 inform ultimately where we go with IVAS.

23 But I feel pretty comfortable with where that program
24 is. We have been working very closely with Microsoft, and I
25 think that program is on track and that we have actually

1 gotten quite a bit of good feedback from soldiers as we have
2 worked to develop IVAS.

3 Senator Shaheen: So you do not agree with the
4 inspector general's report?

5 Ms. Wormuth: We did not particularly agree with the
6 characterization that soldiers were not going to use IVAS
7 ultimately. I mean, again, I think one of the things the
8 Army has done very well is to try to have a more soldier-
9 centered design process across the board and to allow us to
10 get that kind of feedback. So I think it was just a bit of
11 an over-characterization by the inspector general on that
12 particular point.

13 Senator Shaheen: Well, I look forward to hearing how
14 that RDT&E goes because I am very concerned that we are
15 going to lose our manufacturing base for the ENVG-B and that
16 is going to put soldiers at risk.

17 I want to switch to childcare because Secretary Hicks
18 and General McConville, you both talked about the importance
19 of taking care of our troops. And as we think about the
20 recruitment and retention challenges that we have in the
21 Army it reminds me of an effort that I spearheaded when I
22 was governor in New Hampshire in the '90s to try and expand
23 access to early childhood education and childcare. And one
24 of the models that we looked at was the Department of
25 Defense and what our military was doing, for the very reason

1 that you talked about, that so many of our soldiers come
2 from military families, and investing in childcare is a way
3 to invest in those soldiers from the earliest years.

4 So can you talk about why that is so important? I
5 raise it because we are pursuing an interesting approach in
6 New Hampshire, where the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is
7 partnering with the New Hampshire National Guard to use
8 funding to construct a new child development center.

9 General McConville: Yes, Senator. You know, as I
10 mentioned, we recruit soldiers but we retain families. And
11 when we take a look at, I think, what makes our Army the
12 greatest Army in the world it is our noncommissioned
13 officers. And 89 percent of our leaders, basically sergeant
14 and above, have families, and if we want to compete for the
15 best we have got to take care of their families.

16 As you know, right now our child development centers
17 are really, standard-wise, the best in the country as far as
18 standards, but we do not have enough. We are trying to get
19 more. We are trying to build more. We are trying to take
20 care of the ones we have. We are also putting a lot of
21 bonuses in place to get the right caretakers, because in
22 order for us to either provide fee assistance or help with
23 the child development centers, the people we are going to
24 hire have to meet the standards. And again, we want quality
25 people taking care of our kids, and to me it is extremely

1 important.

2 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. I appreciate the
3 emphasis. Thank you.

4 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Shaheen.
5 Senator Fischer, please.

6 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary
7 and General, welcome.

8 Madam Secretary, the new National Defense Strategy
9 clearly states that China is the pacing threat. How is the
10 Army using this budget to develop and employ capabilities
11 towards the Joint Force effort in INDOPACOM?

12 Ms. Wormuth: Senator Fischer, I would first highlight
13 our Long Range Precision Fires investment, particularly the
14 Long-Range Hypersonic Missile, which we will have our first
15 battery in fiscal year 2023. You know, given the long
16 distances in INDOPACOM I think that system will be
17 particularly relevant. But the midrange capability that we
18 are developing with the Navy I think is also very relevant
19 for potential conflict in INDOPACOM.

20 We are also investing quite a bit in upgrading our air
21 and missile defense systems, making sure that we are with
22 our systems such as the IFPC, which is designed to try to
23 counter cruise missiles as well as other air threats. You
24 know, given the missile numbers that China has, for example,
25 air and missile defenses are going to be very important if

1 there were a conflict in the Indo-Pacific, and that is
2 another area where I think the Army is very relevant.

3 Senator Fischer: Do you believe that that should also
4 include more capable helicopters and vehicles as well, as
5 part of that long list?

6 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, exactly. I mean, both FARA and
7 FLRAA will be significant upgrades in terms of speed, range,
8 survivability, and we are going to need, I think, to
9 continue to be able to transport our forces, to be able to
10 have airborne assault forces. So we continue to fully fund
11 both of those efforts.

12 Senator Fischer: Thank you. General, how will the
13 Army adjust the way it trains and equips soldiers to better
14 prepare for conflict in a contested environment where the
15 adversary has advanced ISR and other high-end capabilities?

16 General McConville: Senator, we realize that we are at
17 an inflection point right now. The last 20 years we have
18 been doing what we call counter-insurgency, irregular
19 warfare, counterterrorism. So we have taken our combat
20 training centers, and our soldiers are going through very
21 aggressive and rigorous training that fights what we would
22 call a high-end enemy that has unmanned aerial systems, that
23 has the ability to jam their weapon systems and their
24 navigation systems, and has the ability to attack their
25 command post, and has the ability to attack their logistics.

1 So we are giving them a scrimmage, if you will, that
2 will have them ready for that type of combat in the future.

3 Senator Fischer: Do you also conduct those exercises
4 where communications are denied or GPS is denied? Do you
5 conduct those with allies or with other services, or do you
6 believe it is important just to focus entirely on the Army
7 at this point?

8 General McConville: No, I think it is important we
9 work. We are going to fight as a Joint Force, we train as a
10 Joint Force, and we often bring our allies and partners to
11 the combat training center, which is really the gold
12 standard of how we train in a high-intensity environment.
13 And everyone is very, very aware of that, and we are
14 learning a lot of lessons from Ukraine.

15 Senator Fischer: The National Defense Strategy
16 highlights both the importance of fortifying our network
17 with our allies and our partners and using that campaigning
18 to strengthen deterrence. Can you discuss some of the
19 insights that you have gained from those recent exercises
20 and how the military-to-military exercises are going to be,
21 I think, more important in the Pacific, just because of the
22 geographic expanse and being able to cover the region.

23 General McConville: Yes, Senator. What we are
24 believers in is you never want to be what I would call a
25 one-option commander. If you only have one radio net, they

1 can jam that and take that away from you. So as we start to
2 look at what we are trying to do, we are looking at like
3 data fabrics where there are multiple ways of moving
4 communications. There are multiple ways of getting
5 navigation information. So if your adversary shuts down one
6 capability you have another option that you can quickly move
7 to. And we use a term we call PACE. We have a Primary
8 Alternate Contingency and Emergency type communications
9 ability. We train our troops on that so if something goes
10 wrong they can immediately move to another course of action.

11 Senator Fischer: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair.

13 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer.

14 Let me recognize Senator King, please.

15 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I want
16 to compliment, General, you and the Secretary, but also the
17 thousands of people that work with and for you for the
18 logistics work that has gone on with Ukraine. It has been
19 an absolute marvel of logistics in terms of time, speed,
20 accuracy. And what has been accomplished, people will be
21 writing books about this, and I want to please convey the
22 thanks of this committee for that work.

23 Following up, you mentioned one phrase I just picked up
24 in your answer to Senator Fischer, "lessons from Ukraine."
25 Could you expand on that? What have we learned so far, both

1 about the failures and the weaknesses of the Russian Army
2 but also about the successes of the Ukrainians, and which
3 systems have been most important, which have worked best?
4 Tell me what we are learning thus far from what is going on.

5 General McConville: I think a couple of things. You
6 know, the plan that initially the Russians had was very
7 complex, which takes highly trained disciplined and fit
8 soldiers in unison to execute, and as we saw they did not
9 have that capability. So when we talk about having quality
10 soldiers we think that is really important. They do not
11 have the noncommissioned officer corps, the junior leaders
12 that are used to taking mission command-type orders and
13 operating in a contested environment.

14 You mentioned logistics. The old adage is that
15 professionals study logistics and amateurs study tactics
16 because if you are going to prosecute a very complex mission
17 like that you have to have logistics. If you are going to
18 do complex operations, like airborne operations, air assault
19 operations, or amphibious operations, those are very, very
20 complex to undertake, and we can look at other parts of the
21 world where they may be required.

22 And you can take a look at some of the systems, the
23 appropriate air and missile defense systems that the
24 Secretary mentioned, and one of the other systems we are
25 developing, which is midrange capability that allows you to

1 sink ships. And we saw that happen with the Ukrainians.
2 All those tools come together to give you some of the things
3 you need.

4 And I would just add, on the Ukrainian side, leadership
5 matter. You see it at the top. The prime minister stayed
6 there and led his troops, if you will. All the able-bodied
7 people stayed to defend their country. They have the
8 capability, probably not as much. They have the capacity,
9 probably not as much as Russia, but they have got this thing
10 called will. And I talk about building cohesive teams.
11 That is what it is about. That is the difference that is
12 happening in Ukraine, which different than some of the other
13 places we have seen.

14 Senator King: I think that is a good list and I am
15 sure that list will grow as time goes on. It is an
16 extraordinary opportunity to see what is actually occurring.

17 I think you are right. I remember asking several
18 months before the invasion, was Zelenskyy Ghani or
19 Churchill, and he certainly has turned out to be closer to
20 Churchill, and I think that has made an enormous difference.

21 Secretary Wormuth, on an entirely separate issue, I
22 work with a lot of veterans in Maine, and one of the
23 problems that keeps coming up is the weakness of the
24 transition from active duty to veteran status, the handoff
25 from the Defense Department to the VA. I believe, and I do

1 not have the data in front of me, but that many of the
2 veteran suicides take place in that relatively short period
3 of time between active duty and civilian status.

4 I believe that you should put as many resources, time,
5 effort, and people into transition out as you do into
6 recruiting in. Can you address that problem, because from
7 everything I have learned on the ground in Maine this is a
8 serious issue?

9 Ms. Wormuth: Certainly, Senator, and yes, I think
10 there is data that shows that that transition out of the
11 service back into the civilian community can be a critical
12 time. We do try to work very closely with the Department of
13 Veterans Affairs to ensure that there is a warm handoff, and
14 with the transition programs that we have for folks getting
15 out of the Army we try to make sure that they have the
16 resources to know what to expect, to be able to sort of link
17 them to employment resources, and things like that.

18 But I think that is something that we can continue to
19 work on, and frankly, I have heard some folks say, you know,
20 "The transition programs helped me learn how to tie a tie
21 and to do a resume," but psychologically, making the
22 adjustment to sort of going back into the civilian world is
23 not something that I have heard sometimes people say that
24 they get as much emphasis on. So I think that is an area we
25 could work on.

1 Senator King: I hope you will, and I hope you will not
2 only commit to working on it but work on it in a systematic
3 way, perhaps appoint a task force or some group whose
4 responsibility it is to talk about and think about and work
5 on this problem. Because, as you know, we have an epidemic
6 of veteran suicide and suicide in the military. This is one
7 place where I think we could make a difference. So thank
8 you very much, and I hope you will follow up in an urgent
9 way on this problem.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King.

12 Senator Cotton, please.

13 Senator Cotton: I am disappointed and borderline
14 appalled at the fiasco that the Army Combat Fitness Test has
15 become. For years the Army said that you were going to have
16 gender-neutral standards. You both sat at that table less
17 than a year ago and testified that you would have gender-
18 neutral standards. Yet, Ms. Wormuth, just few weeks ago you
19 issued a new directive saying there would not, in fact, be
20 gender-neutral standards. Has something changed about the
21 nature of combat in the last 10 months I am unaware of?

22 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, I think when I was here for my
23 confirmation hearing I said that I wanted to look at the
24 data that the Army was developing.

25 Senator Cotton: No, no, no, no, no. When you were

1 here on June 15, 2021, I asked if you would have gender-
2 neutral standards, and you said, "We are continuing to look
3 at how to finalize the design for the ACFT. We are
4 continuing to have gender-neutral standards." I asked
5 General McConville, "Are you committed as well to
6 maintaining gender neutrality on the test?" General
7 McConville said, "I am."

8 What happened in the last 10 months?

9 Ms. Wormuth: Senator Cotton, we looked at over 630,000
10 diagnostic test scores. We looked at the results of the
11 congressionally directed RAND study that was to give us
12 recommendations and findings about what we should be looking
13 for in designing a new fitness test. And what we found was
14 we wanted to make sure that we had a fitness test that was a
15 general fitness test that would make sure that it would
16 raise our overall level of fitness, be something that would
17 help us develop a higher level of fitness, and we wanted to
18 make sure that we did not unfairly have standards for a
19 particular subgroup that people could not perform. We did
20 not want to disadvantage any subgroups.

21 And when we looked at that data, what we found was
22 there were subgroups that were disadvantaged. And so we
23 looked at the recommendations from RAND, we looked at the
24 data, and we found that the way to have a test that meets
25 our objectives was to have age- and gender-normed tests.

1 Senator Cotton: So that is exactly what the old Army
2 Physical Fitness Test had, as well. And you have abandoned
3 also any MOS-specific tests. An original version of this
4 had heavy physical activity, significant physical activity,
5 and moderate physical activity MOSs that had separate
6 standards. Have you abandoned those as well?

7 Ms. Wormuth: The Army moved away from the MOS-
8 connected standards I think a couple of years ago, before I
9 became Secretary. But, you know, I would say that the new
10 Army Combat Fitness Test is much more challenging than the
11 Army Physical Fitness Test.

12 Senator Cotton: No, it is not. It is not. The new
13 standards are pathetic. They are absolutely pathetic. Here
14 is what a female, age 17 to 21, has to do to qualify for any
15 job, to include infantry and special forces -- 10 pushups,
16 run two miles -- let me put "run" in scare quotes as well.
17 Make sure the record reflects I am doing air quotes around
18 "run" -- in 23 minutes and 22 seconds. The standards for
19 men, age 17 to 21 are equally pathetic -- 10 pushups and a
20 22-minute run, in scare quotes again, "run" in 22 minutes.
21 Under the old test, a female age 17 to 21 had to do 13
22 pushups. A man had to do 35 pushups. A female had to run a
23 two-mile run in 19 minutes and 42 seconds. A man had to do
24 it in 16 minutes and 36 seconds.

25 Do you really think these new standards are adequate

1 for the infantry and the special forces and artillery?

2 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, one of the reasons the numbers
3 you just quoted are the case is because the new test is a
4 six-event test as opposed to a three-event test.

5 Senator Cotton: I am well aware of how many events
6 there are. The standards for the other events are equally
7 pathetic. They are equally pathetic.

8 So it is a well-known fact that in certain MOSs, in the
9 infantry, every unit I served in, every school I went to, a
10 60-point minimum was not acceptable. If you wanted to be
11 promoted or get awards or go to schools you had to get 90
12 points. Are you going to let subordinate commanders
13 establish higher standards for their units?

14 Ms. Wormuth: For things like the special forces there
15 are absolutely additional physical fitness requirements.

16 Senator Cotton: No. Are you going to let them say you
17 have to have 90 points, not 60 points, to be in this unit?

18 Ms. Wormuth: the ACFT is our general fitness test.

19 Senator Cotton: The answer is no. Your own frequently
20 asked question says, "Commanders cannot set physical
21 standards for acceptance into or retention in a combat
22 unit."

23 This is going to get people killed. What you need to
24 do is have gender-specific and age-specific tests and MOS-
25 specific tests. You do not need cyber specialists and cooks

1 and nurses to meet the same standards as infantry and
2 special forces, but in those units you need men and women
3 alike to meet the same standards.

4 Let me just read one quote here to you to finish up.
5 "While it may be difficult for a 120-pound woman to lift or
6 drag 250 pounds, the Army cannot artificially absolve women
7 of that responsibility. It may still exist on the
8 battlefield." The entire purpose of creating a gender-
9 neutral test was to acknowledge the reality that each job
10 has objective physical standards, to which all soldiers
11 should be held, regardless of gender. The intent was not to
12 ensure that women and men will have an equal likelihood of
13 meeting those standards." Do you know who said that?

14 Ms. Wormuth: No, I do not believe that I do.

15 Senator Cotton: Captain Kristen Griest, the Army's
16 first female infantry officer and one of its first Ranger
17 School grads. She also said, "It is wholly unethical to
18 allow the standards of the nation's premier fighting units
19 to degrade so badly." I agree. I am not going to let it
20 stand.

21 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cotton.

22 Senator Gillibrand, please.

23 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 General McConville, the conclusion of the conflict in
25 Afghanistan demonstrated that we did not accurately assess

1 the Afghan military's capabilities. The Army now has
2 Security Force Assistance Brigades designed to train partner
3 forces and accurately report their progress. Can you
4 describe how the SFABs assess foreign forces and how are
5 their assessments checked for accuracy by the DoD? And more
6 to the point, we understood, in Afghanistan, that there was
7 a question about will to fight. They were very well trained
8 but there was not necessarily a high regard for the Ghani
9 government because of corruption. And so the question that
10 should have been asked is will these Afghan forces, who are
11 well trained, die for this particular government or would
12 they rather hand over their weapons to the Taliban because
13 they would rather not die and be under new leadership.

14 So do we ask the type of political questions that that
15 analysis would require to assess will to fight? And so with
16 regard to Senator King's line of questioning, we learned in
17 Ukraine that the Ukrainians did very much have a will to
18 fight because their leader inspired that will by
19 determination to stand his ground.

20 So when we are making these assessments I understand
21 our training is excellent and I understand you can train
22 anyone to have full capability, but the will to fight is
23 about much more. And so have you changed how you make this
24 assessment?

25 General McConville: Well, Senator, we are certainly

1 taking a look at that. You know, we had a better idea.
2 First of all, having spent a lot of time in Afghanistan,
3 when we were with the Afghans and we were accompanying and
4 we were shohna ba shohna, shoulder to shoulder, fighting
5 with the Afghans, the Afghans fought, and that is what tends
6 to happen when you have cohesive units working together. As
7 we brought down our forces and we were less and less with
8 those who were on the leading edge, you know, people will
9 say they will fight and then you take a look at them, and we
10 have given them the best equipment, much, much better than
11 the Taliban had, we gave them the capacity, and really a
12 much greater capacity than Taliban had.

13 But there is something inside soldiers when they go to
14 combat, and that is where leadership really matters. And it
15 matters all the way up, because when people look up and they
16 say, "Am I willing to die for my country?" that is hard to
17 measure at times. And obviously in Afghanistan we did not
18 measure that correctly. I am very, very impressed with what
19 the Ukrainians are doing as far as the will to fight. And
20 as we talk to other allies and partners we hold up the
21 example of what the Ukrainians have done as an example of
22 what we should expect for those who are going to support.

23 Senator Gillibrand: In November of 2021, the Army
24 enacted Cyber Military Intelligence Group, which is designed
25 to provide intelligence support to Army Cyber Command. Can

1 you describe the mission, function, and personnel of this
2 newly formed unit, and how would this unit operate in a
3 large-scale conflict like the war in Ukraine?

4 General McConville: I think, and as you know, the
5 importance of our Cyber Command, I think we have the best in
6 the world and the appropriate support. I was just down
7 there for the change of command. And what they are doing in
8 support of Ukraine, their mission is extremely important.
9 And not only protecting but also a defensive, offensive, and
10 working in the intelligence community getting the
11 information that we need to provide to our partners has been
12 very, very helpful.

13 Senator Gillibrand: Secretary Wormuth, the committee
14 was briefed that services will be implementing the DoD's
15 Independent Review Commission recommendations on sexual
16 assault. Can you provide more detail on when you expect
17 these recommendations to be implemented in the Army and how
18 you will roll these recommendations out to your force to
19 ensure servicemembers are sufficiently informed?

20 Ms. Wormuth: Sure, Senator Gillibrand. We have been
21 trying to, frankly, you know, move out on those
22 recommendations as quickly as we can. So for example, right
23 now we are focused on developing a prevention workforce.
24 That was one of the Independent Review Commission
25 recommendations. So we are looking at exactly what that

1 means in terms of the kind of people that we need to have,
2 how many people we need to have, and where we can best use
3 them; to what extent do we already have folks who work for
4 the Army who perform duties that are related to preventing
5 harmful behavior. So we are working on finalizing that
6 plan.

7 As I mentioned in my opening statement, we will be
8 standing up the Office of Special Trial Counsel, which will
9 report directly to me, in July. We have a promotion or a
10 selection board to pick the individual who will be that
11 special trial counsel. And then we have also started doing
12 things like the Fusion Directorates for our SHARP program,
13 that puts all of the resources for survivors in one place.
14 And I actually was able to visit one of the Fusion
15 Directorates at Fort Sill in Oklahoma recently and was very
16 impressed with what they are doing.

17 So we are trying to move quickly and would be happy to
18 come and talk with you and your staff in more detail, if you
19 would like.

20 Senator Gillibrand: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. Let me now
23 recognize Senator Cramer, please.

24 Senator Ernst: Yes. Thank you, Secretary Wormuth and
25 General McConville, for appearing in front of our committee

1 today.

2 Chairman Reed: Excuse me, Senator Ernst.

3 Senator Ernst: Oh, I am sorry.

4 Chairman Reed: Senator Cramer.

5 Senator Ernst: Oh, Cramer. Oh, excuse me. So sorry.

6 Chairman Reed: That is my Rhode Island accent. I

7 apologize.

8 Senator Cramer: I was happy to yield and listen.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, both of you, for
10 being here and for your service.

11 I have been struck by how many times you stated what I
12 suppose is the obvious and yet it is inspirational to hear
13 you say it many times, both of you referencing the most
14 important part of the Army force are the people. And you
15 speak with great affection, passion, sincerity about it.

16 So Secretary Wormuth, you and I got to know each other
17 a little bit earlier on, working with your team to fix this
18 pay problem.

19 Ms. Wormuth: Major Cimock [phonetic]. I remember it
20 well.

21 Senator Cramer: Yeah. And General, you were very
22 helpful as well. And it highlighted a broken system.

23 The new Integrated Personnel Pay System, which I became
24 familiar with through that process, was supposed to fix this
25 last year, but I am told it is still struggling to rollout

1 properly. Can you just maybe give me an updated on that and
2 tell us if there is anything we can do to help? When I look
3 at the big employers in the world today, and obviously the
4 military is one of those, and the Army specifically is one
5 of those, but there are much bigger ones that do not seem to
6 have these same sorts of problems.

7 So maybe just give me an update on how it is rolling
8 out and what we can expect.

9 Ms. Wormuth: Sure, Senator Cramer. You know, we are
10 working very hard on IPPS-A, which the National Guard is
11 already able to use some of the features of that personnel
12 system. We are working very hard to be able to roll out the
13 next increment of IPPS-A, Release 3, hopefully later this
14 fall. And we feel like we will be on schedule for that,
15 although frankly we are working very aggressively with the
16 contractor to make sure that they are able to meet what we
17 have asked them to do. And that next release will bring out
18 some of the talent management features, it will enable
19 people to look at what assignments are available, and then
20 it will be the next increment, as I understand it, that will
21 really provide the pay transparency across all components.

22 And I know this is a system that is very important to
23 the chief, so you may want to add something there.

24 General McConville: Yes, Senator. Right now we have
25 what we call an industrial age personnel management system.

1 We treat everybody as interchangeable parts. We have three
2 different personnel systems for our regular Army, our
3 National Guard, and Reserve, and, quite frankly, it is no
4 way to run a railroad. We need to have everyone on the same
5 system. We need to be able to manage individuals so we do
6 not manage everyone the same. We have tremendous talent in
7 the Army that is masked by a person's grade and their MOS.
8 And probably one of the best examples I could give you is we
9 have a specialist, a medic specialist, an E-4 in the United
10 States Army, that is at a software factory that codes at the
11 PhD level. And we would never know that unless we did a
12 workaround.

13 So we have got a lot of work to do in this, and as we
14 manage the future and compete for talent we are going to
15 have to manage soldiers' talents to get the best in the
16 Army.

17 Senator Cramer: You just outlined, I think, a great
18 illustration of why it is so important. As we talk about
19 modernization, and you are both very fluent on the
20 importance of modernization, the priorities of
21 modernization, it seems that this would be a really high
22 priority, not as sexy looking, but when we are talking about
23 challenges in recruitment, retainment, getting the best, all
24 of that, yeah, this would be a part of that.

25 So I just want to tell you, I encourage you to stay at

1 it. You have every incentive in the world to do that, but
2 stay at it. Keep us informed. And if there is anything we
3 need to do from a policy standpoint, oversight standpoint,
4 anything that helps you with the contractor or anyone else,
5 please reach out. We want to keep the main thing the main
6 thing, the first thing the first thing.

7 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Cramer.

9 Let me recognize Senator Kelly, please.

10 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you,
11 Secretary Wormuth, General McConville, for testifying today.

12 Secretary Wormuth, our military test ranges are the key
13 to the Army's modernization, and Arizona test ranges such as
14 Yuma Proving Ground provide foundational support for long-
15 range fires, provides the ability for us to test counter
16 unmanned aerial systems and Future Vertical Lift and cyber
17 operations, to name just a few.

18 Unfortunately, budget briefs often start with major
19 weapon systems and go through a priority order with
20 facilities often at the tail end. In order to maintain our
21 competitive edge, particularly as we pivot to an era of
22 great power competition, we need to continue investing in
23 and prioritizing our military test ranges.

24 So how does the fiscal year 2023 budget request address
25 the importance of funding our test infrastructure and the

1 workforce that supports it?

2 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, as we pursue our six major
3 modernization portfolios we are, at the same time, making
4 sure that we look at things like what kinds of test ranges
5 do we need for those new systems, from an RDT&E perspective.
6 What are the implications of fielding those new systems for
7 our maintenance facilities, for example, and motor pools?
8 So we are trying to be very deliberate and comprehensive
9 looking at making sure that we have the test ranges to
10 support those new systems, and more broadly, we also have a
11 15-year organic industrial base plan that is looking at
12 making sure that the Army's organic industrial base is also
13 able to support those new systems.

14 So we are trying to factor that in as we pursue our new
15 weapon systems. And I can just say, having been to Yuma
16 Proving Group last fall, that is where Project Convergence
17 2021 culminated. It underscored to me the importance of
18 those kinds of test ranges.

19 Senator Kelly: Yeah, I was there as well --

20 Ms. Wormuth: That is right. We sat right next to each
21 other.

22 Senator Kelly: -- yep, for Project Convergence. I
23 mean, that exercise, I think it particularly highlights the
24 importance of the work that happens in test ranges across
25 the country. I used to spend a lot of time on the test

1 range not far from here, off of Naval Air Station Patuxent
2 River. But like I said in my question, it is often like the
3 end of the line as a priority for new systems, whether it is
4 Theodolite radar systems control centers, it is often down
5 the line. But it is so important for us to have the most
6 modern fighting force in the world.

7 Another question here about Fort Huachuca. You know,
8 Fort Huachuca, in Southern Arizona, hosts one of the largest
9 unmanned aerial vehicle training facilities in the world and
10 supports operations for not only the Army but the Air Force,
11 Marine Corps, and Customs and Border Protection. I
12 understand that they are working to expand airspace in
13 Southern Arizona to facilitate unmanned aerial systems and
14 electronic warfare testing done at the Army's Electronic
15 Proving Ground.

16 In the past, my office has heard concerns that the Army
17 is not adequately funding the overall budget for testing
18 across the range complex, and specifically at EPG, the
19 Electronic Proving Ground. Are you aware of efforts to
20 expand the airspace at Fort Huachuca in order to support a
21 greater range of testing, and if so, are you supportive of
22 these efforts?

23 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, I think we are supportive of
24 those efforts, and certainly if there are issues that your
25 staff has heard of we can look into those, because we are

1 very concerned about -- you know, UAS threats are a major
2 issue, and we need to also be able to build up our EW
3 capabilities. So think generally those are areas that we
4 support.

5 Senator Kelly: Yeah. Whether it is electronic warfare
6 or artillery or air-to-air missile systems, you know, in the
7 case of airplanes they get faster, our electronic warfare
8 systems get more powerful. The stick gets longer on air-to-
9 air missile systems. And what that means is, whether it is
10 the test pilot or the guys in the Army running these tests,
11 is that, in essence, the range just feels like it is getting
12 smaller all the time, as these systems get more capable. So
13 we have to look for opportunities to expand ranges, not only
14 for testing but also for operations as well.

15 Thank you, and, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

16 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kelly.

17 Let me recognize Senator Tuberville, please.

18 Senator Tuberville: Good morning. General, Stryker
19 vehicles are on your unfunded priority list. Can you take a
20 moment and explain why you prioritized these tanks?

21 General McConville: What I am trying to do, Senator,
22 right now is produce the Army with the resources we get, and
23 that is what is in the budget request. But also I have a
24 requirement to list, if there was additional funding, what
25 they would be, and those are the priorities that were

1 unfunded and that is why they are on the list. If you take
2 a look at some of the things on the list, there are some
3 people things we want to do. You know, we are very
4 concerned about where our soldiers are living and housing.

5 And on this budget particularly there is cost to
6 complete. I think there are 25 projects on that UPL list
7 that we need addition money because costs have risen, to
8 finish those projects that are authorized and appropriated
9 for.

10 And then some of the things are things that changed.
11 As we go through, you know, we are looking at Stingers right
12 now are on the UPL because we did not anticipate giving a
13 whole bunch of those away like we have, and we also want to,
14 if they are going to be used in the future, rather than
15 building old stuff we would rather upgrade the systems we
16 have if we are going to replenish them.

17 Senator Tuberville: Yeah. A few weeks ago President
18 Biden pledged that we would spend billions of dollars to
19 make every military vehicle climate friendly. I find this
20 ironic considering the President's 2023 budget requests only
21 102 Strykers, 67 below the Army's established baseline for
22 funding half a brigade. Do you have any comments on that?

23 General McConville: Well, Senator, it gets back to the
24 tradeoffs that we make when we are producing the budget.
25 You know, we want to fund modernization, and when we look at

1 the Strykers and we look at the Abrams and we look at the
2 Bradleys, and we look at the Paladin PIM Howitzers, we are
3 trying to modernize the enduring force. They are going to
4 be around for a while. But at the same time we want to make
5 sure we keep the momentum going on our future systems, which
6 I absolutely believe we must have if we are going to be the
7 Army we need to be in the future.

8 So that is the tradeoff, and then, you know, the way
9 the system works is I come back as the chief and provide
10 those unfunded priorities list, and that is what ends up
11 here, and then it is up to you all to decide what you want
12 to do with it.

13 Senator Tuberville: Yeah. Secretary, do you believe
14 that with the shortcomings now that we will be able to reach
15 our maximum that we need in terms of Strykers by 2030? With
16 the shortcomings do you think that we will be able to catch
17 up with that in the next 8 or 9 years?

18 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, I think, you know, that is hard
19 to predict without knowing what the top line is going to be
20 for the Army in the future years. I think, you know,
21 frankly, what we will probably do, and what, you know,
22 future secretaries and future chiefs will do is each year,
23 as we put forward the budget request, look at how to
24 balance, as General McConville said, between investing in
25 those new systems and also continuing to modernize those

1 enduring systems.

2 Senator Tuberville: Yeah. We are going to have a lot
3 of catching up to do if we continue to cut like that.
4 Obviously it is going to put us way behind, but I understand
5 what you are saying.

6 General, in 2020 you testified, quote, "Seventy-four
7 percent of the active component brigade combat teams have
8 been at the highest level of tactical readiness," end quote.
9 For the Army, who is responsible for assessing the readiness
10 of our brigade combat teams, you know, who is responsible
11 for assessing the teams, in your mind?

12 General McConville: Well, when we talk about the
13 readiness it is actually the commanders. The commanders
14 have certain criteria, what their personnel status is, what
15 their readiness status is, have they gone through a combat
16 training center and achieved the level of training? And so
17 those all come together to give us an assessment.

18 Senator Tuberville: Has it always been that way or has
19 there been a third party involved?

20 General McConville: Well, you know, there are people
21 that check what the commanders are saying, and then we have
22 this thing called combat, which is a really good check. And
23 so when we call up a commander and say, "You are going to
24 Eastern Europe. You have got 7 days to go there," and they
25 are able to do that, we think that a pretty good check.

1 Senator Tuberville: Do you feel like a third party,
2 but not the brigade chain of command, such as an IG, would
3 give a very positive feedback from what we are doing now, in
4 terms of our readiness?

5 General McConville: Well, I do not know what the IG
6 would say, but what I do is talk to our combat training
7 centers that run them through a very rigorous 2- to 3-week
8 period. I talk to commanders who are responsible and
9 accountable for that. And then, really, the proof is in the
10 execution. How well do they do when it comes to
11 accomplishing --

12 Senator Tuberville: Your experience in the past, are
13 combat commanders tougher or is the IG tougher in terms of
14 assessing readiness, in your experience?

15 General McConville: My experience is I trust my
16 commanders.

17 Senator Tuberville: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Tuberville.

20 Senator Kaine, please.

21 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to our
22 witnesses.

23 Russia had a plan to dominate Ukraine, quickly topple
24 the government, depose Zelenskyy. Their plans failed. I
25 want to follow up on a line of questioning from Senator

1 Kaine, who complimented our logistics. There are a whole
2 series of factors, Ukrainian resolve chief among them, but I
3 share Senator King's belief that the superior logistics of
4 the U.S. and our allies in providing support to Ukraine has
5 been a real factor in being able to dramatically shrink the
6 success of Russian war aims.

7 If you could maybe each talk about whether you agree
8 with me on that and compare it with logistical failures on
9 the Russian side.

10 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, Senator. I mean, I fully believe
11 that logistics has been an Achilles heel for the Russians,
12 and I think we have demonstrated, by how quickly we have
13 been able to get our own forces over to Europe but also in
14 terms of the speed and volume of lethal assistance that we
15 are providing to Ukraine, we are showing the incredible
16 competency of the U.S. Army in the area of logistics.

17 And this is something, frankly, that the Army has been
18 focused on like a laser in terms of looking ahead to future
19 conflicts. I mean, we have a whole joint contested
20 logistics concept that we have been working on because there
21 is a recognition, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, that
22 given the distances, it is that old saying of amateurs study
23 strategy and professionals study logistics. And I think
24 watching the experience of the Russians has underscored how
25 important that is and has just reinforced our commitment to

1 focusing on that going forward.

2 Senator Kaine: General McConville, do you want to add
3 anything to that?

4 General McConville: Yeah, I would. I think this shows
5 the importance of our allies and partners, the fact that we
6 have access over there, the fact that we have presence, you
7 know, airfields and ports and having put in what we call
8 pre-positioned stocks, and having orchestrated this and
9 actually rehearsed it. You know, it is one thing to have
10 equipment over there, but the equipment actually has to be
11 ready to go. And you all have helped with that. When we
12 come in and say, hey, we need to pre-position tanks, and we
13 need to make sure these tanks are ready to go, and we have
14 maintainers over there that are making that happen. And we
15 have troops over there that work very closely with our
16 allies and partners.

17 And so when you have a crisis we are able to quickly
18 get there. We have got a lot of relationships, very strong
19 relationships with our allies and partners over there, and
20 it is kind of a model for the rest of the world.

21 Senator Kaine: I think that your two answers really
22 put the logistics question together, because it is one thing
23 to have great logistics within the U.S. Army or within DoD-
24 wide, but what about the logistics of the DoD and all of our
25 forces together with our allied forces. This kind of

1 integrated logistics with allies is extremely unique and
2 really has set us apart from what we are seeing with Russia.

3 Well, I am a strong believer in this and I just have to
4 point out, Senator Cotton talked earlier about something
5 that he might worry would lead to deaths or challenges on
6 the battlefield and the physical standards. I have not
7 served in the way he has so I listen carefully.

8 Here is something I am worried about. Since November
9 there has been a nominee that has gotten through this
10 committee to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for
11 Sustainment. This is the chief logistics civilian at the
12 Department of Defense, Christopher Lowman. He is a
13 Virginian.

14 Now he is not just a political appointee. This was a
15 guy who was a Marine officer from 1984 to 1989, and then
16 when he retired from active duty he joined the Army as a
17 civilian, and he has been a civilian with the Army for 33
18 years, including the chief logistics official for the Army.
19 And he has been nominated and through this committee without
20 any controversy to be the chief logistics officer within the
21 Pentagon.

22 We cannot get him a vote. I have made unanimous
23 consent motions twice in the last two weeks that have been
24 objected to by the minority, without citing a single reason
25 that Christopher Lowman is not the right person to do this.

1 Why would we not be having a logistics leader at the
2 Pentagon in the middle of a war in Europe? Why would we
3 hobble ourselves? If we are going to talk about something
4 that could lead to challenges on the battlefield, not
5 confirming the Pentagon's chief logistics official at a time
6 when this is the strategic edge that is helping us shrink
7 Russian war aims, I just cannot fathom it. And I have been
8 asking my colleagues on the other side whether Christopher
9 Lowman -- and I admit to a bias. He is a Virginian. He
10 lives in Fredericksburg -- whether you might allow this
11 person, who has already served the nation's military mission
12 for about 40 years, just allow him to take the position and
13 help us in an area that is desperately needed.

14 I yield, Mr. Chair.

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kaine.

16 Senator Tillis, please.

17 Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you both
18 for being here. I have got a question I do not think has
19 been covered yet, and it relates to Finland and Sweden. I
20 am the co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group, and
21 Senator Shaheen and I were in Brussels 2 weeks ago, and we
22 were talking about accession. And I met with Swedish
23 officials yesterday. By all indications by the time we get
24 to the NATO summit at the end of June we were going to have
25 formal request for accession. Then we are going to go into

1 a gray area. We are going to do everything we can here to
2 expedite the process, and I think it will receive broad
3 bipartisan support. But they are going to be in a gray area
4 between the time they apply and the time that they are
5 ultimately approved by the NATO members.

6 So two questions. One, can you all describe the
7 current military-to-military relationships with both Finland
8 and Sweden? General McConville or Secretary Wormuth.

9 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, while Finland and Sweden are not
10 NATO allies yet they have worked very closely with the
11 alliance over the years, as you know, and we have very
12 strong military-to-military relationships with both
13 countries. They will both, I believe, joining NATO, be
14 security providers, not consumers, and I look forward to
15 them becoming members.

16 Senator Tillis: General McConville?

17 General McConville: Same thing. We have a very strong
18 relationship with their chief, chiefs of staff, at least
19 from an Army standpoint. We routinely run exercises, and
20 they are very good partners.

21 Senator Tillis: With Finland sharing, I think,
22 somewhere around 1,340-kilometer border with Russia there is
23 clearly some concern about that gray zone, that gray period
24 between application and accession. Are there any current
25 military exercises, any other activities that are already

1 planned that we could potential consider to move up to
2 provide some assurances to them as they go through the
3 application process or accession process?

4 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, I am not aware of the detailed
5 schedule of exercises right now. We can certainly look into
6 that. You know, I think in the gray area, I do not think
7 from a conventional military standpoint Russia is going to
8 be in much of a position to move its ground forces, for
9 example. You know, they are pretty tied down in Ukraine
10 right now. I think the area that I would have concerns
11 about is in the cyber domain, you know, what might Russia be
12 tempted to do there potentially, and I think that is
13 something that we would want to talk to the Finns and the
14 Swedes about.

15 Senator Tillis: Yeah. Speaking with Swedish officials
16 yesterday I think one thing -- I tend to agree.
17 Intellectually, they are not doing a very good job in
18 Ukraine, and I think it is unlikely. But if you are a
19 policymaker in Finland or Sweden and you have got relatively
20 strong public support for accession, I am sure that there is
21 a real concern, because they are seeing what is going on in
22 Ukraine.

23 So I think that we have to do other things, just as an
24 assurance, and to continue to maintain what appears to be
25 broad support in both Finland and Sweden. So looking at

1 that, I think, is very important.

2 I want to move to Abrams tanks. I know we have got
3 unfunded priority from the Army on I think another full
4 brigade, and that is particularly interesting to me because
5 some of that would go down to the 30th Armored Brigade
6 combat team in our National Guard. I think it also touches
7 South Carolina and West Virginia.

8 Do you all agree that that is a priority and you
9 support it?

10 General McConville: Yes. I mean, again --

11 Senator Tillis: No equivocation. That is good. The
12 next question is with what we are seeing we have got
13 stockpiles in Germany. We have had Russian tanks move into
14 Ukraine. We are moving Abrams tanks around Europe, which is
15 a good thing. But we also have an industrial base. We are
16 working on the modernization of the Abrams platform. We
17 have an industrial base. Can you speak to the importance of
18 making sure that we continue investment in that
19 modernization program so that we can get efficiencies as we
20 turn out more of these platforms?

21 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, Senator. We are very focused on
22 modernizing our organic industrial base, and as I said, we
23 have a 15-year plan that General Ed Daly, down at Army
24 Material Command, has really worked hard on. Because we
25 want to make sure that we continue to get what we need out

1 of the industrial base that we have but also to upskill some
2 of the workforce that we have there and some of the
3 facilities so that they are able to eventually be able to
4 repair and maintain the new systems that are coming online.

5 Senator Tillis: Great. And I have run out of time so
6 I will submit a question for the record on modernization
7 plan for military housing. We have got challenges down at
8 Fort Bragg, and it is not limited to that installation, and
9 I look forward to hearing your feedback on it.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Tillis.

12 Senator Rosen, please.

13 Senator Rosen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate
14 this hearing. I really appreciate the work and the service
15 that both of you are doing and the vast knowledge you have,
16 and I am so grateful for the logistics planning that has
17 gone on for so many years, that has allowed us to protect
18 men and women in our military and, of course, all of us. So
19 thank you for all those spreadsheets and logistics that
20 nobody ever thinks, like was said, are very sexy but the
21 most important thing.

22 But I want to talk about small arms range for Nevada
23 for training in Nevada. Secretary Wormuth, Nevada does not
24 have an approved small arms qualification range. In order
25 for soldiers to annually qualify on an approved range

1 Nevada's units must transport soldiers somewhere between 200
2 and 600 miles out of state to meet this requirement. The
3 average cost for a unit to attend the out-of-states weapons
4 qualification is \$500,000, half a million dollars, a year,
5 per unit. Some units mitigate this by sacrificing training
6 days in order to travel, using vehicles assigned to the
7 unit. It takes an additional 2 to 3 days of travel time,
8 which is not often an option.

9 So the National Guard Bureau has justified the
10 requirement for one multipurpose range complex for Nevada,
11 and the Nevada Army National Guard has acquired a 25-year
12 least at Hawthorne Army Depot, which is in the center of our
13 state. However, the current timeline for MilCom funding to
14 be approved is 2030, at its earlier.

15 So given that financial cost to transport soldiers out
16 of state far exceeds the cost of building a range, can I
17 have your commitment to incorporate a small arms range at
18 Hawthorne Army Depot into future years defense planning or
19 unfunded priority list so that our soldiers can meet their
20 annual requirements at greater convenience, and actually at
21 a cost savings to the taxpayer?

22 Ms. Wormuth: Senator Rosen, I will absolutely look
23 into that, and again, work with, it sounds like, General
24 Jensen, the Director of the Army Guard, and General Daly, to
25 see if there is something that we can do there.

1 Senator Rosen: Yeah, the cost savings, I think, you
2 get better training, save money. It makes sense.

3 And on that same note, the Reserve components and their
4 new army fitness test. So General McConville, our Reserve
5 components, they face their own challenges, as citizen
6 soldiers without access to day-to-day services available to
7 our active-duty troops on military installations. So one
8 such challenge will be the transition to the Army Combat
9 Fitness Test, ACFT. While active-duty soldiers will have
10 ACFT equipment at their everyday place of work, Reserve
11 component soldiers will not, no matter how much equipment is
12 fielded to their units. These soldiers are not at their
13 units 28 days out of the month to train on the equipment
14 they are going to be tested on, and many just do not live
15 nearby.

16 This is going require Reserve component soldiers to pay
17 for specialized gym equipment in order to train, whereas
18 every soldier, active-duty soldier, can train for Army
19 Physical Fitness Test from their own home.

20 General McConville, how do you plan to address this
21 disparity as you implement ACFT?

22 General McConville: Well, first of all we put a lot of
23 equipment, probably the biggest buy of ACFT equipment, but
24 we have also put out ways to train if you do not have access
25 to the equipment. So we have exercises. If you think about

1 a plank, one of the exercises. You do not need equipment to
2 do that. The hand-release pushups, you do not need any type
3 of equipment to do that. The ball throw, you know, if you
4 do not have a ball we can get something that looks like
5 that, and you can take some weights and just use some of the
6 things that you have, you know, a water can to replicate
7 that.

8 So most of the things we can replicate without the
9 equipment, and we have exercises that they can do to give
10 them the opportunity. But we will not be able to put a full
11 set of equipment in every home, but every organization,
12 within limits, should have that.

13 And going back to -- you know, I was not aware of that,
14 you know, arms requirement. We will take that on --

15 Senator Rosen: Oh, thank you.

16 General McConville: -- okay, for that marksmanship.
17 Our soldiers need to be able to shoot. We should not have
18 to go all over the state to do that. I just was not aware
19 of that one. I will take that one on personally.

20 Senator Rosen: Yes, at Hawthorne Army Depot. It is
21 easy to get to from northern and southern Nevada.

22 General McConville: It seems like it should be really
23 easy, Senator, but we owe it, like the Senator said, let us
24 take a look at it.

25 Senator Rosen: Thank you.

1 General McConville: This is the first I have heard of
2 it, and I have been in the Army for 41 years. But we will
3 take a look at that and we will get on it.

4 Senator Rosen: I appreciate it. And I see my time is
5 just about up, so I will submit a question for the record
6 about our Russian threat assessment and how you think we are
7 going to have to adjust now, based on what we have learned
8 over the last few months, going on in Ukraine, how we need
9 to surge up, where we need to resupply, and logistics again,
10 how they might have to change, considering the threats we
11 have now, and what we have learned in Ukraine.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen.

14 Senator Hawley, please.

15 Senator Hawley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to
16 you both for being here. Let us talk a little bit, if we
17 could, about housing at Fort Leonard Wood, and Secretary
18 Wormuth, if I could just start with you. I understand that
19 there are discussions underway about raising the basic
20 allowance for housing at Fort Leonard Wood, which I think is
21 essential, both to combat the rising inflation but also
22 support future investments in housing. Will the Army
23 support raising the BAH for Fort Leonard Wood?

24 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, we will absolutely look into
25 that. As you probably know, we, the Department, raised BAH

1 in I think over 50 locations where there were rising costs,
2 so if there is evidence that the costs around Fort Leonard
3 Wood are rising in a disproportionate way we would want to
4 look at that.

5 Senator Hawley: Can I have your commitment, your
6 personal commitment, to prioritize this issue, BAH at Fort
7 Leonard Wood, in your discussions with OSD?

8 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, I would be happy to prioritize it.

9 Senator Hawley: Great. Thank you. Along similar
10 lines I asked you and General McConville both last year, at
11 this hearing, about the Army's plans to replace aging homes
12 at Fort Leonard Wood, and you both assured me that that
13 would be a priority. Army Material Command followed up with
14 my office afterwards and said that the Army would be
15 earmarking funds for this. However, as of this week I am
16 not aware that the Army has allocated any funds toward
17 replacing housing at Fort Leonard Wood. Zero.

18 So my question is, why has the Army not put together a
19 plan to replacing the aging housing at Fort Leonard Wood,
20 despite agreeing that they need to be replaced?

21 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, we have a 10-year infrastructure
22 plan that looks at housing as well as power projection
23 infrastructure. It would surprise me if in that 10-year
24 plan there was not investments set aside for Fort Leonard
25 Wood. So let me take that and get back to you and find out

1 exactly where, in our plan, what year we are looking at
2 trying to deal with the housing there.

3 Senator Hawley: Well, let me tell you what I was told.
4 I was told last year there was \$341 million that were going
5 to be allocated towards replacing housing. Then I was told
6 later only \$50 million would be available to Fort Leonard
7 Wood. And then I was told after that it would be zero. So
8 you can imagine I am not very happy about it.

9 I am also not very happy about the fact that the Army
10 does not include any funding to replace housing at Fort
11 Leonard Wood in the budget request or in the unfunded
12 requirements list for fiscal year 2023. So why not?

13 Ms. Wormuth: Well, Senator, again, I will go and look.
14 We have a 10-year plan. It may well be that there is not
15 money in fiscal year 2023, but there may be money in future
16 years. So what I would like to do is go back and look into
17 exactly where you are in the schedule.

18 You know, the Army, as I have come to understand in a
19 whole new way, we have huge footprint with housing at
20 installations all across the country. We cannot, in a
21 single year, take care of all of the housing issues that we
22 have. So we try to look where the need is most pressing and
23 sort of develop a schedule. But I would be happy to look
24 into it, and I understand that you are frustrated hearing
25 different things at different times.

1 Senator Hawley: Well, here is the deal. I realize
2 that you have got issues you have got to address all over
3 the nation, and bases all over the nation, but in Missouri
4 it is a pressing issue. And when I am told there are going
5 to be funds available for housing in Missouri and then there
6 are not, I am not happy about it, and I am not happy about
7 getting the run-around about what it is going to be and what
8 it is not going to be. And, frankly, what I want to hear is
9 that Fort Leonard Wood is going to be a priority, and that
10 it is going to get done. So 10-year, 20-year, 50-year, 500-
11 year plans, I want it done.

12 So if you could follow up with me and give me some hard
13 facts about what actually is happening and when it is going
14 to get done, I would appreciate it.

15 Ms. Wormuth: I will do that.

16 Senator Hawley: Can I have your commitment on that?

17 Ms. Wormuth: You absolutely may, Senator.

18 Senator Hawley: Okay. Let me shift topics. You gave
19 a speech, Madam Secretary, last year, about the Army's role
20 in the Indo-Pacific, and during that speech you said, and I
21 am going to quote you now, "If required, the Army can
22 counterattack using its maneuver forces, for example,
23 infantry, Stryker elements, and combat aviation brigades to
24 restore the territorial integrity of our allies and
25 partners."

1 My question is, given that DoD has designed China as
2 the pacing threat and the Taiwan scenario as the pacing
3 scenario, what role do you see army maneuver forces playing
4 in helping us deter a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan?

5 Ms. Wormuth: Well, I think, Senator, that combat-
6 credible forces are very important in terms of deterring
7 China. So I do not want to speculate too much on
8 hypotheticals but I can envision that we would have ground
9 forces in countries in Southeast Asia, for example, that
10 might be willing, in a future conflict, to give us access.

11 You know, we exercise regularly with the Philippines,
12 for example. We have a very close relationship with
13 Australia. So I can envision situations where ground forces
14 could be very helpful.

15 Senator Hawley: Good. That is helpful.

16 General, can I just ask you, in my last question here,
17 do you think that we should maintain the ability to put Army
18 forces on Taiwan in the event of a crisis, so the President
19 has an option, if necessary, to deter or defeat a fait
20 accompli?

21 General McConville: I believe we should provide
22 multiple options to the chain of command, and we should not
23 be a one-option commander. And we have got great sea
24 forces. We have got great air forces. We have got great
25 ground forces. And what we want to do is provide multiple

1 options, and I think our modernization priorities do that.
2 With Long Range Precision Fire we can sink ships. But at
3 the end of the day, you know, someone on the ground is going
4 to have to be there, whether it is our allies and partners.

5 But the thing we also found out with Ukraine is we put
6 soldiers into the Baltics and we put soldiers in place.
7 Having American soldiers on the ground reinforced our allies
8 and partners, and quite frankly, it reinforces their will to
9 defend their country, and I think we should have that option
10 for the National Command Authority.

11 Senator Hawley: Thank you both and thank you,
12 especially, Madam Secretary, for your help on the housing
13 issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hawley.

15 Senator Hirono, please.

16 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 The Army is negotiating renewals of several training
18 area leases in Hawaii that are set to expire in 2029,
19 including the Pohakuloa Training Area, PTA. Secretary
20 Wormuth, as you know, PTA is critical to ensure Army ground
21 forces and Marine forces in Hawaii are adequately trained.
22 However, these lands hold cultural significance to the
23 Native Hawaiian community, and it is imperative that the
24 Army conduct a respectful engagement with local community
25 leaders, especially the Native Hawaiian population, to

1 listen to their concerns.

2 Secretary Wormuth, these training area leases are
3 critical, as I just mentioned, as was and is the case with
4 the massive Red Hill fuel tank installation. The training
5 lease issue is one that will require senior-level
6 involvement to ensure the community's concerns as well the
7 national security concerns are addressed. So as we have
8 previously discussed, I would ask you and General McConville
9 to personally place attention on this issue.

10 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, Senator Hirono. I appreciate you
11 raising that and I will be getting out to the region this
12 summer, and I have already talked with General Flynn and
13 intend to engage with community leaders the next time I am
14 there, on the training range issues.

15 Senator Hirono: Thank you very much. I cannot begin
16 to express how important Pohakuloa Training Area is going to
17 be for our military.

18 Ms. Wormuth: We agree.

19 Senator Hirono: Secretary Wormuth and General
20 McConville, last year Congress made historic changes to how
21 the military handles sexual assault, and while those changes
22 are a step in the right direction, implementation in a
23 timely manner will be important. I also remain concerned
24 about how sexual harassment is being investigated and
25 prosecuted because there is no question that sexual

1 harassment is also a scourge on the military, which is why I
2 introduced the Sexual Harassment Independent Investigations
3 and Prosecutions Act to solve this outside of the chain of
4 command.

5 Do you think, Secretary Wormuth, that moving decisions
6 on prosecuting sexual harassments outside of the chain of
7 command would be another step in the right direction to
8 restore trust in the system?

9 Ms. Wormuth: Senator Hirono, I certainly think we need
10 to restore trust in the system, and I think the changes that
11 Congress has legislated already will help us with that. I
12 would be certainly open to looking at what you are putting
13 forward in your legislation.

14 You know, we have made a number of changes. I think it
15 would be useful to see what are the results of the changes
16 that we are now undertaking. But it is very important to me
17 to restore trust with our soldiers, and frankly, with the
18 American public. So I am open to looking at what more we
19 might do.

20 Senator Hirono: Just as we removed sexual assault from
21 the chain of command I do see sexual trauma, military sexual
22 trauma, as a continuum, and I believe that a huge part of
23 what happens in sexual trauma in the military is the issue
24 of harassment.

25 So for both of you, last Congress -- I am sorry. This

1 is for General McConville. The Army's Multi-Domain Task
2 Force, MDTF, is focused on defeating an enemy's anti-access
3 and aerial denial capabilities, and I believe the Army is
4 planning to stand up additional MDTFs beyond the one at
5 Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State. Is the Army
6 still planning to stand up additional MDTFs, and if so,
7 where?

8 General McConville: Yes, Senator, we are. We plan
9 right now to stand up five of those. The next one that we
10 are standing up, initially, is in Hawaii. The command has
11 been selected, and that Multi-Domain Task Force will provide
12 what we call long-range precision effects, which is through
13 intelligence, through information operations, cyber,
14 electronic warfare, and space, and it also, depending, will
15 be tailored to provide Long-Range Precision Fires that can
16 penetrate anti-access air-denial capabilities, sink ships,
17 and provide fires in a precision way for our ground and
18 joint commanders.

19 Senator Hirono: And what specific steps is the Army
20 taking to ensure that the MDTFs can work closely with our
21 allies and partners, because that will be an important
22 aspect of what these task forces do?

23 General McConville: Well, they are very much in high
24 demand, just like our Security Force Assistance Brigades.
25 Under General Flynn's leadership he has then working very

1 closely with our allies and partners, providing those
2 capabilities, and we will continue to do that so they are an
3 integral part of both the joint and the combined force.

4 Senator Hirono: Mr. Chairman, I have some additional
5 questions but I will submit them for the record. Thank you.

6 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Hirono.

7 Senator Sullivan, please.

8 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
9 General, Madam Secretary, thank you for your service. I
10 appreciated our phone call yesterday, and I kind of want to
11 dive into some of the topics we talked about.

12 As you know, we have this very kind of dual challenge
13 and opportunity in Alaska. The challenge is the very high
14 rates of suicide, which nobody wants, and I really
15 appreciate the Army focusing on this. I think you have put
16 all your best minds to it. It is a complex problem but I
17 want to thank all of you. Madam Secretary, you were in
18 Alaska recently. The vice chief was in. General, you are
19 up there a lot.

20 So we talked about some of what you are thinking
21 through, both from a surge capacity on professionals that
22 can provide help but also, as part of the Arctic Strategy
23 that you have been focused on for quite some time, new
24 capabilities in Alaska. And I was wondering if you both
25 would not mind touching on both of those topics right now.

1 Again, I appreciate your full attention to this issue, which
2 I know concerns you as much as it concerns me and the people
3 I represent.

4 Ms. Wormuth: Certainly, Senator Sullivan. You know, I
5 think really there are two big things that we are trying to
6 do in Alaska right now under the umbrella of the Arctic
7 Strategy for the Army. First, as we talked about yesterday,
8 we are really trying to surge a significant quantity of
9 behavioral health providers to help deal with the mental
10 health issues. So we have behavioral health folks going up,
11 we are sending military family life counselors, we are
12 sending chaplains, and that will be a 6-month surge, and we
13 will be doing 100 percent mental health check of every U.S.
14 Army Alaska soldier.

15 Senator Sullivan: Thank you.

16 Ms. Wormuth: One of the things we have found, in
17 addition, that we think is contributing, potentially, to
18 some of what we are seeing in Alaska is that some of the
19 soldiers there do not feel like they have a sense of
20 identity or purpose around why they are stationed there. So
21 we are looking at, as we talked about yesterday, reflagging
22 the U.S. Army Alaska headquarters as the 11th Airborne
23 Division, which is a division that was disestablished but
24 has a very storied lineage. And we are thinking of
25 essentially renaming U.S. Army Alaska the 11th Airborne

1 Division.

2 Senator Sullivan: So that would be an operational --

3 Ms. Wormuth: Yes. It would become an operational

4 headquarters, the two brigades that are there. We are not

5 adding or subtracting force structure. It is really sort of

6 more of a new sense of common identity for the soldiers up

7 there.

8 Senator Sullivan: Great. General, do you have any

9 thoughts on that?

10 General McConville: As the Secretary said, as we give

11 them the identity, you know, having had a chance to serve in

12 an Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 11th

13 has a great history and heritage and that means a lot to

14 soldiers. and tabs on their badges and things like that

15 matter.

16 But we are looking at the Arctic very differently. We

17 have put out a strategy. We think it is very different. We

18 have got to be able to operate in that environment. We have

19 got to make sure the units have the capabilities, and that

20 gives them the confidence to be somewhat special -- you are

21 the ones that can operate with the right equipment -- and

22 even transform some of those units so they have the right

23 vehicles to operate in the coldest time, they have the right

24 equipment and the right clothing.

25 And all those things come together to give them a sense

1 of identity, and that is who we send there. We have a lot
2 of people that want to go to Alaska. They go up there and
3 they thrive. We have some that do not. They just have a
4 tough time, and I think COVID has exacerbated a lot of the
5 challenges we have because of isolation. And that is
6 something we recognize. When we talk about building these
7 cohesive teams, you build a cohesive team around a mission,
8 and you give them focus and you give them identity, and that
9 is what brings them together, and that is what we want to
10 try to do.

11 Senator Sullivan: Thank you. Madam Secretary, we
12 talked yesterday about the civilian behavioral health
13 support, and it is difficult to fill in a lot of places in
14 the country, and particularly difficult to fill in Alaska.
15 Do you think changing the ratio of uniformed-to-civilian
16 behavioral health providers, in remote locations -- I am not
17 just talking about Alaska; this happened in other places in
18 the Army globally, not just in the U.S. -- can that help
19 alleviate the challenge and the shortage problem? It is
20 something we are looking at here in the committee.

21 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, I do think it is something that
22 we need to look at. That was something I talked about with
23 General Eifler in Alaska. I talked to his hospital
24 director. We want to look at that. I mean, we of course
25 need to look at what are the second- and third-order effects

1 for changing those ratios because we have to make sure we
2 have got enough military medical providers for the whole
3 Army, but it is something we want to look at certainly.

4 Senator Sullivan: And let me ask a final question,
5 kind of two parts. Is part of the 11th Airborne we were
6 just talking about the Multi-Domain Task Force? I know that
7 is something you were looking at in Alaska as well. And
8 then the recent USARC large-scale exercises and JPARC in
9 March, can you provide a readout, just briefly, on some of
10 the takeaways from that? I know it was very significant,
11 hard, hard training, joint training, in very cold weather.
12 Any thoughts and takeaways on lessons learned from that as
13 it relates to what you are planning on in Alaska, and they
14 beyond, Multi-Domain Task Force and others?

15 General McConville: Yeah, I can talk about that.
16 Senator, you know, we kind of want to train where we are
17 going to fight, and historically Alaska has been more of a
18 basing place. And we took them out of there and we needed
19 to send them to the National Training Center or to Fort
20 Polk. You know, Fort Polk in the summer is not the
21 equivalent of the Arctic in the winter.

22 What we learned was conducting exercises in the winter,
23 in a combat training center-like environment is extremely
24 important, so our soldiers develop the confidence in how to
25 work in that environment. And as you know very well, better

1 than I do -- I have been up there in the winter but not for
2 a long period of time -- it takes a special type of
3 training. It takes a special soldier that can operate and
4 thrive in that environment, and that is why we want to give
5 them a high-visibility or high-intensity type training event
6 up in that environment. And General Flynn was very high on
7 it.

8 Senator Sullivan: Great. Thank you both.

9 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Sullivan.

10 Senator Warren, please.

11 Senator Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you
12 to our two witnesses for being here today.

13 At the end of the day, budgets are a statement of our
14 values. I do not like the statement being made by the Army
15 budget request. We have all heard the horror stories of
16 substandard, on-base housing. Military families across the
17 country live with black mold and collapsed ceilings and
18 electrical and fire hazards and a lot of other substandard
19 conditions. And after this scandal was exposed, then-Acting
20 Secretary of Army Ryan McCarthy said, before this committee,
21 military housing was, quote, "our top quality-of-life
22 priority, and we are aligning resources against it," end
23 quote.

24 Secretary Wormuth, do you agree that safe and healthy
25 housing conditions for military families should be a top

1 Army priority?

2 Ms. Wormuth: I do, Senator Warren.

3 Senator Warren: Good. I agree with you on this.

4 Secretary Wormuth, the Army's base budget just
5 submitted to Congress requests for \$1.9 billion in funds for
6 military construction and family housing. Is that correct?

7 Ms. Wormuth: Yes, I believe so, Senator.

8 Senator Warren: Okay. The reason I wanted to clarify
9 on how committed the Army is to addressing the military
10 housing problems is because that \$1.9 billion in the Army's
11 base budget represents a cut to military housing and
12 construction funding by nearly 40 percent compared with last
13 year.

14 Now another big chunk of the money needed to address
15 the problem -- evidently you think there is still work to be
16 done -- another \$330 million is on a separate list typically
17 referred to as the unfunded priorities list. This so-called
18 unfunded priorities list is the way for the Pentagon to pad
19 spending over and above the official budget. And it is not
20 just a few extras. The Army's list this year adds up to
21 \$5.1 billion.

22 Typically, the Pentagon takes some of the most popular
23 items that it wants funded, excludes them from the base
24 budget, puts them on the unfunded priorities list, and then
25 dares Congress not to jack up its budget above the

1 Pentagon's initial submission.

2 So, Secretary Wormuth, during your confirmation hearing
3 you agreed that substandard military housing was both
4 readiness and a retention problem. You just told us it
5 should be a top Army priority. So why did you not include
6 the whole request in your base budget?

7 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, thanks for that question, and as
8 I was just saying to Senator Hawley, we have a very large
9 footprint with a large number of bases. All of them have
10 housing. And I would love nothing more than to be able to
11 renovate all of the housing around the country that needs to
12 be renovated in a single year, but we are not able to do
13 that at the same time that we are trying to transform
14 ourselves in terms of modernization in a way that we have
15 not done for 40 years, and also maintain the readiness that
16 we need to be able to respond quickly, as we have, to the
17 situation in Ukraine.

18 So we are trying to balance a number of competing
19 demands. And we put almost \$2 billion in for family housing
20 and barracks, and we are required by law, the chief is, to
21 submit an unfunded priorities list. And I will let him
22 speak to the --

23 Senator Warren: The question is not whether or not you
24 have an unfunded priorities list. I understand that. My
25 question is why housing ended up on it and why your base

1 budget is a 40 percent cut on housing? It is a 40 percent
2 cut over just the year before.

3 Look, I just look at it this way. Military families
4 need this funding and they should get it. We need to fix
5 our shameful military housing problem, and we need to do it
6 as quickly as possible. These wish lists distort the budget
7 process, and we should end this game. It is not worthy of
8 our military. Either have the courage to ask for more money
9 up front or, better yet, cut something else from your budget
10 so that you have got enough room to be able to keep the
11 promises that you have made to military families. If taking
12 care of military families is truly a priority then you
13 should be including their needs in the base budget request,
14 not using military families as pawns to gain the budget
15 system for more dollars.

16 So I just feel really frustrated about this process.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Warren.

19 Senator Peters, please.

20 Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you
21 to our witnesses here today. Thank you for your service.

22 Secretary Wormuth, the U.S. and our allies have shipped
23 tens of thousands of Javelins and other anti-tank guided
24 missile systems to Ukraine where we have seen they have been
25 used for just absolutely devastating impact against Russian

1 tanks and other armed vehicles. It has been encouraging to
2 see, and the skill by which the Ukrainians have deployed
3 them has been outstanding.

4 The proliferation, though, of affordable, easy-to-
5 operate ATGMs has certainly changed the calculus of armor on
6 the battlefield. We do know, however, that active
7 protection systems can be used to defend armored vehicles
8 from these kinds of threats. Other countries around the
9 world, some of our allies, have embraced the solution, have
10 been putting it on their armored vehicles in a pretty
11 aggressive way. The U.S. seems to be somewhat reluctant.
12 With the exception of a small amount of our Abrams tanks
13 that have these systems, the Army does not seem to have a
14 plan to test and field anti-protection systems for the
15 entire fleet of Strykers, for example, or other armored
16 vehicles.

17 So my question for you, ma'am, is does the Army have
18 any plans to equip its Stryker with active protection
19 systems, and if so, what is the timeline for testing and
20 training? What does that look like?

21 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, I think you know we are
22 certainly very concerned about threats to our tanks, and we
23 have watched what drones can do, for example, to Russian
24 tanks. And so we, at this point in time, I think, think
25 that the protection systems that we have on our Abrams, on

1 our Strykers, are quite good. I certainly would be willing
2 to look in more detail if there are additional systems that
3 have proved to be effective.

4 We are also looking, as I said, you know, there is a
5 balance between how quickly we can modernize some of our
6 enduring platforms like Stryker while also modernizing. But
7 I will certainly commit to you to look into that in a little
8 more detail.

9 Senator Peters: Well, as you mentioned, the threat is
10 evolving pretty rapidly with relatively inexpensive weapons
11 that do devastating damage, so I would hope that we are
12 thinking this through, and lessons learned from conflicts
13 are usually incredibly valuable.

14 Ms. Wormuth: Yes. We are taking active note of the
15 lessons coming out of Ukraine.

16 Senator Peters: I appreciate that.

17 General McConville, the Army's Multi-Domain Task Forces
18 represent, as you know, the centerpiece in operationalizing
19 the Army's multi-domain operations concept, and this vision
20 of MDO is critical to understanding how the Army plans to
21 fight and win wars in the future.

22 The Army has already activated two Multi-Domain Task
23 Forces and plans, I understand, to stand up three more. My
24 question for you is, in the Army, where the active component
25 is less than 50 percent of the force structure, how does the

1 Army National Guard fit into this vision for both MDTFs as
2 well as MDO?

3 General McConville: Well, you know, the Army National
4 Guard is absolutely critical. I cannot speak enough for
5 what they are doing for the country. The Army Reserves, as
6 you said, they are more than 52 percent. What we have asked
7 them to do in the United States and also overseas is just
8 miraculous. And I keep saying this is the year of the
9 Guard, and every year it seems like it is the same year
10 after year, and we have asked them to do so much.

11 The Secretary and I have committed to the Guard that
12 they will get the modern equipment. It will not be the
13 first 31 in the regular Army. We have made a promise to the
14 Guard that they will be fielded with this type of equipment
15 up front. I have talked to General Hokanson. He wants the
16 National Guard, in coordination with the governors, to
17 reflect where the regular Army is going. They want to have
18 the same capabilities, and we are doing that with them as we
19 work through those problem sets.

20 Senator Peters: Thank you.

21 Secretary Wormuth, as Chair of Homeland Security and
22 Government Affairs Committee I am concerned about the
23 impacts of the increased domestic activation of our Guard
24 forces for national disaster recovery, civil unrest,
25 pandemic response. They have been called on for a variety

1 of missions. And we absolutely need these brave men and
2 women to answer the calls to service, but it also has
3 increased operational tempo, and that certainly takes its
4 toll.

5 Data compiled by my staff indicates that the quantity
6 of Army guardsmen that fall short of earning a retirement-
7 credible year has increased from less than 1 percent to
8 nearly 4.5 percent over the last decade. And while this is
9 a small percentage of the total force, and certainly many
10 factors are at play, I do not think it is any coincidence
11 that the number is growing amid increased calls for non-
12 Federal duty.

13 So my question for you is, while the state and Federal
14 management of our National Guard is an essential framework,
15 is your department considering the inadvertent side effects
16 of state activations while you are undertaking your duty
17 status reforms?

18 Ms. Wormuth: Senator, you know, as General McConville
19 said, we are very aware of how heavily used the National
20 Guard is in many parts of our country, and we want to make
21 sure that they are compensated and provided the benefits
22 that they should get when they are activated in Title 10
23 status. And we try to look very carefully at the second-
24 and third-order effects of their support to civil
25 authorities. So we will look into what you are raising and

1 get back to you with more detail.

2 Senator Peters: Well, I appreciate it. We will follow
3 up with you and look forward to having a chance to work
4 through this and make sure people are treated fairly and
5 equitably. So thank you very much.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Peters.

8 Senator Duckworth, please.

9 Senator Duckworth: Wow. Good timing. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11 Chairman Reed: Impeccable timing.

12 Senator Duckworth: Impeccable. Just got to land your
13 aircraft plus or minus 10 seconds.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Wormuth and General
15 McConville, thank you for your service to our Army and thank
16 you for your discussion with me earlier this week.

17 I am truly encouraged by the challenging work you both
18 are doing to lead the modernization of our Army,
19 particularly in the Future Vertical Lift program. On
20 Tuesday I chaired a classified Air-Land Subcommittee
21 briefing on the status of the Future Vertical Lift program,
22 and despite the love I will always have for my UH-60 I am
23 excited for the future of Army aviation. It is clear that
24 the Army has applied lessons learned from acquisition
25 programs across the DoD as this program remains on schedule

1 and on budget while bringing cutting-edge, vital combat
2 capability to our forces. I want this trend to continue for
3 all lines of efforts under the Future Vertical Lift program
4 and for all phases of each system's lifecycle.

5 Secretary Wormuth, given the need for modernization
6 across the force, what work is the Army doing to ensure
7 continued affordability of these systems, not just during
8 procurement but also through sustainment?

9 Ms. Wormuth: A primary thing we are doing, Senator
10 Duckworth, is really trying to look very early on in the
11 development process at affordability costs, at
12 sustainability costs, and about maintainability costs,
13 because as you undoubtedly know, it is often the sustainment
14 and maintenance costs that can really kind of balloon and
15 cause the overall cost of the platform to increase. So we
16 are trying to really factor that in early and pay a lot of
17 close attention to it as we go through the development and
18 acquisition process with FLRAA and FARA.

19 Senator Duckworth: Thank you. What portions of this
20 year's budget request are fundamental to maintaining on-time
21 delivery of all aspects of FVL?

22 Ms. Wormuth: I am sorry. Could you say that again,
23 Senator?

24 Senator Duckworth: What portions of this year's budget
25 request are fundamental to maintaining on-time delivery of

1 all aspects of the Future Vertical Lift program?

2 Ms. Wormuth: I would say, Senator, you know, the
3 portion of our modernization, \$35 billion investment, that
4 is associated with Future Vertical Lift is critical to
5 making sure that the program stays on schedule. You know,
6 we are in the process of -- we will be having prototypes for
7 FARA flying in fiscal year 2023, we already have some
8 experimental demonstrators with FLRAA, and we have the money
9 built into our modernization budget to try to keep those
10 programs on schedule.

11 Senator Duckworth: Thank you, and I look forward to
12 working with you both to take every opportunity to maintain
13 the success of this program.

14 I want to switch gears a little bit and talk about
15 contested logistics. Our military must be prepared for the
16 tough logistical challenges they could face in an Indo-
17 Pacific theater of conflict. To do so, we must invest in
18 innovative technologies that allow us to provide critical
19 supplies at the point of use. Advanced manufacturing
20 programs are already producing promising results for the
21 warfighter. For example, the Army's Joint Manufacturing and
22 Technology Center at Rock Island Army Arsenal in Illinois is
23 leading the way in building a robust, additive manufacturing
24 capability with state-of-the-art 3D printers.

25 Deploying this technology would allow us to rapidly

1 produce parts needed for maintenance in theater, among other
2 important uses, yet there is a lack of overall guidance on
3 how to operationalize these technologies and coordinate
4 their development across the Department.

5 Yesterday I introduced the Bioindustrial Additive
6 Manufacturing For America Act. This legislation directs the
7 Department of Defense to build on the success of these
8 existing efforts and create an implementation strategy that
9 allows the DoD to realize the full benefit of additive and
10 bioindustrial engineering and manufacturing.

11 General McConville, what role do you see additive
12 manufacturing playing in supporting the Army's logistics
13 efforts in a contested environment, and what barriers do you
14 see to successful operationalization of these innovative
15 technologies across the Army?

16 General McConville: I think, Senator, it is extremely
17 important. If you look at how we have done logistics over
18 the years, we used to call it the Iron Mountain. We brought
19 a whole bunch of parts with us, and that was very excessive.
20 And we tried to get more efficient and we went to more just-
21 in-time logistics, and that becomes very challenging.

22 I think what additive manufacturing does for us is
23 gives us the capability to make those parts at the critical
24 time when we need them. And as you know very well, our
25 helicopters do not fly, our tanks do not drive, our trucks

1 do not work without having those parts.

2 So I think we need to get very aggressive after this
3 capability. I think we need to have it on the forward edge
4 of the battlefield so we can make the parts that are
5 critical in case we cannot get the resupplies. And again, I
6 am a firm supporter of it.

7 Senator Duckworth: Thank you. I think we also stop
8 this tendency, sometimes, also to start cannibalizing parts
9 out of one piece of equipment, because what happens is you
10 borrow one part, so now it is down for that one part, and
11 then another aircraft needs something so let's go take it
12 from that one. And before you know it you have got a Hangar
13 Queen, whether it is an aircraft or a ground vehicle.

14 General McConville, given the increased funding tin the
15 Pacific Pathways program in your budget request this year,
16 how do you plan to grow these types of exercises, and what
17 can Congress do to help support you in these efforts, like
18 the Pacific Pathways program and these exercises?

19 General McConville: Well, we have been talking about
20 this, Senator, and talking with General Flynn and talking to
21 Admiral Aquilino. It is really important that we set the
22 theater with our allies and partners, that we have forward
23 presence, that we have access and presence, that we have
24 equipment forward, very similar to what we have in Europe.
25 You know, if we want to be in a position to reinforce allies

1 and partners and be a deterrence we have got to have forward
2 presence, and we need to work on that.

3 Senator Duckworth: What can we do to help you with
4 that?

5 General McConville: Well, some of it is the resourcing
6 and also it is a policy decision. For a lot of this I defer
7 to the policymakers, of what type of relationship do we have
8 with these countries? Do they allow us to have a status of
9 force agreement so our troops can come there, so our troops
10 can exercise, and so our troops can stay there?

11 Senator Duckworth: And I know you certainly have done
12 your part in developing these relationships, the mil-to-mil
13 relationships, and thank you for your efforts in that.

14 I am out of time, Mr. Chairman.

15 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Duckworth.

16 I will at this point recess the open hearing and at
17 11:50 we will reconvene in SVC-217 so that the Secretary and
18 the Chief can elaborate in a classified setting if they feel
19 so, and my colleagues can pose questions that may be
20 requiring classified answers.

21 With that I will adjourn the open hearing, and at 1150
22 hours we will see you in SVC-217. Thank you.

23 [Whereupon, at 11:35 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

24

25