

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON
THE POSTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
IN REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND
THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Washington, D.C.

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

1 HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON
2 THE POSTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
3 IN REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR
4 FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND
5 THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

6
7 Tuesday, March 3, 2020

8
9 U.S. Senate

10 Committee on Armed Services

11 Washington, D.C.
12

13 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m. in
14 Room SH-216, Hart Senate Office Building, Hon. Roger F.
15 Wicker, presiding.

16 Committee Members Present: Senators Wicker, Fischer,
17 Cotton, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Perdue, Cramer, McSally,
18 Scott, Blackburn, Hawley, Reed, Shaheen, Gillibrand,
19 Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Heinrich, Peters, Manchin,
20 and Jones.
21
22
23
24
25

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

3 Senator Wicker: Well, this hearing will come to order.

4 Senator Inhofe's plane will arrive later this morning,
5 and I am privileged to open the hearing in his behalf today
6 and to recognize the ranking member, Senator Reed.

7 The committee meets today to receive testimony on the
8 posture of the U.S. Air Force and its fiscal year 2021
9 budget request.

10 And this is Senator Inhofe's statement, which I am
11 happy to read on his behalf.

12 We welcome Barbara Barrett, Secretary of the Air Force,
13 and General David Goldfein, Chief of Staff of the Air Force.
14 Thank you both for your distinguished service and your
15 continued willingness to serve our great nation.

16 The National Defense Strategy directs our nation's
17 military to prepare for the return of great power
18 competition. This means we must be prepared to deter and,
19 if necessary, defeat our near-peer adversaries like Russia
20 and China.

21 In order for the Air Force to achieve that goal, it
22 must be properly manned, trained, and equipped. At the end
23 of the Obama administration, the Air Force was at a historic
24 low in readiness and size. Less than 10 percent of combat
25 squadrons were ready to deploy and even less were prepared

1 for a peer fight.

2 We commend the progress you have made in rebuilding
3 readiness, but more needs to be done. A high state of
4 readiness is crucial for our nation to demonstrate peace
5 through strength.

6 While our force has suffered from being ill-prepared,
7 our adversaries moved out and recapitalized both their
8 conventional and nuclear forces with alarming speed. China
9 and Russia present a credible threat to America and our
10 allies. In fact, in some areas they have even surpassed us.

11 You both have testified that the Air Force is too small
12 and too old to do what the nation asks. We agree with you
13 and the many independent studies that show the Air Force
14 needs to grow and modernize. But we are concerned that your
15 current budget is inadequate to allow you to reach the
16 requirement of 386 squadrons.

17 Given the need to grow, there is concern that this
18 year's budget request takes a risk by divesting the aircraft
19 we need today in the hopes of buying modern capability in
20 the future. Historically that approach has failed to
21 achieve the desired results.

22 We understand that much of those decisions were caused
23 by a flat budget that falls well short of the 3 to 5 percent
24 growth recommended by the National Defense Strategy
25 Commission report. In fact, it does not even keep up with

1 inflation.

2 Any successful modernization strategy needs to focus on
3 results and meeting the needs of tomorrow's fight, but
4 should also maintain forces capable of deterring and
5 defeating an adversary today.

6 We look forward to working with you to ensure that we
7 meet the needs of today's warfighters while modernizing to
8 ensure we regain our advantages for the future.

9 Senator Reed?

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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

3 Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
4 Let me join you in welcome Secretary Barrett and General
5 Goldfein to the committee this morning to testify on the
6 plans and programs of the Department of the Air Force in our
7 review of the fiscal year 2021 President's budget request.
8 We are grateful certainly to all the men and women of the
9 Air Force for their service and to their families for their
10 continued support.

11 I want to particularly note that this will probably be
12 General Goldfein's last appearance before the committee as
13 Air Force Chief of Staff. I want to thank you, General
14 Goldfein, for your many years of distinguished and dedicated
15 service to the men and women of the United States Air Force
16 and to this nation. Thank you very much, sir.

17 In preparing this budget request, the Air Force faced
18 difficult decisions in balancing the need to modernize and
19 keep the technological advantage over near-peer competitors
20 and the need to support ongoing operations and sustain
21 today's readiness. This budget request tries to maintain
22 that balance by increasing funding to address readiness
23 concerns and munitions shortfalls but also funding
24 technologies for the future fight and modernization of our
25 strategic deterrent capability. I am interested in the

1 witnesses' views on what the most difficult decisions were.
2 I also understand that the Secretary of Defense has asked
3 the military departments to undertake a review to find
4 resources, and I would like to know the status of that
5 review.

6 I would also note that because significant levels of
7 funding are being transferred to build the wall on the
8 southern border, some Air Force modernization efforts will
9 not proceed as planned, making it harder to find savings to
10 apply to high priority programs and activities. I am
11 interested in hearing if the Air Force has a plan to
12 mitigate this issue.

13 This year, the Air Force is proposing to retire and
14 realign a number of aircraft systems, presumably to free up
15 resources for other programs. The budget request would
16 reduce or alter force structure for A-10's, B-1's, C130's,
17 KC-135's, KC-10's, Global Hawks, and Reapers. Any Air Force
18 proposal deserves our careful consideration, but we must
19 consider it against the recent history of abrupt Air Force
20 changes of direction on such programs as A-10, U-2, Global
21 Hawk, JSTARS, Compass Call, AWACS, light attack aircraft,
22 and C-27 airlift aircraft, several of which I will admit
23 were reversed by congressional action. I hope the witnesses
24 will provide the committee with their reasoning for these
25 retirements and realignments and assurances that decisions

1 are well thought out before disruptions to the force
2 structure begin.

3 Perhaps most troubling to me among the force structure
4 adjustments is the planned reductions in the air refueling
5 tanker force in the near term. The Commander of TRANSCOM
6 recently testified before this committee that the scarcity
7 of available tankers has sorely taxed his command's ability
8 to keep up with the peacetime demand, let alone manage
9 support for major contingency operations.

10 As we all know, while the KC-46 is being accepted by
11 the Air Force and taking air crews, it is only operating
12 with significant restrictions. Coupling that with the early
13 retirement of KC-135's and KC-10's creates significant risk
14 in our refueling capability. I want to hear why you have
15 proposed this in the face of TRANSCOM's significant
16 concerns.

17 I am also interested in hearing about your continuing
18 effort to improve the shortfalls within the remotely-piloted
19 aircraft operator community and how the Air Force has
20 addressed shortfalls within the larger pilot community and
21 maintenance personnel. Certainly if the Air Force were to
22 retire a large number of Global Hawks and Reapers, that
23 action would help the shortfall by reducing demand for
24 pilots. However, I am interested to know whether you have
25 had a reduction in demand for Reaper support from the

1 combatant commanders and how their input has affected your
2 decision.

3 2 years ago, the Air Force budget request proposed to
4 truncate the Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar
5 System, or JSTARS, modernization program and replace it with
6 a combination of other systems, including unmanned systems
7 and overhead sensors. That program has since been named the
8 Advanced Battle Management System, or ABMS. And I look
9 forward to receiving an update on progress of the ABMS
10 system.

11 Again, there are many issues to cover, and I thank both
12 Secretary Barrett and General Goldfein for being here today
13 and look forward to your responses.

14 Thank you.

15 Senator Wicker: Thank you very much, Senator Reed.

16 Secretary Barrett and General Goldfein, you submitted a
17 joint statement, which will be entered into the record at
18 this point.

19 Would each of you like to make a brief 5-minute opening
20 statement? Secretary Barrett?

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA M. BARRETT, SECRETARY OF THE
2 AIR FORCE

3 Ms. Barrett: Thank you very much. Chairman Wicker,
4 Ranking Member Reed, members of the committee, thank you for
5 inviting us to appear before you today.

6 I also would like to acknowledge and thank David
7 Goldfein whose final appearance before this committee for
8 this purpose will be today. I would like to thank him for
9 the incomparable service that he has provided to the United
10 States Air Force, making the Air Force better and our nation
11 better. It has been a great privilege to serve with General
12 Goldfein.

13 The international security environment changes
14 unpredictably. China and Russia challenge American
15 capabilities with new technologies and new systems. Iran
16 and North Korea threaten regional and global stability,
17 while violent extremism remains a global menace.

18 The National Defense Strategy calls for the Air Force
19 as a critical component of a joint force to deter and, if
20 needed, defeat these threats. This fiscal year 2021 budget
21 request sets the course for the Air Force we need to
22 accomplish these aims.

23 Specifically, the United States Air Force invests in a
24 future force that allows us to connect the joint force,
25 dominate space, generate combat power, and conduct logistics

1 under attack. We will continue to present ready forces to
2 combatant commanders as we defend the homeland, ensure
3 strategic deterrence, and counter violent extremism.

4 Finally, we will strengthen the foundation of our
5 forces, our airmen, as we develop and care for our people
6 and their families. This budget submission shifts force
7 design to create irreversible momentum toward achieving the
8 mission of the NDS while growing strong and resilient
9 leaders and families.

10 The top policy priority for the department is the
11 successful launch of the United States Space Force. The
12 space domain is integral to the joint team success in all
13 warfighting domains. The Department of the Air Force
14 supports a lean, agile service to preserve access to space
15 for America and our allies while deterring and, if
16 necessary, defeating malicious actions.

17 Our most important investment is in connecting the
18 joint force. We are developing the technologies to connect
19 every sensor, every shooter, and every echelon of command to
20 enable seamless, joint, all-domain operations. This battle
21 network is essential to defeating current and future
22 threats.

23 We are also directing pivotal resources to recruit and
24 retain the best people our nation has to offer. We are an
25 inclusive and diverse force and are modernizing our

1 promotion system while investing in the professional
2 development of airmen.

3 The Air Force is expanding ongoing efforts to support
4 and care for families. We are tackling privatized housing
5 and PFAS challenges. Along with our sister services, we
6 encourage State reciprocity for occupational licensing for
7 spouses and for quality schools for our children. And we
8 are investing in professionally designed and advised
9 programs to reduce suicides and sexual assaults.

10 To fund the Air Force we need, we must divest some
11 aging legacy systems. This budget retires limited numbers
12 of aircraft, consolidating resources to increase readiness
13 in remaining aircraft, or invest in recapitalization and
14 modernization efforts.

15 We thank the committee and the entire Congress for
16 fully funding the recovery efforts to rebuild Tindall and
17 Offut Air Force bases.

18 We will seek additional support as our installations
19 and personnel assist with the ongoing novel coronavirus
20 quarantine and responsive efforts.

21 With your continued support, America's Air Force stands
22 ready to deter, defend, and defeat any adversary.

23 We look forward to your questions.

24 [The prepared statement of Ms. Barrett and General
25 Goldfein follows:]

1 Senator Wicker: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary.
2 General Goldfein?

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL DAVID GOLDFEIN, USAF, CHIEF OF
2 STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE

3 General Goldfein: Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member
4 Reed, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor
5 to present my last budget submission for the first time with
6 Secretary Barbara Barrett, the 25th Secretary of the Air
7 Force. She is an inspiring leader who cares deeply about
8 airmen and their families, and this hearing allows me the
9 opportunity to publicly thank her on behalf of all active,
10 Guard, Reserve, and civilian airmen who stand the watch, own
11 the high ground, and follow her lead. Thank you, ma'am.

12 So my bottom line up front. This budget, building on
13 the last three, offers the most aggressive package of
14 strategic trades we have made as a service in over 2 decades
15 to achieve complete alignment with the National Defense
16 Strategy and secure our nation's military superiority over
17 the next decade.

18 Secretary Esper's guidance for this budget build was
19 crystal clear. Build an Air Force that can compete, deter,
20 and win shoulder to shoulder with our joint teammates and
21 our allies and partners against a nuclear peer in an era of
22 great power competition. This budget is designed to achieve
23 this objective and we are asking for your support to make
24 the tough but necessary trades we will discuss today.

25 In numerous war games against our best assessment of

1 the threat in 2030 and beyond, as Secretary Barrett stated,
2 we found that investment in four key areas produced the Air
3 Force needed to prevail.

4 First, this budget connects the joint force in ways we
5 are not today connected in order to truly fight as a joint
6 team. Under the leadership of our Chairman, General Mark
7 Milley, the Joint Chiefs and the combatant commanders are
8 fully engaged in developing a new doctrine of warfare called
9 joint all-domain operations. Under this warfighting
10 construct, the Air Force is the designated lead service to
11 connect platforms, sensors, and weapons from all domains,
12 all services, and our allies and partners so we can truly
13 operate at the speed of relevance. We call it joint all-
14 domain command and control, or JADC2 for short, and we are
15 moving out quickly with advanced battle management, sir, as
16 the pathfinder.

17 Every 4 months, we host a demonstration and link joint
18 capabilities that are not currently connected to advanced
19 joint all-domain operations to the next level, and I look
20 forward to describing what we have achieved to date and
21 where we are headed during questioning.

22 Second, we must dominate space. And while you will
23 have a follow-on hearing in April with Chief Jay Raymond and
24 Secretary Barrett focused on the Space Force and Department
25 of the Air Force investments, I want you to know that it is

1 my top priority to make Chief Raymond and his new service
2 successful.

3 Our third area of focus is generating combat power
4 beginning with our nuclear enterprise. This budget moves us
5 forward to recapitalize our two legs of the triad and the
6 critical nuclear command and control that ties it all
7 together.

8 And fourth, this budget invests in a new way of
9 approaching how we keep our joint team deployed and
10 sustained in contested combat environments. We must assume
11 our logistics enterprise will be under attack.

12 The foundation of this budget submission is the
13 greatest treasure in our nation's arsenal, our airmen. We
14 look forward to working with this committee to ensure that
15 we keep the faith with the airmen that will defend the
16 nation, and we support their families entrusted to our care.

17 As this committee is aware and was stated, the 2021 top
18 line is relatively flat from last year, well short, as the
19 chairman stated, of the 3 to 5 percent growth required to
20 properly support the National Defense Strategy. In a flat
21 budget environment, if a service is to move forward, it must
22 do two things. It must make better use of what it has by
23 connecting all platforms, sensors, and weapons in a
24 battlefield network, JADC2, and it must find internal
25 savings to pay for new capabilities.

1 So we held our own night court and identified \$21
2 billion across the FYDP by retiring the oldest of our legacy
3 weapon systems that are either not survivable or do not
4 contribute significantly to the 2030 peer fight, and not one
5 of these trades is easy. Every weapon system we are asking
6 to retire has performed well in the current fight, but many
7 are at the end of their service life or have no future in a
8 nuclear peer fight. This is today's hard reality, and not
9 surprisingly, of the services, the Air Force has the largest
10 classified portfolio of investment. This makes the story
11 harder to tell since most of what we are retiring is
12 unclassified and visible, while many of our game-changing
13 investments are classified.

14 And I want to thank many of you for taking our
15 classified briefing and offer it to any of you or your staff
16 between now and end game. When you see what we are trading
17 for, our budget submission will make more sense.

18 If we are to achieve truly meaningful gains for our
19 nation's security through implementing the NDS in a flat
20 budget environment, we must work together on these hard
21 choices.

22 Chairman, I am honored to be the 21st Chief of Staff of
23 the Air Force, and if we go to war against a nuclear peer, I
24 am 100 percent confident that we have what we will need to
25 win. And I can say that because of decisions made by my

1 predecessors, men like John Jumper and Mike Ryan, such as
2 the lead time required for building an Air Force. And I
3 believe one of my jobs is to ensure that when Chief 24 sits
4 in front of this committee in 2030, that Chief will be able
5 to state with equal confidence that our nation's Air Force
6 has what it needs to win. With your support, we can achieve
7 this goal.

8 Secretary Barrett and I look forward to your questions.

9 Senator Wicker: Thank you very much to both of you.

10 And we will begin now with a 5-minute round.

11 General Goldfein, these savings of \$21 billion found in
12 night court, is that within the Air Force or the total
13 defense budget?

14 General Goldfein: Air Force and it is over the whole
15 FYDP.

16 Senator Wicker: Well, in doing what you had to do with
17 the budget submission and understanding that you had to make
18 some tough decisions, where do you see the most risk in this
19 budget?

20 General Goldfein: Sir, I think the two hardest
21 decisions we made at end game were two weapon systems that
22 we are asking to retire some number of them, and I will talk
23 about both, KC-135's, KC-10's, and also the A-10.

24 When it came to the KC-135 and the tanker portfolio,
25 this is the classic tension between a combatant commander

1 that is looking at a 2-year problem to solve and a service
2 chief that is trying to build a force that wins in 2030.
3 That tension has always been there and it always will be
4 there.

5 So when we looked across the portfolio of tankers, the
6 congressional mandate is that we never go below 479.
7 Secretary Mattis used to say, hey, before anybody says the
8 "risk" word, you have to answer three questions: to who,
9 for how long, and what is your mitigation. This is risk to
10 the combatant commander who testified about that risk. This
11 is going to be until the KC-46 comes on line, which we
12 expect to be in 2023 to 2024. And our mitigation is that
13 the retirement we are asking for in the KC-135 represents 3
14 percent of the overall KC-135 fleet. And we have committed
15 to the combatant commander and the Secretary of Defense that
16 if we go to a high end contingency, we will put every KC-46
17 we have into the fight. We will not use it for day-to-day
18 operations, but it will be made available for a contingency.
19 So we think it is a reasonable risk portfolio going forward.

20 And on the A-10, also as we looked at that right at end
21 game, on the A-10 we are putting almost a billion dollars
22 into that weapon system, about \$880 million, to re-wing, new
23 avionics. And we are going to keep that weapon system
24 flying, albeit with smaller numbers, well into the 2030s.

25 So those are the two areas that I think are a

1 significant risk.

2 Senator Wicker: On the tankers, what will happen
3 between 2021 and 2023?

4 General Goldfein: Sir, we will manage the force like
5 we do all other areas where we have shortfalls. So what the
6 TRANSCOM commander was laying out for you was the stacked
7 requirements that he has to deal with day to day. And so
8 just like we are short in bombers, fighters, tankers, ISR,
9 command and control, the Secretary of Defense managed those
10 forces against all of the demand signal, and in certain
11 areas, he tells the combatant commanders they can have less
12 of what they are asking for. We will do the same thing in
13 the tanker force between now and when the KC-46 comes on
14 line.

15 Senator Wicker: Secretary Barrett, with a budget
16 decrease of approximately \$12 billion from last year, are
17 you comfortable with how the funding is allocated among
18 personnel, equipment modernization, and operations and
19 maintenance?

20 Ms. Barrett: Senator, while we would like very much,
21 of course, to have more funds, the reality is with these
22 funds we believe that the allocation is appropriately
23 designed.

24 Senator Wicker: General Goldfein, the Air Force
25 requires 72 fighter aircraft per year to begin to recap its

1 nearly 30-year-old, on average, aircraft. General Goldfein,
2 you have said this is a minimum.

3 When do you believe we will be able to achieve this
4 number, and given the importance of extending the range of
5 our aircraft in any potential conflict and the comments from
6 TRANSCOM, how do you balance the current air -- you have
7 spoken about the air refueling already. But if you would
8 comment on the first portion of that question.

9 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. So 72 is the number we
10 need to be able to drive aircraft age down to about a 17 to
11 18-year average age which we think is sustainable. Without
12 the 3 to 5 percent growth or some growth in the budget, to
13 be honest with you, sir, I do not know at what point we
14 would ever get to 72 fighters a year.

15 I will thank this committee, though, because there was
16 some lean years there where we were buying 20 to 30
17 airplanes total in several years. And so at least we are up
18 into the 50s and the 60s now, so we are doing better. But I
19 do not know at what point we will get to the 72 aircraft per
20 year, if the budget stays flat.

21 Senator Wicker: Thank you very much.

22 Senator Reed?

23 Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

24 I want to follow up a bit on the tanker issue. First,
25 thank you for your thoughtful response, General. It was

1 very insightful.

2 Madam Secretary, I presume that you are really focused
3 on getting the KC-46 in the air and operational working with
4 the contractor Boeing. Can you give us some insight as to
5 what you are doing, and can we be confident that in 2023 it
6 will be fully operational?

7 Ms. Barrett: We are meeting every day on that topic.
8 It is really one of the highest priorities in the building,
9 including meetings just yesterday afternoon. The Chief has
10 been very much involved as well and working directly with
11 the company.

12 At the moment it is not meeting all the requirements.
13 It is able to be used for passenger transport, for cargo
14 transport, and for aeromedical evacuation purposes and for
15 some training. But we do look forward to having the remote
16 visual system repaired to be usable, and we are looking to
17 have some solution even by the end of this month on a way
18 forward, and the Chief has been very much involved in that.

19 Senator Reed: And, General, I understand from your
20 response to Chairman Wicker that part of the contingency
21 plan would be to essentially put the KC-46 in operation if
22 there was a stress to the system. And doing the numbers,
23 would that give us the capacity to engage in a significant
24 contingency operation?

25 General Goldfein: Sir, it would definitely reduce the

1 risk. I think the TRANSCOM Commander, if he was here to
2 tell you, we are living every day with the tanker shortage,
3 and the KC-46 is not going to completely fill that in.
4 However, because we are buying at 12-15 per year, every one
5 of those tankers with crews would be made available in a
6 high end contingency. So it would certainly be able to
7 overcome, for that period of time that we use them, the
8 retirement that we are asking for.

9 If I could just add on to --

10 Senator Reed: Yes, please.

11 General Goldfein: -- Secretary Barrett's point.

12 I wrote a letter to the CEO 3 days ago, and he came to
13 see me -- Mr. Calhoun. And he committed to me that the
14 KC-46 was his top military priority and he was going to do
15 what was required to fix it. I have seen a change in the
16 behavior of that company since he took over. And so that is
17 why we are more confident sitting here today that we have a
18 serious fix on the table. And we are in final negotiations
19 so we cannot go into any more detail than that. But I will
20 say that it is looking better today than it was even 6
21 months ago.

22 Senator Reed: Just to follow up. I have no expertise
23 with aircraft as you do. But today we will not use them in
24 operational because of the visual system, et cetera. But in
25 a contingency operation, we are prepared to use them. Would

1 that require a significant modification in the way the
2 aircraft approaching to refuel would operate? Again, are we
3 just at this point being abundantly cautious or there is
4 still some profound problem with the system?

5 General Goldfein: No, sir. There are profound
6 problems with the system. I would not be comfortable
7 putting them into --

8 Senator Reed: This contingency would be -- there would
9 be no other choice. We got to throw these in the mix, but
10 it is going to be hope for the best.

11 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. And I will tell you I
12 have been pulled out of a really lot bad places by some
13 courageous tanker crews really low on gas. We want that
14 tanker to be able to plug that receiver.

15 Senator Reed: We had a chance, General, to speak
16 yesterday about the sustainment costs of the F-35. I think
17 most people would be -- I know I was a bit surprised when
18 the current sustainment cost is about \$39,000 an hour. I
19 know you are working to get it down. But that raises the
20 question of can we afford to buy more aircraft if we cannot
21 afford to fly them. Can you comment very briefly on
22 sustainment costs?

23 General Goldfein: I can, sir. I met with all of the
24 CEOs, to include Lockheed Martin and all of the
25 subcontractors, and I told them in no uncertain terms both

1 as the largest customer, as a joint chief that represents my
2 fellow chiefs who also have bought this aircraft and my
3 international air chiefs who have bought onto this, the
4 current flying hour costs are unsustainable.

5 We met. I gave them a list of requirements. They did
6 a 180-day sprint with the Joint Program Office. I then went
7 down and spent an entire day at Lockheed Martin with the
8 leadership there and brought 27 stars with me. We went
9 through a full day. And like what we have seen in Boeing, I
10 believe Lockheed Martin has taken a serious look at
11 sustainment costs, and their plan right now is to lower
12 sustainment costs to \$25,000 per hour by 2025. And we are
13 going to hold them to that.

14 Senator Reed: Well, we are going to keep watch on your
15 efforts and wish you well.

16 I will submit a question for the record, General, with
17 respect to the MQ-9 industrial base. We talked about it
18 yesterday. We looked and it appears to us that after fiscal
19 year 2020, there are no MQ-9's in the budget, and we just
20 want to get a better picture of where we are going with that
21 asset. And I will send it for the record.

22 Thank you, sir.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Senator Wicker: General, what can the KC-46 not do in
25 the next 2 years?

1 General Goldfein: For normal refueling, what is
2 happening with the remote visual system is a couple things.
3 One, the boom operator struggles to see about the last 10
4 feet between the boom and the aircraft. It is a focus issue
5 on how the system was designed. And so what is happening
6 then is you start -- there is the high potential for
7 striking the aircraft around the receptacle if you cannot
8 actually see it very closely at end game. That, as you
9 might imagine, is not a good thing. So while I would accept
10 that with a highly trained crew in a high end contingency, I
11 would not accept that for day-to-day operations. And this
12 is a hardware problem requiring a hardware fix.

13 Senator Wicker: Thank you.

14 Senator Fischer?

15 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 Secretary Barrett, General Goldfein, first of all,
17 thank you so much for your service to this country.

18 I also want to express my appreciation for the robust
19 way this budget funds nuclear modernization.

20 I want to thank you both for the attention that the Air
21 Force has paid to the rebuilding of Offut Air Force Base as
22 well. Your teams have been valuable partners as we have
23 worked together to secure the funds necessary to repair,
24 replace, and rebuild following the historic flooding that
25 occurred in Nebraska a year ago.

1 Secretary Barrett, the 55th wing is the number one
2 provider of large, fixed-wing Air Force ISR in the nation.
3 This is a capability that is in constant demand. I hear it
4 from our combatant commanders. And the newly contested
5 environments that we are faced with now mean that we need to
6 think creatively about integrating these platforms like the
7 RC-135 into future networks.

8 Given that fact, how are you working to ensure the
9 continued capability of the RC-135 as we look into the
10 future time frame?

11 Ms. Barrett: Thank you, Senator.

12 The RC-135 is pivotal to our ISR capabilities. And as
13 you know, training capability was lost during the floods at
14 Offut. So I want to thank you for the funding to help get
15 that back up so that we can renew the training.

16 And the other key thing that is happening with that
17 platform and others is the computer connectedness, building
18 that as an element, a node on the network for our
19 combatants.

20 Senator Fischer: The Air Force laid out a future road
21 map for the ISR mission in the ISR dominance flight plan.
22 And what progress has been made in implementing the points
23 of that plan? General?

24 General Goldfein: Yes, thank you, ma'am.

25 The most progress we have done is actually how we have

1 tied to distributed ground system where we do all the
2 analytical work in the ISR into this battlefield network,
3 this advanced battle management, because it used to be that
4 we would have platform sensors or weapons from all of our
5 services that were operating independently. And then the
6 universal translator across weapon systems was a phone or a
7 chat room operating at human speeds. That is not going to
8 work in the next fight. We have got to be able to work
9 seamlessly at machine speeds, and that is what advanced
10 battle management system does. And the RC-135 is a
11 significant player in that.

12 Senator Fischer: You had mentioned the ABMS and the
13 JADC2. And the fiscal year 2021 budget makes significant
14 investments in that next generation networking capability.
15 How is the Air Force working to ensure integration of
16 existing platforms with these new capabilities that are
17 coming on line?

18 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am. That is the foundation
19 of this, is how do we take existing capabilities, in
20 addition to new capabilities, and connect them in.

21 When this committee supported our move from Joint STARS
22 into a battlefield network solution for the future, we took
23 those savings and we put it into demonstrations and
24 connected capability that is no longer PowerPoint slides
25 with lightning bolts that are aspirational. We turned this

1 into real capability. We are no longer talking about cloud
2 capability. We actually built a cloud. We contracted with
3 industry and all the services are connected in. We are not
4 just talking about common data architecture. We built the
5 unified data library, and now we are connecting and sharing.

6 Every 4 months, we connect portions of the enterprise,
7 and we do a demonstration. And we operate at machine
8 speeds. And what we are learning is that each of the weapon
9 systems that we are connecting now jumps in its capability
10 when you can connect it into a common architecture.

11 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

12 Secretary Barrett, the Air Force is still conducting an
13 analysis of alternatives, and I believe this is the second
14 study that we have had for that for the recapitalization of
15 the E-4B. It is my understanding that the AOA will conclude
16 soon.

17 What is the Air Force's plan to move forward after the
18 AOA finishes? I ask this because this has been an issue of
19 constant study, and I believe the first AOA was directed
20 back in 2008. The challenges of maintaining that outdated
21 airframe are only getting harder, and I think it is vital
22 that the Air Force move forward after this AOA concludes and
23 this issue should not be studied indefinitely. Can you
24 speak to this, please?

25 Ms. Barrett: We have found that sometimes studies are

1 a never-ending process. I can assure you that we will
2 review that study at its conclusion and make a decision
3 based on its recommendations.

4 Senator Fischer: We always want to make sure that we
5 have all the information available at the time, but we do
6 need to move forward. Thank you.

7 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Fischer.

8 Senator Shaheen?

9 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 And thank you both for being here. And, General
11 Goldfein, we appreciate your service and we will miss you,
12 even though you may not miss us and these hearings.

13 [Laughter.]

14 Senator Shaheen: I want to go back to the KC-46
15 because that is a continuing concern for us in New Hampshire
16 with the 157th air refueling wing, and we lost our last
17 KC-135's over a year ago now. And while the 46's have
18 replaced them and we are seeing the planes come in and we
19 hope to have all 12 new tankers by the summer, as you know,
20 they are not flying and we are hearing from our Air Guard
21 that they would like to fly some missions.

22 So I have two questions. The first is, is the biggest
23 challenge still remaining the remote vision system? And do
24 you have any sense from Boeing based on your communications
25 back in January when this is going to get resolved and how

1 long it will take to address that in the tankers that have
2 already been put out?

3 General Goldfein: Yes, thank you, ma'am.

4 So right now, we are in final negotiations with the
5 company on the fix. So I have got to be a little careful
6 about how much detail I go into.

7 But I did have a conversation, a follow-up
8 conversation, with the CEO and told him that not only the
9 quality of a serious hardware fix is important but also time
10 because the longer we wait to get that aircraft operational,
11 the longer we are having to extend KC-135's, KC-10's, and it
12 continues to add up. So we are going to be holding them not
13 only to a really serious fix but also to time. And right
14 now we are targeting initially about the 2023-2024 time
15 frame to have the fix in place and operational. And then
16 there will be some kind of retrofit time plan that we will
17 have to work.

18 Senator Shaheen: So that is significant.

19 General Goldfein: It is.

20 Senator Shaheen: I know that last week, Dr. Will Roper
21 testified that -- and General Lyons said that we are below
22 the mark on both tanker capacity and tanker capability right
23 now.

24 So if we are talking about 3 or 4 years before we are
25 going to get up to capacity, what are we assuming is going

1 to happen with the units like the 157th that would like to
2 do missions? And are there other things that they can do as
3 we look at the potential to utilize the KC-46 for medical
4 missions or other things?

5 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am. So two missions that we
6 are in the process of certifying now. It can do lift. We
7 bought it for not heavy lift, but it can do lift missions
8 and it can also do aeromedical. We are still in the process
9 of certifying it for that. As soon as it is certified, we
10 will start using it for those missions as we then go into
11 the long-term fix for the remote visual system.

12 And to your units, as you know, we took the active duty
13 manpower out of the total force unit and moved it. Our plan
14 is to have that available right now for the tankers that are
15 operational and then as soon as we get the KC-46 online and
16 the fixes in place, that manpower comes back.

17 Senator Shaheen: So that manpower is not going to come
18 back until 2023-2024?

19 General Goldfein: As soon as we can get a fix. And I
20 will just tell you that Boeing has heard loud and clear that
21 time is of the essence.

22 Senator Shaheen: 3 or 4 years does not sound like time
23 is of the essence to me. So I hope that this committee will
24 do what we can to address that as well because that is
25 unacceptable. I mean, it really is.

1 Secretary Barrett, I want to go back to PFAS, which you
2 mentioned in your opening statement, which we know is a
3 concern. And again, I appreciate the commitment that the
4 Air Force has made to address the situation at the former
5 Pease Air Force Base. But I wonder if you have gotten an
6 update from the Navy, who is the lead in developing a
7 fluorine-free fire fighting foam, and where they are on
8 that. And the NDAA that we passed this year said that we
9 needed to phase out all of the fluorine-containing foam by
10 2024. Do you know where we are on that?

11 Ms. Barrett: I know the Navy is working and doing
12 experiments with other foam additives. They have not yet,
13 it seems, come upon a solution that meets the requirements
14 to extinguish fires, intense fires, in contained areas. And
15 of course, the Navy is very concerned about fires aboard
16 ships. So they are very attentive. Right now, so far the
17 PFAS formula is the one that is most effective at fire
18 extinguishing.

19 We no longer use the PFAS in our training. When we do
20 use any containing product, we contain it, and we are
21 working diligently to clean up the problem that has been
22 caused by the Air Force as every community around the
23 country has been doing. But we take it very seriously. The
24 health and safety of our communities is among the most
25 important things that we work with.

1 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

2 My time is up, but I just want to also thank you for
3 committing, as did former Secretary Wilson, to address the
4 occupational health study at Pease, and if there are more
5 resources needed and we can be helpful with that, I hope you
6 will share that with our office.

7 Ms. Barrett: Thank you.

8 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

9 Senator Cotton?

10 Senator Cotton: Secretary Barrett, General Goldfein,
11 thank you for your appearance here again today.

12 General Goldfein, I want to go back to something you
13 said in your opening statement. I want to see if we can put
14 it a little more bluntly and just not beat around the bush
15 on it. You and Secretary Barrett and your whole team have
16 done a lot to try to identify what our Air Force needs to
17 fight the future fight. And that is going to require some
18 divestments, some cuts in current programs.

19 An issue is that over here in current programs, you got
20 a bunch of stuff that flies around right now that we can all
21 see, or maybe more importantly, that sits on the ground in
22 our States and employs people in our States. And over here,
23 you have a bunch of stuff that is super secret, very
24 classified, very cutting edge that we cannot see. Is that
25 right? So you are talking about making cuts to the stuff

1 that we can see and spending money on the stuff we cannot
2 see. Is that the crux of the matter that you are getting
3 at?

4 General Goldfein: Yes, sir.

5 Senator Cotton: I do not think anyone doubts that we
6 need all this super secret stuff over here. We have had a
7 number of hearings on it. We created Space Force in part to
8 address it. I just think it is important that we lay that
9 out there and make it very plain so when we get down to
10 brass tacks on the NDAA or we get down to brass tacks on the
11 defense spending bill, that we all on this panel remember
12 and that the other Senators in the Senate remember that the
13 secret stuff is very needful and the public stuff that has
14 been with us for a long time and very comfortable may need
15 to be trimmed back to pay for the secret stuff.

16 And that is not a strategy issue. That is a political
17 issue for all of us to deal with. And that is not endorsing
18 any single kind of cut that you may have to make here or any
19 single kind of program you may spend here. We may have
20 different thoughts on that. We may want to tinker around
21 the edges. But I think it is really clear that we just be
22 up front about the dilemma that the Air Force faces which is
23 at root a political dilemma that we all should handle in a
24 responsible and sober fashion given the threats that we face
25 in the future.

1 General Goldfein: Thanks, sir.

2 Senator Cotton: I now wanted to speak about spectrum,
3 specifically the mid-band spectrum. Secretary Esper said
4 that DOD is willing to explore sharing that spectrum, and we
5 know that some of your systems like AWACS operate there.
6 Can you talk to us about what mid-band capabilities that you
7 are concerned about and how critical the spectrum is to
8 those capabilities? I will throw that open to either one of
9 you.

10 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. And I will back up
11 exactly what Secretary Esper says. We cannot vacate, but we
12 can look at sharing. It does affect in the mid-band our
13 AWACS and other command and control assets, and it certainly
14 impacts where we are going with battlefield networks. But
15 we do think that there is a strategy ahead for sharing.

16 Senator Cotton: So talk to us a little bit more about
17 what not vacating but sharing would look like.

18 General Goldfein: Meaning we have to operate in that
19 spectrum. So there may be ways to parcel and share some
20 portions of it, but we cannot leave it. And there are some
21 that are asking us to give that up, and that is not
22 something I could ever advise you to do.

23 Senator Cotton: Okay.

24 Secretary Barrett, did you want to --

25 Ms. Barrett: I would just say that sharing it has to

1 be -- the only sharing we can do is a sharing where the
2 fidelity of our signals is not intruded. So what use others
3 would have of it can only be made where it does not intrude
4 in the signal that we are using.

5 Senator Cotton: Any thoughts on the kind of costs we
6 are looking at here?

7 General Goldfein: Sir, I know that they are taking a
8 look at it. I have not seen any costs that I could give you
9 yet. We can take that one for the record, if you like.

10 Senator Cotton: Yes, please do.

11 Secretary Barrett, did you want to add?

12 Ms. Barrett: No, thank you.

13 Senator Cotton: One final question that is really on
14 point. Unfortunately, some of our allies are moving forward
15 with Huawei products in developing their 5G wireless
16 systems, even countries where we have some of your airmen
17 positioned. What are your concerns about their personal and
18 operational security if the countries in which they are
19 based are developing 5G systems using Huawei products?

20 Ms. Barrett: It is a great disappointment to have
21 allies that are using Huawei. Alternatively, we have not
22 been forthcoming with good alternatives to the Huawei
23 system. So we need to up our game to have as competitive a
24 system, a more competitive system so that we are providing
25 that. But it does put our signals at risk and our airmen at

1 risk.

2 Senator Cotton: Yes, I agree. I will say that we have
3 not been particularly effective at providing alternatives.
4 I mean, we -- I would say the entire West, the United States
5 Government, allied governments, and our businesses --
6 although I would say in all their defenses, it is hard to
7 compete against a company like Huawei, which is an arm of
8 the Chinese Communist Party and enjoys effectively unlimited
9 subsidies. So when our allies are saying things like, well,
10 we have to go with a reasonable cost provider, the only
11 reason why Huawei is a reasonable cost provider is not that
12 they are the best company or they have the brightest minds
13 or most effective manufacturing techniques. It is because
14 their bills are paid by the Chinese Communist Party. And
15 that is something that we as policymakers should take into
16 account when we are trying to identify possible
17 alternatives.

18 General, I know this is your last posture hearing.
19 Maybe it will not be your last hearing. I am sure you hope
20 it is. But if it is not, it has been an honor to be able to
21 serve with you these last few years, and we thank you for
22 your service to the nation.

23 Senator Wicker: General, we customarily invite retired
24 experts with a lot of wisdom to come back. So I dare say
25 this will not be your last hearing, but it will be on a

1 voluntary basis.

2 Thank you, Senator Cotton.

3 Senator Blumenthal?

4 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you, Chairman.

5 And I want to join in expressing my appreciation and
6 thanks -- I am sure everybody on the committee shares it --
7 for your extraordinary service to our nation and look
8 forward to seeing you back again voluntarily.

9 Madam Secretary, I appreciate your focus on PFAS
10 contamination and leading that effort. Is there a specific
11 budget item for cleanup involving Air Force bases and
12 facilities?

13 Ms. Barrett: Senator Blumenthal, we have spent almost
14 a half billion dollars in cleanup to date and will continue.
15 I do not know what the exact number is for this year, but we
16 will continue that cleanup effort and work with the
17 communities for cleanup.

18 Senator Blumenthal: Maybe you could provide that
19 number.

20 And the second point on this issue. Have you made a
21 recommendation to the FAA that they eliminate their current
22 requirement, as I understand it, that PFAS be used in the
23 fire fighting foam on civilian airports around the country?

24 Ms. Barrett: We have not made that recommendation to
25 the FAA.

1 Senator Blumenthal: Would you make it?

2 Ms. Barrett: It looks like something we would look at.
3 Let me say that.

4 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you. I hope you will look
5 at it and make that recommendation because I think it could
6 be important in speeding their consideration of ending the
7 PFAS requirement.

8 I am very interested in the discussion that you had
9 with Senator Cotton about the classification issue. I will
10 just restate -- you may have heard me say it in our
11 classified briefings -- that the American public needs and
12 deserves to know more so that it can appreciate the threats
13 to the nation and what you are doing to address those
14 threats. And I share your view that a lot of the super
15 secret stuff is vitally important. The nation needs to
16 understand more about it and I think could well be told more
17 about it without compromising our security.

18 I want to go from the super secret to the more mundane
19 at the Air National Guard in Connecticut where NP-2000
20 propellers are currently in use. I am sure you are familiar
21 with this issue because it is longstanding. The replacement
22 of those legacy propellers is essential to the safety --
23 literally the safety -- of the men and women of our Air
24 National Guard who fly those C-130H aircraft. Can the
25 replacement of those propellers be expedited and

1 accelerated, General?

2 General Goldfein: Yes, thank you, sir. And I will
3 tell you I have been down there. I have looked at the
4 propeller. I have watched it going in. It is an excellent
5 propeller. And we have, as you know, replaced all of the
6 pre-1971 C-130H engines with that new propeller. At the
7 same the same time, on the post-1971, we have adjusted our
8 overhaul and our depot procedures to cover the safety issues
9 associated with the older propeller. But we are studying
10 and looking at whether we want to look at the MP-2000 for
11 expanded use, and we look forward to working with you on
12 that.

13 Senator Blumenthal: I hope that we can follow up on
14 that issue. I do not have time to cover it fully here, but
15 I hope that we can talk more about it.

16 General Goldfein: Yes, sir.

17 Senator Blumenthal: On again the Air National Guard at
18 Bradley, as you may know, \$60 million has been invested in
19 that Air National Guard base, and yet the C-130H
20 modernization is going to be impaired by the diversion of
21 \$169 million going to the border wall instead of two cargo
22 planes for that base. And I want to know what can be done
23 to overcome the obstacles that are created. These obstacles
24 are presented in longer form by letter that I have received
25 from General Evon of our Connecticut Air National Guard, the

1 acting general. I would like to put it in the record if
2 there is no objection, Mr. Chairman.

3 Senator Wicker: Without objection.

4 [The information follows:]

5 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Senator Blumenthal: I am sure you are familiar with
2 the situation. So I would like to ask you what is the
3 impact of diverting \$169 million of C-130J procurement.

4 General Goldfein: Sir, we are working through all of
5 the mitigation efforts relative to the money that has gone
6 towards the wall. I think the best I could tell you is that
7 when the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs was asked to describe
8 the impact, his answer was this amount of dollars relative
9 to the strategic, immediate defense of the nation did not
10 have a significant impact I believe were his words. And so
11 that is where we as joint chiefs are now relative to that
12 issue.

13 Senator Blumenthal: Finally, although my time has
14 expired, I would like to ask a question for the record, not
15 to be answered here but in writing, about also the impact on
16 the F-35 program of apparently diverting money from the 48
17 F-35's requested in the budget. I know that you put 12
18 additional F-35 aircraft on the unfunded priorities list. I
19 think that we need to explore what the impact is going to be
20 on procurement timelines in that program. Senator Reed has
21 rightly raised the issue of the sustainment costs, but the
22 building and manufacturing costs I think also need to be
23 considered.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Blumenthal. And we

1 will look forward to that answer on the record.

2 Senator Ernst?

3 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Thank you, Secretary Barrett. Good to see you as
5 always. And General Goldfein, thank you very much for your
6 service. We certainly do appreciate it.

7 As we just spoke, General Goldfein, I would like to
8 address the issue of the KC-135's. A lot of discussion here
9 today about the 46's and the 135's. And I would like for
10 you to state just so the folks back home in Iowa understand
11 where we sit. The 185th Air National Guard, the air
12 refueling wing is one of the highest performing units in all
13 of the Air National Guard. And if you could just explain
14 for those folks where they sit with their KC-135's, and at
15 this point, we are a little bit thankful we do not have the
16 46's right now. So thank you.

17 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am. I can tell you that
18 there will be no impact or no change to the 185th in terms
19 of the 135's relative to the planned retirements.

20 Senator Ernst: Okay. Thank you very much for that.
21 And we discussed that with TRANSCOM last week as well. I
22 think many of us are very, very concerned about that, and
23 then how we do get to a point where we are transitioning to
24 those 46's. And that is yet to be seen, but we do
25 appreciate your attention to that matter.

1 Secretary Barrett, so we are in an exciting time where
2 we have a lot of new and emerging technologies out there,
3 and these technologies can augment our Air Force
4 capabilities, which will help us anticipate and respond to
5 various threats. And so we are pretty lucky that tech
6 development in our civilian sector has boomed, and the Air
7 Force now has a new way of taking a look at some of this
8 technology, and as we move into acquisitions, it is kind of
9 like an Air Force Shark Tank. Can you maybe tell us a
10 little bit about that and how that is developing and how we
11 are able to see some of those technologies and apply them to
12 today's modern Air Force?

13 Ms. Barrett: Thank you very much, Senator. In fact,
14 just last week I participated as a judge -- we both
15 participated as judges in Spark Tank, which was an
16 evaluation of innovations that members of the air staff
17 throughout the Air Force had come forward with ideas that
18 were money saving or new inventions, new capabilities. That
19 is inside the Air Force.

20 In addition, we are working very closely with pitch
21 days for businesses and innovations outside of the Air
22 Force.

23 Both of these are developments, ideas from the creative
24 mind of Dr. Will Roper in acquisitions to think of ways of
25 inspiring innovation and creativity and rewarding people

1 that are initiating new ideas. So both internally within
2 the Air Force, externally to small companies outside who
3 have maybe in the past found doing business with the
4 Department of Defense daunting but are excited about
5 presenting their technologies, and instead of having months
6 and years to get a contract with the Defense Department, one
7 participant described it as they can get a contract from the
8 Defense Department faster than they can order a beer in New
9 York City. So there are some new processes that inspire
10 people to want to do business with the Defense Department
11 especially with new technologies and innovations.

12 Senator Ernst: That is outstanding. Can you describe
13 some of the businesses that are taking advantage? Are they
14 large businesses, small businesses?

15 Ms. Barrett: These are almost all very small
16 businesses. They are small businesses with good ideas.

17 And the internal ones were people that saw damage being
18 done to equipment and to stores and figuring out a way of
19 loading cargo aircraft without doing damage, people that saw
20 in test ranges the ability to move the threat that had been
21 positioned -- there were four standing threats but much
22 easier, much better training if they can move those threats.
23 And so there were a number of great ideas of ways to make
24 the training better, cut costs, reduce waste, and have a
25 better Air Force.

1 Senator Ernst: So you do believe this is a positive
2 step forward.

3 Ms. Barrett: Absolutely.

4 Senator Ernst: Fantastic.

5 And just very briefly, General Goldfein, autonomy. We
6 have been discussing this with your colleagues in the Navy
7 as well. The Air Force labs also do great work in this
8 area. Can you briefly -- very briefly -- explain some of
9 the technologies we are seeing come from that?

10 General Goldfein: I will describe one very quickly,
11 Skyborg, which is the Valkyrie drone system that we use
12 successfully. In the upcoming demonstration in April, we
13 are going to use it to be a universal translator between
14 fifth gen capability in Navy and Army. And so Loyal Wingman
15 technology where the manned platform and the unmanned
16 platform are actually working as a team is where our future
17 lies.

18 Senator Ernst: Excellent. And my time has expired,
19 but I would love to visit more about that at another point.
20 Thank you, General Goldfein, for your service. We certainly
21 do appreciate it.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Ernst.

24 Senator Heinrich?

25 Senator Heinrich: Secretary, General, Space Force Vice

1 Commander Lieutenant General David Thompson recently
2 indicated that the U.S. Space Force will propose the
3 consolidation of current space acquisition organizations
4 under an entity called Space Systems Command. As you are
5 aware, Congress specifically mandated that the Space Rapid
6 Capabilities Office act as an independent agency. We did
7 that to ensure that it continues to be able to adapt and
8 innovate quickly.

9 What consequences would this kind of consolidation have
10 on the organization's ability to innovate as Congress
11 intended?

12 Ms. Barrett: Our mission will be to design the systems
13 so that we optimize creativity and adoption of technology in
14 the use of our space assets.

15 Senator Heinrich: So I am sorry. Say that again.

16 Ms. Barrett: We will be designing things with that
17 intent to have optimized technology for our space resources.

18 Senator Heinrich: So you think by consolidating Space
19 RCO into this broader capabilities office, you are actually
20 going to be improving their ability to --

21 Ms. Barrett: So I am not speaking to specifically that
22 consolidation, with which I am not really familiar.

23 Senator Heinrich: Because my concern is that one of
24 the reasons why Congress has historically -- General, do you
25 want to jump in here?

1 General Goldfein: Yes, sir.

2 Senator Heinrich: We have been trying to protect this
3 entity because it innovates quickly, and bureaucracy has a
4 tendency to want to swallow things that innovate quickly.

5 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. Amen.

6 The Secretary's direction to us has been crystal clear.
7 While there will be a lot of discussions about administrivia
8 and bureaucracy, our job is to deliver capability and
9 deliver it fast at the speed of relevance because that is
10 exactly what the threat countries are doing. And Space RCO,
11 as designed -- and you had a huge hand in putting that
12 together -- needs to stay independent and it needs to be
13 able to move fast without a lot of lines and boxes that all
14 get a chance to vote on what they are doing. So we
15 specifically built that on the model of our Air Force Rapid
16 Capabilities Office, same board procedures, same authorities
17 to move fast, and so we want to keep it independent.

18 Senator Heinrich: That was the answer I was hoping I
19 might hear.

20 I want to move on to PFAS. And, Secretary Barrett, I
21 do not know how to say this other than I am -- you know, I
22 heard you earlier say that you are working with communities.
23 But in the case of Clovis, New Mexico, I am sort of beyond
24 frustrated by the utter lack of communication and any level
25 of coordination at this point between Air Force leadership

1 and local government elected officials for the City of
2 Clovis. We recently received a response letter to the
3 entire delegation. It was wholly inadequate. This is a
4 community that has bent over backwards for decades with
5 great pride to host the Air Force in their community, and
6 they feel like they are getting absolutely stonewalled right
7 now.

8 So I want to ask you if I can have your commitment that
9 you will direct whoever the appropriate Air Force personnel
10 are to establish direct communications with local officials
11 in Clovis to work together to remedy the PFAS situation
12 there.

13 Ms. Barrett: You have my commitment.

14 Senator Heinrich: Thank you very much.

15 I also want to ask you with regard to the authorities
16 that were given to the Air Force in the most recent NDAA, if
17 you will work with New Mexico and State and local officials
18 to find a permanent PFAS solution and actually use those
19 authorities that Congress gave the Air Force in the NDAA.

20 Ms. Barrett: We are doing research now and will
21 continue to do that. It is a Navy lead, but the Air Force
22 is working it as well.

23 Senator Heinrich: Because one of the things we did
24 when this issue popped up is ask the former Secretary, you
25 know, what can you do and what can you not do. And she was

1 very blunt about what she could not do. We changed much of
2 that in the NDAA, and we would like to see you use those
3 authorities.

4 I want to move on to MQ-9's. And Congress obviously
5 appropriated a lot of money for MQ-9 training. That money
6 was taken by the President to pay for a third century
7 technology being deployed along our southern border. I want
8 to know what the plan is because these folks are training in
9 very substandard conditions over a sinkhole in a building
10 that could not pass code enforcement in a third world
11 country.

12 General Goldfein: Sir, we are working through the
13 mitigation right now. As you know, it has been fairly
14 recent that we are working our way through this.

15 I just go back to the question we were asked as Joint
16 Chiefs, which is describe the impact relative to defend the
17 nation and the immediate significant strategic impacts. And
18 that is where the Chairman gave his answer, and so that is
19 where the Joint Chiefs are right now.

20 Senator Heinrich: Yes. I understand the strategic
21 impacts. I think it is just reprehensible when you walk
22 through that facility to see our best and brightest training
23 in a facility that is not safe, that you could not get to
24 pass code in any community in the United States, where there
25 is duck tape on the walls, and these are our best and

1 brightest.

2 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Heinrich.

3 Senator Cramer?

4 Senator Cramer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 And thank both of you for being here and both of you
6 for your service. A special thank you to General Goldfein
7 again. I never ceased being amazed at the talent that
8 replaces really good talent, but I also never cease being
9 concerned by the loss of excellent talent. And I am
10 concerned but grateful to you for your service.

11 And also thank you for last week. I did take advantage
12 of the invitation to participate in the classified
13 discussion, and I would encourage all of my colleagues who
14 have not taken advantage of that to do that. It was very
15 helpful. It created a lot of answers but a lot of questions
16 as well.

17 So with that in mind, I am just throwing a few of them
18 and let each of you respond, if you will.

19 With regard to the here-to-there strategy -- and you
20 referenced I think quoting General Mattis the "risk" word
21 and talked a little bit about it. But my specific parochial
22 interest, of course, is the ISR mission specifically, the
23 Global Hawk wing at Grand Forks, to some degree as well the
24 MQ-9's, but particularly the Global Hawk wing at Grand Forks
25 and the retirement of the block 20s and block 30s at Beale

1 and how that affects the folks in Grand Forks and in North
2 Dakota and would love to hear anything you can tell us and
3 tell them about the future of that base and its mission.

4 Also, while you are talking about that, maybe ask the
5 question about the Arctic and the Arctic fight. We have had
6 a lot of discussions in this room, with others as well, but
7 I would give you the opportunity as well to maybe give us
8 some insight into what is being planned.

9 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. I will do ISR and then
10 the Secretary will take Arctic.

11 On the ISR portfolio, so as you saw when we sat down,
12 there are certain capabilities that we are bringing together
13 in a classified realm and we are connecting capabilities
14 that today are not connected. Because almost every platform
15 out there, whether it flies, orbits, submerges, runs, rolls,
16 it is a sensor. But we have not been able to tie together
17 those sensors to be able to fuse data in ways that can make
18 this common operational picture. And so now, as we tie
19 things together, we are finding that we get far greater
20 fidelity on what it is that we are doing. So a combination
21 of space capabilities, you know, missions that we are doing
22 in the air today that we are migrating into space,
23 classified capabilities, and pulling these all together with
24 common digital engineering and common data architecture is
25 actually improving our ISR and allow us now to take some

1 risk when it comes to individual platforms. That is our
2 strategy for the future.

3 Senator Cramer: So can you expand a little bit then on
4 what the future to Grand Forks specifically may look like in
5 light of this?

6 General Goldfein: So what you will see in this budget
7 is the retirement of the older Global Hawks, and with all of
8 these, we want to make sure that we work with the
9 communities and with you, sir, and with all of the Senators
10 to make sure that we minimize impact on the base as we go
11 forward because Grand Forks, like many other bases, is key
12 strategic terrain. It is key to the Arctic strategy because
13 of its location. It also supports some of our ground-based
14 intercept radar feeds that are so important to us. So we
15 want to make sure we mitigate the impacts to Grand Forks.

16 Senator Cramer: Madam Secretary?

17 Ms. Barrett: The Arctic is of increasing importance to
18 the United States, and it has been important for a long
19 time, but ever more increasing now. As a result, the Arctic
20 strategy is a key element of the Air Force and the
21 Department of Defense's effort, but the Air Force more than
22 other elements because 80 percent of the Arctic defense is
23 provided by the Air Force or Department of Air Force
24 elements.

25 So you know from my background, I have paid quite a bit

1 of attention to the Arctic. One of my first visits was to
2 Thule. I spent time in Finland and later this week, I will
3 be visiting the Minot operations and later this month be in
4 Alaska also looking at those facilities. So it is a very
5 important topic and of increasing importance to us.

6 Senator Cramer: Thank you.

7 In my remaining seconds, I might just ask in general as
8 we look at the DOD budget -- and I know you have a heart for
9 a discussion about the pass-through part of your budget and
10 how that may work and how people view the budget. I mean,
11 the Air Force always seems to me, with its being the tip of
12 the spear and the highest priority in DOD operations, to
13 sort of be at the short end of the stick budget-wise. I
14 mean, are you generally satisfied with what we have in terms
15 of the entire budget for the Air Force?

16 Ms. Barrett: Well, we have to live within the top
17 line, so we have had to make a lot of trades that we wish we
18 would not have to. And the pass-through is an especially
19 disconcerting matter because it does create a misperception.
20 We are looking at that as something that we will come to
21 Congress with a proposal in the next budget on how that
22 should be treated in recognition of a Space Force and the
23 reconstruction that will be occurring through the Department
24 of the Air Force.

25 Senator Cramer: It is a conversation whose time has

1 come. Thank you.

2 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Cramer.

3 Senator Peters?

4 Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 And to our witnesses, thank you for your testimony
6 today. And, General Goldfein, I would like to join some of
7 my colleagues in wishing you all the best in the years
8 ahead. It has been a pleasure working with you these past
9 years, and we will look forward to your next adventure,
10 whatever that may be.

11 Secretary Barrett, I would like to discuss the issue of
12 PFAS with you, as several of my colleagues have mentioned.
13 As you know, PFAS is very dangerous to human health, and the
14 contamination has been identified at the former Air Force
15 base at Wurtsmith in Oscoda, Michigan. It is something you
16 and I have discussed many times in my office, and I
17 appreciate your openness to that discussion. Also I have
18 discussed this with Assistant Secretary Henderson who
19 visited the former base on my invitation, and we have also
20 discussed it a great deal.

21 And I want to just say I appreciate your recent letter
22 confirming the little over \$13 million will be going towards
23 cleanup at Wurtsmith. That is \$13 million out of the \$60
24 million that we appropriated for the country. So I
25 appreciate that commitment to the former base.

1 My question to you is, could you provide me an update
2 on how the remediation money is going to be spent and will
3 that have an impact on the timeline at the former Wurtsmith
4 Air Force Base?

5 Ms. Barrett: Senator, I do not know the sequence of
6 the spending and the impact on Wurtsmith. But I know that
7 we are working closely with the communities. Our mission is
8 to preserve and protect the safety and health and to involve
9 all of government so that we have solutions that engage with
10 the needs of the community as well.

11 Senator Peters: Well, if I may ask if you could have
12 someone get back to us as to specifically how you see that
13 money spent and what the timeline would be, it certainly
14 would be very much appreciated by the community. The
15 community appreciates the additional resources and they are
16 anxious to see what the details are regarding the money.

17 Secretary Barrett, I also would like to talk to you a
18 little bit about the F-35 basing decision, something we have
19 also talked about a great deal, and the basing of F-35's at
20 the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan. Since we
21 have been in these discussions, President Trump has made a
22 number of comments, and I would like to get an update, if I
23 could, from you. President Trump recently said -- and I am
24 going to quote from President Trump -- and that is why we
25 are giving strong consideration to deploying some of our

1 mighty F-35's to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, and you
2 know what that means. Right? You know what that means.
3 That is a big deal.

4 He goes on to say, quote, so Selfridge, you are going
5 to see a lot of very fast planes. Actually they are totally
6 stealth. So maybe you will not see them coming in. Okay?
7 You will not see them come in but they are coming in. End
8 of quote.

9 That certainly got a lot of folks very interested in
10 Macomb County especially in Michigan. And I know the Air
11 Force recently finalized the environmental impact statement
12 relating to the basing decision. So I know the choice is
13 with you.

14 If you could just provide us an update on the Air
15 National Guard's F-35 basing process, where we are on it.

16 Ms. Barrett: I think as we have discussed, there is a
17 very deliberate process with criteria and a down select
18 process. We are in that process now, and therefore it is
19 inappropriate for me to go into detail about the
20 participants in the search. But we are going through a very
21 deliberative and pre-established and approved. That does
22 include an evaluation of the environmental impact, the costs
23 that are going to be required, the facilities that are
24 there, and we are looking at the community interest and
25 involvement.

1 Senator Peters: The environmental impact study has
2 been finalized, so you are well down the path.

3 Ms. Barrett: Yes, and comparing those of the various
4 contestant bases.

5 Senator Peters: Thank you.

6 And the last question. I am concerned about the recent
7 reprogramming of the \$1.3 billion from the National Guard
8 and Reserve equipment account that was reprogrammed to
9 support the construction of the southern border wall. As
10 both of you know, that funding provides the National Guard
11 resources to mitigate key readiness shortfalls. Two
12 specific programs that benefit from those funds that are
13 being shifted to the southern wall are MQ-9 upgrades to
14 support domestic operations and the KC-135 modification to
15 improve survivability. Those are two platforms that we have
16 in Michigan. The 127th wing operates eight KC-135's. The
17 110th wing supports MQ-9. And they are both, as we
18 discussed here today already, in high demand and play a
19 very, very important role in national defense. It makes me
20 skeptical as to the impact on readiness.

21 So will the Air Force reprioritize how it approaches
22 National Guard modernization priorities when these funds
23 have been reprogrammed away from key National Guard units?

24 Ms. Barrett: Senator, we will be evaluating the
25 impact. All of the deferred projects are important, but the

1 President's has declared an emergency on the southern
2 border. The Chairman has indicated there is no immediate,
3 significant strategic diminution of readiness as a result of
4 this transition. But the application of reassigning the
5 resources is -- nothing further is expected beyond what has
6 been announced.

7 Senator Peters: I am out of time. Thank you.

8 Senator Wicker: Senator McSally? I am sorry. Senator
9 Perdue scooted away from the dais, and I was looking for
10 you.

11 Senator Perdue: Well, first of all, I have used 5
12 seconds now already.

13 Senator Wicker: Reset the clock.

14 Senator Perdue: I want these two to know -- I am going
15 to say this for the public record. They know personally
16 privately how much I personally think of each of them in
17 their careers and appreciate so much each of them
18 individually. You guys are at the turning point in the U.S.
19 military right now in so many ways.

20 I just have three issues I want to get at real quick,
21 but just two quick questions. One is I think this whole
22 thing that you are in the middle of, this transition, is
23 what we have already said, visible current capability versus
24 classified replacement capability. Obsolescence -- we know
25 we have maturing assets all over the Air Force. I am very

1 concerned about one specific thing I will get in just a
2 second.

3 The second thing, in terms of the JSTARS capability
4 moving to an ABMS, picking up -- ABMS capability picking up
5 the JSTARS capability, is this whole development of new
6 technology versus an old acquisition structure. You got AI
7 in here, and AI, as I understand it -- it is machine
8 learning, so the more data you give it, the faster it
9 learns. Well, that does not necessarily fit an acquisition
10 structure.

11 So Will Roper just recently -- he is the acquisition
12 chief, as you know, Chief. We have come so far in ABMS,
13 that we realize it is bigger than just replacing the
14 capability that JSTARS provides. If get ABMS is right, you
15 just built the military's Internet of Things. That is super
16 exciting, et cetera. But this does not fit the traditional
17 acquisition structure.

18 The third thing is how do we interact. Given all of
19 that, Congress is funding -- we have an oversight called the
20 NDAA. We try to give direction. We do not want to become
21 bureaucratic. But right now, I am very concerned. So in
22 the first few months, you have had one demonstration in
23 December. You got another one coming in April. My concern
24 is in the first two gates we had -- I think it was August
25 30th or somewhere in there -- the AOA was to be completed.

1 Within 6 months after that, Secretary, you are to give us an
2 update, as I understand that. Now, I understand this is
3 somewhat fast moving.

4 And then the next thing is a briefing in January of
5 some sort here.

6 I realize this is a classified topic but, Secretary, I
7 need your commitment today that the Air Force will abide by
8 the current NDAA, the public law that exists today that
9 relates to JSTARS and ABMS, specifically section 236 and
10 section 147, and that we can expect to receive the AOA, or
11 analysis of alternatives, and the capability development
12 document. Can you commit to that today?

13 Ms. Barrett: I am not confident that I can commit to
14 it today, but we will evaluate it. And may I get back with
15 you even later today?

16 Senator Perdue: Well, absolutely, but what we are
17 talking about is a new NDAA. We are preparing for the new
18 NDAA. So if changes need to be made to the structure of
19 oversight, now is the time. You are new in this. This is
20 your first cycle. It is the Chief's last cycle. So we have
21 got the best of both worlds here, but let us get this right
22 because this cannot be an acquisition process that we wake
23 up in 3 years and realize it is 3X in cost and 10 years
24 late, just to be blunt. And it is really unacceptable that
25 we do not get these reports on time when we have asked for

1 that and we had commitments of predecessors to do that.

2 The second thing, Chief, the events that we are doing
3 now, the demonstrations, the capability that JSTARS has --
4 the two I am concerned about is GMTI, ground-moving target
5 indicators, as you have spoken before about, and then battle
6 management. We get some feedback from other services that,
7 well, we are headed in the wrong direction or we need to
8 adapt this. And so can you talk about specifically those
9 two capabilities, and then what does that mean in terms of
10 the organic force structure at Robbins to help facilitate
11 the headquarters development there of ABMS?

12 General Goldfein: Sure. I will hit the last part
13 first. There is no intent to reduce the size of the force
14 at Robbins, and we are committed to working with you on
15 that.

16 Senator Perdue: I apologize to interrupt. But you are
17 talking about the force of JSTARS. And there is a gap as
18 JSTARS matures out and you replace it with ABMS, there is a
19 gap of capability. We know it exists today. But in terms
20 of organic force structure, I accept your answer. I
21 appreciate that. Can you address the other part of that?

22 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. But to the gap, once we
23 determined that we could fly Joint STARS well into the late
24 2020s and into 2030, that actually filled the gap. So this
25 whole plan is to ensure there is no gap because there can be

1 no gap for the warfighter.

2 Senator Perdue: Very good.

3 General Goldfein: But we have to ensure that we can
4 get them this information on day one of the fight, which you
5 were very helpful.

6 What we are trying to do here is incredibly disruptive,
7 and it is disruptive in the eyes of the adversary. And so
8 what we did to bring on a new way -- this goes to your point
9 about the current acquisition system. We brought in 12
10 pioneers from industry and put them on the advanced battle
11 management system. We have the designer of Uber on our
12 payroll. And so we are using industry's best practices.
13 And industry is in here with us doing this.

14 The next demonstration we are going to do at Nellis Air
15 Force Base where all the Joint Chiefs will go to it, we are
16 going to be doing live fly connective capability at Yuma, at
17 Eglin, off the shore, at White Sands, at Nellis Air Force
18 Base. We are going to have three supported commanders, and
19 we are going to have a number of firsts. And if we do this
20 right, about 60 percent of it will work.

21 Senator Perdue: So will the next demonstration have
22 GMTI and battle management demonstrated in that
23 demonstration?

24 General Goldfein: It will but it will do it not from
25 where we want to eventually take it. It will do it in an

1 interim step.

2 Senator Perdue: Yes, sir.

3 General Goldfein: And I will just leave it at that.

4 Senator Perdue: Thank you, sir.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Perdue.

7 Next is Senator Hirono.

8 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 I add my thanks to you, General, for your service and
10 my best wishes on your impending retirement.

11 Madam Secretary, I was pleased to hear about your pitch
12 days where you encourage small businesses to pitch their
13 ideas. Where do these pitch days occur?

14 Ms. Barrett: They have been taking place around the
15 country. I attended one in San Francisco. They are in a
16 variety of cities around the country.

17 Senator Hirono: Nothing in Hawaii yet.

18 Ms. Barrett: Not that I know of.

19 Senator Hirono: Think about that.

20 Ms. Barrett: Yes, I will put that on the list.

21 Senator Hirono: I want to add my concerns to those
22 expressed by some of my colleagues about the reprogramming
23 of DOD money to go to the wall on the southern border. So I
24 just want to express that. And at some point, I think it
25 does have a negative impact on readiness and other aspects

1 of what the DOD is supposed to be focused on.

2 Madam Secretary, the National Defense Strategy
3 highlights great power competition with China and Russia and
4 it includes North Korea, Iran, and transnational violent
5 extremism. Four of these five threats are in the Indo-
6 Pacific AOR. And I am glad to see the focus on the region
7 given its growing importance to our national security.

8 What concerns you most with regard to the Indo-Pacific
9 region as the Secretary of the Air Force?

10 Ms. Barrett: A key issue there is the vastness of the
11 territory, and logistics, being prepared to position,
12 station our capabilities through that area.

13 Senator Hirono: Yes. It is the biggest AOR.

14 Do you believe then that additional assets and
15 investments are needed for the Air Force to maintain its
16 competitive advantage against our adversaries in this part
17 of the region -- or this part of the world?

18 Ms. Barrett: There is a significant review of how we
19 are positioned for the greater peer threat.

20 Senator Hirono: And when is that review going to --

21 Ms. Barrett: I think there is continual review.

22 Senator Hirono: So do you think that this review will
23 result in more concentration of certain assets in the Indo-
24 Pacific Command area?

25 Ms. Barrett: I do not want to predict the outcome of

1 it, but I would anticipate that the realities will be a
2 significant part of how those assets will be decided.

3 Senator Hirono: I hope so. General, do you agree?

4 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am. So the Chairman is
5 leading us through global integrated exercises that is
6 looking at global campaigns because a China or a Russia
7 campaign will not be confined within that geographic area of
8 responsibility. So we are working our way through what does
9 the command and control look like which is why this JADC2 is
10 so important for how we look at this new way of warfighting
11 going forward. So we are doing that review now.

12 Senator Hirono: Thank you.

13 This is for Secretary Barrett. Last fall, the Air
14 Force indicated Barking Sands, a specific missile range
15 facility, in Kauai as the preferred location for a Pacific-
16 based space controlled squadron operated by the Hawaii Air
17 National Guard. And I have not heard much else since that
18 initial announcement. Can you advise what the status of the
19 space controlled squadron is and when will the unit be
20 activated?

21 Ms. Barrett: Senator, I do not know the answer to
22 that. May I get back with you?

23 Senator Hirono: Yes, thank you.

24 So for both of you, as the Air Force prepares for a
25 future possibility of conflict with a near-peer adversary, I

1 understand you are investing in agile combat employment
2 where you would launch, recover, and maintain aircraft away
3 from main bases using partner nations, military fields, or
4 civilian airfields. Secretary Barrett, what nations in the
5 Pacific theater, if any, have been approached thus far as
6 possible locations for these agile combat employment teams
7 and assets? Or if the General would like to respond.

8 General Goldfein: Well, I would just say we are really
9 blessed that my successor has been nominated publicly, and
10 that is General Brown. And this is his concept of
11 operations that he will no doubt, if confirmed, bring into
12 the seat. I actually went to his Pacific air chiefs
13 conference, and this was a central topic of discussion. And
14 I will tell you that from the Philippines to Singapore to --
15 I mean, I could go around the region, and all of them are
16 talking about this new concept of employment.

17 Senator Hirono: Great. We will have an opportunity to
18 talk with General Brown about that.

19 General Goldfein, what are your thoughts on having the
20 C-17's at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam under operational
21 control of INDOPACOM versus TRANSCOM?

22 General Goldfein: I think the decision has been made
23 to actually chop all of the strategic lift to TRANSCOM for
24 the purposes of global mobility. And this is part of the
25 global integrated exercise. We have just been working

1 through this as well in Central Command as well. So
2 TRANSCOM through the last directive from the Chairman has
3 been given operational control of strategic lift. You know,
4 General Lyons is the one that manages that for the globe.

5 Senator Hirono: I do have some questions for the
6 record relating to how we are dealing with the issues of
7 suicide and sexual harassment. So I will submit those for
8 the record.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Hirono. We will
11 look forward to those answers on the record.

12 Senator McSally?

13 Senator McSally: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Good to see you both again and thanks for your service.
15 I appreciate all you are doing to ensure our Air Force is
16 ready for the high end fight, but we also have an obligation
17 when our troops are on the ground to have the best
18 capability overhead for combat search and rescue and close
19 air support. So on to our beloved A-10.

20 General Goldfein, is the Air Force committed to
21 complying with all laws on the books and the intent of
22 Congress related to the A-10?

23 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am, we are.

24 Senator McSally: Thanks.

25 When I first got to Congress, if they had gotten their

1 way in the last administration, we would have no A-10s
2 flying right now. So we stopped that in fiscal year 2016.
3 In fiscal year 2017, I took a different approach. I said we
4 need to make sure that we think about this as we develop the
5 F-35 and we have a thoughtful sequential approach.

6 So we required in section 134 of the fiscal year 2017
7 NDAA two reports. I wrote this and it made it into law.
8 The first was for the Director of Operational Test and
9 Evaluation to submit the F-35 IOT&E report to Congress and
10 to you. And then the second was a report by the Secretary
11 of the Air Force specifically after the IOT&E report was
12 delivered, not later than 180 days -- and I am going to read
13 this -- the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to
14 Congress and the defense committees a report that includes
15 the views of the Secretary with respect to this report,
16 including any issues or concerns -- I am kind of summarizing
17 here -- a plan for addressing any deficiencies, carrying out
18 the corrective actions, and the short-term and long-term
19 strategies for preserving capability of close air support
20 and combat search and rescue.

21 This also included the fly-off competition that I
22 mandated, and that has been conducted between the A-10 and
23 the F-35.

24 So the final paragraph in that fiscal year 2017 NDAA
25 says, the Secretary of the Air Force may not retire, prepare

1 to retire, or place in storage or on back-up aircraft
2 inventory any A-10 aircraft -- any A-10 aircraft -- until a
3 period of 90 days has elapsed following the report, the
4 second report.

5 So, first, IOT&E after the fly-off competition, then
6 the Secretary of the Air Force report. No A-10 can even be
7 planned to be put into storage. I wanted to add "thought
8 about," but we could not enforce that. But I think you get
9 the point.

10 The question is -- and these are just kind of yes and
11 no, General Goldfein, have you received the initial
12 operation test evaluation report for the F-35?

13 General Goldfein: No, ma'am.

14 Senator McSally: And neither have we. So you have not
15 been able to then inform any planning by the Secretary for
16 the second report because we do not yet have the first
17 report. Right?

18 General Goldfein: Correct.

19 Senator McSally: So this committee and the Air Force
20 does not have any plan for addressing deficiencies
21 potentially from the IOT&E report.

22 General Goldfein: Correct.

23 Senator McSally: And also we do not have the plan for
24 corrective action. Right?

25 And finally, neither the Air Force or the committee has

1 the Air Force's short-term and long-term strategies for
2 preserving close air support and combat search and rescue.
3 Correct?

4 General Goldfein: Right.

5 Senator McSally: So based on your answers and based on
6 the law we wrote, I just think it is premature to plan to
7 retire even one A-10, never mind the 44 that are planned to
8 retire in this year's budget. So how do you justify the
9 planning starting for this when we have not met the intent
10 of the law yet?

11 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am. The DOT&E report -- the
12 fly-off is complete. They are holding that report until
13 they deliberate. The director informed me that he would
14 deliver that to this subcommittee in September, the first
15 month of the fiscal year. We understand the timeline that
16 is in the law, and we will absolutely comply with the law.

17 What we put in the budget was where we will need to
18 work with you on because -- and the question is timing, as
19 you brought up. Will there be time in that fiscal year to
20 be able to move forward on any retirements and still be in
21 compliance with the law? So that was our thinking.

22 Senator McSally: Yes, I got it. Look, we made it, I
23 thought, very clear, like we should not even start having a
24 conversation to plan anything related to the floor we have
25 of the number of A-10 now until this is all complete. So

1 what is your plan going forward related to the A-10?

2 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am. I will tell you
3 straight up. You saved the A-10. Nobody else can make that
4 claim. And as a result of your efforts and the efforts of
5 this committee, we are putting almost a billion dollars into
6 the A-10. We are going to be doing the wings, the avionics,
7 the radios, and we are going to keep that airplane in the
8 inventory flying well into the 2030s.

9 The challenge we faced is what I said in my opening
10 statement, which is we have to transition to the future
11 while we are continuing to apply fire power against the
12 current fight. There is no better weapon system to do that
13 than the A-10. So the investment that we are making is a
14 good investment. We just got to take a look at what the
15 cost would be if we keep the entire fleet, and that is what
16 we have got to work with you on to do that.

17 Senator McSally: And we will. Thanks.

18 In my remaining time, I want to talk about the
19 President recently reprogrammed resources. Look, as a
20 veteran, as a border Senator, we need to support our
21 military and secure our border. These should not be choices
22 and obstruction to stop happening.

23 But I want to specifically ask about the F-35, the
24 money that is being reprogrammed. You know, we plused up.
25 From your 48, we plused up 14. So we funded 62. What is

1 the impact on the Air Force F-35 and specifically any impact
2 to Luke Air Force Base?

3 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am. There will be no impact
4 to Luke Air Force Base. The money that was diverted was for
5 long lead items for aircraft that actually did not come
6 through in the budget. So we put 12 in the unfunded request
7 for this year, but that was long lead items for certain
8 parts. It was not procurement for the aircraft. So no
9 impact on Luke.

10 Senator McSally: So we are still going to have 62 come
11 off the production line this year.

12 General Goldfein: Yes, ma'am.

13 Senator McSally: Great. Thank you. Appreciate it.

14 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator McSally.

15 General, did your attorneys advise you that you are
16 compliant with Senator McSally's provisions in the NDAA with
17 regard to the A-10?

18 General Goldfein: Sir, they did, and they did that
19 based on again time. The fact that the report that Senator
20 McSally is referring to was going to be delivered in the
21 first month of the fiscal year and the number of months
22 ahead of that, there was time to work with this committee on
23 the retirement of those aircraft in this timeline.

24 Senator Wicker: Thank you. And thank you, Senator
25 McSally.

1 Senator Manchin?

2 Senator Manchin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 And thank both of you for your service and
4 congratulations on your retirement, General. Some day I
5 hope to be there.

6 Anyway, as you can imagine, the 13 States that qualify
7 for the C-130J recapitalization as appropriated in fiscal
8 year 2017 and 2019 are eager to hear where the Air Force is
9 in this process. Our staffs were told in November we would
10 get some kind of an update this winter. It has not come
11 yet.

12 In the meantime, I have inquired about the Air Force's
13 strategic basing scoring process for the decision both
14 because I am interested from an oversight perspective and as
15 someone who has to prioritize what I push for as an
16 authorizer and an appropriator. I asked the Air Force if
17 Congress would be allowed to know the score of its National
18 Guard location particularly as it relates to others, and I
19 was told no. The Air Force responded to my request for
20 information the strategic basing process uses score sheets
21 to determine a location's viability for a basing bed-down
22 decision.

23 However, the score sheets alone do not provide the full
24 context of decision criteria and are no longer used in the
25 basing process once candidate locations have been selected.

1 Once selected, site surveys are conducted in each candidate
2 location as part of the holistic assessment of its
3 suitability. The Secretary of the Air Force also leverages
4 inputs from Air Force corporate leaders, Chief of Staff, and
5 military judgment.

6 I understand what you need to do what is best for the
7 Air Force, and we all need to support you to do what is best
8 for the Air Force. And I am not one who ascribes, just
9 because I have something in my State, that is the best. If
10 they are not performing, I am the first to say either get
11 with it or get out of it.

12 So with that being said, I am very proud of the 130th
13 air wing in Charleston where we score really high on the
14 score sheet, but might not be selected. So I want to make
15 sure that we have a fair shot at this.

16 So my question to you, Madam Secretary, is the Air
17 Force needs to show its work. Do you understand the Air
18 Force process limiting my ability to do oversight? And do
19 you think it is too subjective what I am asking in response?

20 Ms. Barrett: Senator, the process is a complex one and
21 goes through a variety of criteria, some of which are not
22 easily measurable in quantifiable terms.

23 Senator Manchin: If I could just say -- I do not mean
24 to interrupt you, but time is limited. In that, I know any
25 type of performance is based on past performance, how well

1 the readiness, maintenance, being able to complete the
2 missions, and that is what I think to me would be at the top
3 of the list of looking if they have been performing, not
4 just saying I am going to do it better if you do this for
5 me, but have they performed in the past. We are hoping that
6 is a high score too, but we would like to see that.

7 Ms. Barrett: Past performance is deeply valued, and
8 West Virginia has demonstrated their ability to produce and
9 perform. So we appreciate it very much.

10 The criteria are spelled out for the initial cut, and
11 then there are site visits and things that are lot less --

12 Senator Manchin: Will we be able to see any of that as
13 an appropriator and as legislators? Will be able to see the
14 process you are going through, or is that not available?

15 Ms. Barrett: I do not know whether it has been made
16 available in the past, but I would be happy to take a
17 look --

18 Senator Manchin: Would you consider that? Maybe you
19 could get back with me on that?

20 Ms. Barrett: I would be happy to.

21 Senator Manchin: First of all, I want to say I am for
22 the wall. I am just not for the executive branch
23 appropriating money as they see fit. And here is my
24 concern. What really angers me is the \$1.3 billion cut from
25 the National Guard and Reserve equipment account; \$205

1 million, which is cut from the Air Force Reserve; \$395
2 million cut from the Air National Guard.

3 So, Secretary, I would ask you, did you agree to the
4 reprogramming request or were you involved in that decision?

5 Ms. Barrett: The Air Force worked with the Department
6 of Defense to minimize the disruption that would be caused
7 by the reappropriation of those funds.

8 Senator Manchin: Were Governors and the TAGs -- were
9 they consulted on the reprogramming?

10 Senator Manchin: I do not think they were.

11 Senator Manchin: Yes, I do not think so. From what we
12 are hearing, they were not either.

13 The reprogramming of the \$365 million. That is four
14 fewer C-130J's for fiscal year 2020, affect the ability to
15 support TRANSCOM airlift missions in the event of a
16 conflict. It really puts us in jeopardy and behind the 8
17 ball there because we are flying O-H's now, and we are
18 hoping that you are going to refurbish them with new
19 avionics, propellers, and engines and things that need to be
20 done. We are behind. I am really concerned about this.

21 General, you might want to state on that I guess what
22 are your plans to ensure there are no gaps in readiness.

23 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. I will tell you that we
24 are right now still working through the impacts. And the
25 Chairman was asked to give his assessment of the impacts on

1 not only readiness but the strategic ability to defend the
2 nation, and I think you saw his response and that is where
3 the Joint Chiefs are.

4 Senator Manchin: Well, there is no doubt there is
5 going to be an impact. We all know that. How severe is
6 going to be -- we will be back here next year, if money is
7 taken again from what we appropriate, we go through and do
8 our job, and then all of a sudden it vanishes and we are
9 back to square one again. I do not have a problem voting
10 for the wall. I sure have a problem with money being taken
11 for what is needed for us to defend our country.

12 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Manchin.

13 Senator Hawley?

14 Senator Hawley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Madam Secretary, General, thank you for being here.
16 Thank you for your service.

17 General, let me start with you. My home State of
18 Missouri is very excited and proud to receive the B-21,
19 which will form a critical part of our nuclear triad and
20 also our conventional global strike capability.

21 Let me ask you this, how do you envision the B-21
22 helping to defeat a Chinese fait accompli scenario involving
23 Taiwan when you consider both its nuclear and its
24 conventional capabilities?

25 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. You know, very often I

1 tell my slide builders, the next slide I see that has a big
2 red dome over China or Russia, I am going to execute choke
3 on on the slide builder. China cannot put a big red block
4 of wood over itself. It can put a block of Swiss cheese
5 over itself, and our job is to know where the holes are and
6 how to get in and how to hold targets at risk. That is what
7 the B-21 does.

8 Senator Hawley: Let me ask you about the number. You
9 previously stated, General, that the Air Force requires at
10 least -- I think your words were -- at a minimum 100 B-21's.
11 You have also said you are in lockstep with various analyses
12 showing the Air Force may need more than 100 B-21's. So
13 give us your best estimate. How many B-21's does the Air
14 Force actually require to cover now and above its nuclear
15 and conventional missions?

16 General Goldfein: Our assessment -- and that has been
17 backed up by independent assessments -- is that a moderate
18 risk force is 220 bombers, of which 145 would be B-21's.

19 Senator Hawley: Very good. Thank you.

20 General, Missouri is also home to the 139th airlift
21 wing, which does incredible work to ensure that the joint
22 force has the tactical airlift it needs. We are very proud
23 of that as well. Can you tell us how you see the Air
24 National Guard airlift with units like the 139th enabling
25 distributed operations in the Indo-Pacific and Europe?

1 General Goldfein: That unit, like all of our Guard
2 units -- that is one of the beauties of the way the Air
3 Force is organized. You know, when I have traveled around
4 as the Air Component Commander in Central Command, I would
5 go to the cockpit of a C-17 or a C-130, and I would say,
6 okay, who is active, who is Guard, who is Reserve? And all
7 three hands would go up. Such is the nature of how we are
8 integrated.

9 We could not do the nation's business without our Guard
10 and Reserve. Could not do it.

11 Senator Hawley: Let me ask you about modernizing the
12 C-130H and the expanding number of C-130J's. How might
13 doing those things for the Air National Guard enable those
14 units to support the kind of operations we have been talking
15 about?

16 General Goldfein: Well, both in the C-130J, which is
17 just a phenomenal weapon system -- I think we are running
18 out of letters in the alphabet for the C-130. So the C-130J
19 is just incredible. And the upgrades we are doing on the
20 C-130H with the new avionics is going to keep that weapon
21 system flying as well.

22 And when we get back to Senator Hirono's point about
23 agile combat employment, part of your ability to be able to
24 move to win is your tactical lift. And so we are taking a
25 fresh look at where do the C-130's live and how do they play

1 relative to being able to move very quickly around a
2 battlefield. I think that is going to become more important
3 as we go forward.

4 Senator Hawley: Very good.

5 Let me ask you about the LRASM missiles. The fiscal
6 year 2021 budget, General, says the Air Force is planning to
7 buy, I think, 129 LRASMs between now and fiscal year 2025.
8 I am just curious. Does the Air Force have any other
9 advanced anti-ship weapons in its inventory besides the
10 LRASMs?

11 General Goldfein: That is the only one I can talk
12 about in the unclassified realm. And I will tell you, sir,
13 that the munitions story is actually a really good news
14 story. Based on additional money that was given to us, we
15 have been able to grow the munitions bins and some preferred
16 munitions in ways that we have not done for years. Just to
17 give you an example, in fiscal year 2018, we were at 44
18 percent for JDAMs. We are now at 88 percent. So just to
19 give you an example of how we have done the munitions bins.

20 Senator Hawley: Let me ask you just about the LRASMs
21 in particular. Considering the vital role that they play,
22 particularly in defeating Chinese surface forces, do you
23 think 129 is enough? Do we need to be buying more?

24 General Goldfein: We always need to be buying more.
25 Sir, I will tell you that we balanced that against all the

1 other requirements. Right now, I will tell you that some of
2 the lowest stock numbers we have are in air-to-air missiles,
3 and so we have been focusing there recently.

4 Senator Hawley: Let me ask you -- General, shifting
5 topics just slightly. Over the last 5 years, the Air Force
6 has, I think, pretty dramatically improved its ability to
7 conduct distributed operations in the European theater. Is
8 it fair to say that a lot of those improvements were made
9 possible by the European Deterrence Initiative? Is that a
10 fair statement?

11 General Goldfein: Yes.

12 Senator Hawley: Can you just speak just briefly about
13 how EDI has helped the Air Force adopt a more resilient
14 posture in Europe?

15 General Goldfein: So the Army focused on prepositioned
16 stocks. We focused on access and basing because an air
17 force is expected in the operational plan to arrive quickly
18 because we can fly into theater, halt enemy activity, and
19 stabilize the situation for follow-on activity. So
20 therefore we need bases that we can operate from. So we put
21 our money into access and basing, and that has allowed us to
22 have a much larger footprint.

23 Senator Hawley: Thank you for that.

24 And I will just say, Mr. Chairman, this is why I
25 continue to believe that something similar to a dedicated

1 funding stream is vital for INDOPACOM. Thank you.

2 Thank you, General. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

3 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Hawley.

4 Senator King?

5 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I am not sure to whom to address this question, but I
7 am curious about \$77 million for Space Force OCO. I think
8 of OCO as overseas contingency operations. Are we 77
9 million people up in space? I am just curious. What is the
10 \$77 million for OCO for Space Force?

11 Ms. Barrett: Well, in just our conference, it seems
12 likely that is places like Thule, the Arctic. Alaska is
13 considered OCO. So those would be --

14 Senator King: People manning space-related facilities?
15 Is that what we are talking about?

16 Ms. Barrett: So the space-related facilities and the
17 manning of them.

18 Senator King: If you could give me a little more
19 robust information, I would appreciate it.

20 Ms. Barrett: I would be happy to.

21 Senator King: Madam Secretary, how are we doing on the
22 sustainment cost of the F-35? Are we going to be able to
23 afford to keep it?

24 Ms. Barrett: It is one of the topics of great
25 attention. It is being driven down, but it is, from our

1 perspective, too slowly and still too high. We have a
2 commitment that by the year 2025, it would be at \$25,000 per
3 hour, and we anticipate that that will be achieved.

4 Senator King: But you continue to make this a
5 priority? It is a serious ongoing issue. We are not going
6 to be able to sustain this important asset indefinitely at
7 the kind of costs that we are talking about now.

8 Ms. Barrett: Agreed.

9 General Goldfein: Sir, if I could jump in as well. So
10 I met with the CEO for Lockheed Martin and all the CEOs who
11 are partners in this and told them that the current flying
12 hour costs are unaffordable, and the sustainment enterprise
13 was not scaled to the size of the fleet. So we worked
14 through about a 3 to 4-month sprint both with the Joint
15 Program Office and the company, and I went to Lockheed and
16 walked through all the things they are doing in the
17 sustainment enterprise. And I will tell you that they made
18 some significant changes to the point where I am more
19 confident that we are going to be able to drive to that
20 lower flying hour cost than we were 6 months ago.

21 Senator King: Could you supply for the committee some
22 data and material on this issue?

23 General Goldfein: Yes, sir.

24 Senator King: Because I think it is one we just do not
25 want to let it get away from us.

1 General Goldfein: I would be happy to.

2 Senator King: Madam Secretary, I noticed there is an
3 increase in end strength of about 1,500 people. I hope some
4 of those are maintenance personnel because I understand that
5 is a bottleneck in terms of readiness. How are we doing on
6 maintenance personnel, techs to keep these airplanes flying?

7 Ms. Barrett: Historically that has been a confining
8 topic. Some good news is that in the active duty force, our
9 maintainers are up to speed. At this point, we are still
10 working on the Guard and Reserve account.

11 Senator King: How are we doing on recruiting? Are you
12 meeting goals? General?

13 General Goldfein: We are, sir.

14 And the good news on that on the maintenance is we have
15 actually filled in what was a 4,000 shortfall. We got that
16 down to zero. We still have some work to do in the Guard
17 and Reserve on maintainers.

18 When it comes to recruiting, we are meeting our
19 numbers. One of the things we have done recently is we have
20 gone to total force recruiting. We pooled Guard and Reserve
21 and active into one recruiting command, and so now when you
22 go to a strip mall, you do not see three different
23 storefronts. You see one, United States Air Force.
24 Because, quite frankly, for the Secretary and I, when a
25 young man or woman wants to join the Air Force, we do not

1 really care which component they join. They are joining us.

2 Senator King: Because we have an integrated force in
3 reality.

4 General Goldfein: Because it is an integrated force.

5 Senator King: Now, the Army is doing some work on
6 diversifying the geography of their recruiting. As you
7 know, in New England or in the northeast, there are very few
8 military facilities left, and we really do not want the
9 military to be regionalized. Are you attending to that
10 issue?

11 General Goldfein: We are, sir. And we are also
12 looking at it especially through how do we hire civilians.
13 You gave us authority to direct hire civilians faster, and
14 so this is a competitive market. This is a fight for
15 talent. And so now with those authorities, we are able to
16 go to universities, many of them in New England, and direct
17 hire folks into the Air Force. And especially I think as
18 Chief Raymond looks at how he builds the Space Force, there
19 are some really creative things that we might be able to do
20 there with the authorities that you have given us.

21 Senator King: I appreciate that. And if you need
22 additional authorities or if there are other bottlenecks,
23 let us know.

24 One final question. General Lyons was here a week or 2
25 ago and talked about the impending gap in refueling

1 capacity, which he identified as one of the most serious
2 threats that we face. We cannot project power unless we
3 have refueling capacity. Is there a plan? How are we going
4 to meet that 5 to 7-year problem that appears to be
5 imminent?

6 General Goldfein: So the first thing is, in terms of
7 mitigation, we have committed to him and the Secretary of
8 Defense that if we were in a major contingency, every KC-46
9 would be put into the fight. We are comfortable that it is
10 capable of doing operations in a high end fight.

11 Senator King: Even with the deficiency.

12 General Goldfein: Even with the deficiency. I would
13 not put it into day-to-day operations, but I would put it in
14 a high end fight.

15 And when we took a look at the retirement numbers, what
16 we are talking about is 3 percent of the entire KC-135
17 fleet. And we are managing risk across the board. We are
18 managing shortages in bombers, tankers, ISR, fighters,
19 command and control. And so tankers is one area that we are
20 having to manage. And so that is why in the beginning, I
21 mentioned that that was one of the most difficult decisions
22 we had to make end game was to ask for us to take risk in
23 the tanker business.

24 Senator King: I appreciate -- and I had asked some
25 General Lyons some further backup on the plans --

1 General Goldfein: Yes.

2 Senator King: -- because for want of a nail, the horse
3 was lost -- you know, the battle. We do not want to lose a
4 battle because we cannot get our airmen and their horses to
5 the battlefield.

6 General Goldfein: Yes, sir.

7 Senator King: Thank you.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Senator Wicker: General, we talked about this earlier,
10 and Senator King brought it back up. The Ranking Member and
11 I are just wondering. The refueling can be done. It is
12 just trickier?

13 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. So I flew in the airplane
14 twice, and let me describe it for you.

15 Senator Wicker: Did you do a refueling?

16 General Goldfein: We did. Actually I refueled a C-17.
17 I got to fly the remote visual system, got to see it in all
18 different lighting conditions.

19 And so there are operational workarounds that allow me
20 to tell you that I would put it in the fight, but I would
21 not accept that aircraft today in terms of what we are
22 paying the company to deliver. And so what happens is that
23 the receptacle on the airplane, at the last 10 feet or so as
24 you are now trying to connect with an airplane, the last 10
25 feet, it is difficult for the boom operator to actually

1 focus in and see those last 10 feet. So we are seeing more
2 strikes around the receptacle before it actually plugs in.

3 The worse case conditions would be blue skies, sun at
4 your back because what happens is there is a glare that now
5 bounces off the airplane that makes it harder to see. Well,
6 you check about 20 degrees away, and you can mitigate that
7 risk. But I ought not be having to mitigate that risk in
8 daily operations. We ought to get what we paid for.

9 Senator King: Mr. Chairman, I flew the boom on a
10 tanker once.

11 Senator Wicker: That does not give me a comfort level.

12 Senator King: No. It will because there was not
13 another airplane attached.

14 [Laughter.]

15 Senator Wicker: If the other Senators will defer to
16 Senator Reed.

17 Senator Reed: Just to very briefly. There are two
18 aspects to this. One is flying the tanker. The other is
19 the aircraft that is approaching to refuel.

20 General Goldfein: Right.

21 Senator Reed: And if we are not training on a regular
22 basis these aircraft to refuel with the KC-46, to suddenly
23 put it into the fight is not going to be particularly
24 effective because all the other aircraft will be coming up
25 there for the first time, and it will be a problem.

1 General Goldfein: These airplanes, though, sir, will
2 be involved in tests. So they will be doing refueling as we
3 work through the tests of the fix that we are hoping to get
4 to. So we would not be starting nor would I put a crew in
5 that was not trained for the mission. In terms of
6 mitigation on why we would retire some tankers, part of the
7 mitigation is that we would put the KC-46 into the fight.

8 Senator Reed: This is a continuing conversation, but
9 the concern I have, just briefly, is that in the fight,
10 which will be sudden and quick and now these aircraft, the
11 KC-46, is suddenly a primary refueler, you would have
12 literally hundreds of aircraft and pilots who have never
13 approached this before. And that is not the way you usually
14 operate.

15 Senator Wicker: They would have in training. Would
16 they not?

17 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. But I will tell you if
18 you are up at the receiver, quite frankly I have refueled on
19 every different kind of tanker out there, plus I have
20 refueled on remote visual systems off a Dutch tanker. When
21 you are on the receiving end, all you need is a stable boom.
22 And because you are training on refueling all the time, the
23 boom is the boom is the boom. It is not going to matter
24 that much for the receiver. We just got to make sure that
25 when that fighter, bomber, what have you comes off and they

1 are low on gas and they are in really bad territory like I
2 have been that that connection happens and they get the fuel
3 passed that they need.

4 Senator Reed: Thank you.

5 Senator Wicker: Thank you for allowing us to interject
6 there.

7 Senator Sullivan?

8 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 And, General Goldfein, I do want to thank you, like
10 many others, for your exceptional service to our nation. I
11 think you are going to be sorely missed, and you really,
12 really, really have done a great job. I do hope you come
13 back. And I appreciated the breakfast and the briefings
14 just a couple of weeks ago as well.

15 And, Madam Secretary, we look forward to getting you to
16 Alaska, hosting you. The whole State is looking forward to
17 having you up there. You will see why Billy Mitchell called
18 it the most strategic place in the world, see our great
19 airmen and JPARC. And you can probably see Russia too if it
20 is a clear day. So we are really looking forward to that.

21 I am going to continue the theme here on the KC-46.
22 This might be a really dumb, basic question, but for now,
23 just following up on this discussion we just had, like is
24 there any way to just take the boom hardware from the
25 KC-135? I mean, that works. You cannot do that as an

1 interim replacement until they figure out what the heck --
2 you know, as Senator Shaheen said, time is of the essence.
3 You said it. But 4 years does not seem like time is of the
4 essence. Is there no fix to help? I mean, the KC-135 is a
5 workhorse. It works pretty well.

6 General Goldfein: Sir, there is no option to just
7 swapping the boom because the boom is not the problem. The
8 visual system that allows the boom operator to be able to
9 connect with the receiver is the problem. So what we have
10 to have --

11 Senator Sullivan: You cannot use a KC-135.

12 General Goldfein: No.

13 Senator Sullivan: Okay.

14 General Goldfein: No, because in the 135 there is a
15 huge window in the back where the boom operator is laying
16 down looking at --

17 Senator Sullivan: Let me ask on the other issue. You
18 will not be surprised to hear my continuing advocacy on the
19 issue, but it is not just me. On the OCONUS bed-down
20 decision on the KC-46. You know, this committee has weighed
21 in in a number of NDAA's -- so the Congress has weighed in
22 because they become law -- talking about characteristics.
23 And, General Goldfein, I raised this in the last hearing.
24 You know, strategic location, the ability to serve several
25 COCOMs, how the air combat power, 24/7 NORAD mission that

1 routinely intercepts Russian bombers, world class training,
2 three Red Flag exercises a year, 100 fifth generation
3 fighters, C-17, C-130's, F-16's. These are all
4 characteristics that this committee has said are important.

5 I just had breakfast this morning with the SECDEF. He
6 in his confirmation hearing mentioned that you collocate 100
7 fifth gen fighters and KC-46's in a very strategic location,
8 that would send the message of extreme strategic reach to
9 our adversaries, particularly our great power adversaries.

10 Do either of you care to comment on this upcoming
11 decision as it relates to these congressionally mandated
12 characteristics, which certainly favor in my view one of the
13 locations you are looking at?

14 Ms. Barrett: My ability -- in the line of decision-
15 making, I will await the input and analysis. But those, no
16 doubt, are going to be elements that will be considered.

17 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

18 Just building on that -- and again, General Lyons
19 recently testified -- it just last week I think. And as you
20 have already heard, he said the air refueling fleet -- that
21 is the most stressed capability and number one readiness
22 concern, the ability to deploy the force across all national
23 defense strategy mission areas.

24 Again, to me, if you put the KC-46's in a place that
25 can strategically reach not just PACOM, but PACOM, EUCOM,

1 STRATCOM, NORTHCOM, which is what Alaska presents, it helps
2 with that stress. I think that is actually an important
3 concern.

4 Would either of you care to comment on that? He did in
5 the classified briefing, just for the record. You can take
6 a look at what he said, which was I think along the lines of
7 what I have been arguing.

8 General Goldfein: No, sir. I would align with that.

9 Senator Sullivan: Madam Secretary, do you want to wave
10 that one off too?

11 Ms. Barrett: No further comment on it.

12 Senator Sullivan: Just as you are making the decision,
13 take a look at his testimony also I think helps.

14 General Goldfein and Madam Secretary, I just want one
15 final quick question on the JPARC and the fifth gen center
16 of excellence. You know, I just asked my staff. I did not
17 know that numbers are this big, but as you probably know,
18 JPARC is 13 times larger than Nellis, and as we have
19 increasing offsets that are needed for good training with
20 the fifth gen aircraft and the ability to expand that air
21 space, which in Alaska we are doing, and it is not that
22 controversial as it is in the Lower 48 to expand air space.
23 Can you comment on that?

24 General Goldfein: Sure. I will just say it is
25 critical strategic terrain, and the larger air space becomes

1 more important as we end up engaging at longer ranges, which
2 is what fifth generation is all about and what comes after
3 that. So I see actually more of an effort to ensure that we
4 can replicate the higher end threat at JPARC and Nellis and
5 Utah in these ranges.

6 The good news is that software-defined radios are
7 giving us more inexpensive ways of replicating higher end
8 threats, which has been challenging in the past. So one of
9 the things we are looking at right now is how do we scale
10 very quickly in that range space to put a robust array out
11 to be able to replicate a high end threat. And I think over
12 the next couple of years we are going to be able to do it.

13 Senator Sullivan: Great. Thank you.

14 Senator Wicker: Thank you, Senator Sullivan.

15 Senator Tillis?

16 Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Thank you both for being here. And, General Goldfein,
18 I wish you the very best in what I hope is just a change of
19 jobs, not a real retirement.

20 But I want to start back maybe on the KC-46. We know
21 we are going to have some down at Seymour Johnson. We have
22 got the hangar project. I know that it was originally
23 slated for later this year -- where we are with the hangar
24 project, where we are with the deployment. And there was
25 one project that was affected with some of the reprogramming

1 of the MILCON money. I think it was a relatively low dollar
2 item, but I believe it did have to do with the ultimate
3 deployment of the tankers. So if I can get an update on
4 that, I would appreciate it.

5 General Goldfein: Yes, sir. Right now I have not been
6 briefed that it would have any impact on the bed-down
7 timing, but let me take that to make sure. And can I get
8 back to you?

9 Senator Tillis: Yes. I know at the time that we were
10 going through those discussions, it did not look like it was
11 on the critical path. I would like to know when it would be
12 as we work to backfill that funding. Thank you.

13 I know that we recently, I think as recently as last
14 week, put out the tenant bill of rights for our military
15 housing situation. It looks like it may be a good start,
16 but there are some who feel like it needs to go further.
17 Can you give me an update specifically with Air Force, what
18 progress we are making and what priority this is for you.
19 Secretary Barrett?

20 Ms. Barrett: It is a very high priority. My first
21 visit as Secretary was to go to a base and to do a walk-
22 through of housing. I have gone through a number of base
23 housing facilities and have been very much involved in this
24 process.

25 We signed out the bill of rights, but only 15 of the 18

1 elements. The three elements that were not on the bill of
2 rights, in contrast with what were the directed 18, were
3 three things that we could not unilaterally do. They were
4 mandate the disclosure of maintenance records back 7 years.
5 In some cases, there are not 7 years of records, so we have
6 to work on that. The dispute resolution technique, because
7 again in some cases the housing provider has bonds that they
8 cannot reach in the dispute resolution process. And the
9 third item is withholding of the rent. So those three items
10 we are working through as a contractual matter, and we will
11 anticipate having solutions to those as well as time goes
12 on.

13 In the meantime, we are withholding payments to these
14 contractors, in some cases, significant amounts of payments.
15 So there is a financial involvement. We I believe do have
16 their attention at this point, and there is apparently a
17 good faith effort to move this forward.

18 Senator Tillis: Very good. After the NDAA, I know
19 that you all tried to move forward with the promulgation of
20 the tenant bill of rights. We are looking for feedback on
21 additional things that we should put into this NDAA to help
22 us get rid of what I think is an unacceptable situation with
23 a lot of our military families in housing. So thank you for
24 that.

25 One other parochial issue and if I have time, I may

1 have one other question, otherwise I will submit it for the
2 record. North Carolina has the most historically black
3 colleges and universities in the Nation. We have 11. We
4 have the largest at NCA&T, and we have the most affordable
5 down at Elizabeth City State. And they have got a program
6 specifically focused on aviation science. They are doing a
7 good job there. They have got a great collaboration with
8 the Coast Guard. We are working right now to help out with
9 maybe some runway upgrades, and they also have the college
10 student pre-commissioning initiative there that I think has
11 been very good for talent building.

12 One thing that I would be interested in getting your
13 commitment to is just considering whether or not we could
14 have an Air Force ROTC program down there, just to take a
15 look at it. I had some of my staff down visiting with the
16 chancellor recently. It is an impressive program. We have
17 got a record of collaboration with the Coast Guard and I
18 would like you all to give that a look. Can I get your
19 commitment to take a look at that?

20 Ms. Barrett: Full commitment.

21 Senator Tillis: Thank you.

22 Last thing. I will submit the question I had on the
23 EQ-4 and some movement to manned versus unmanned platforms
24 for the record.

25 I got a great briefing from the Army on their taking

1 advantage of some of the provisions in the NDAA around
2 talent management. They look like they are really moving
3 aggressively. Can you all give me an idea of how we are
4 going to look a year from now or in the coming months with
5 the Air Force?

6 General Goldfein: Sir, we are going through the
7 largest overhaul of our officer talent management and
8 enlisted talent management since about the early 1980s. So
9 not only are we using technology for the purposes of
10 managing career paths, but we have busted the single line of
11 the Air Force promotion category into six categories. We
12 are defining what behaviors that we desire and what
13 constitutes a competitive career for the purposes of
14 promotion. So a year from now, it is not going to look
15 anything like it does today.

16 Senator Tillis: Good. If we can get an opportunity, I
17 would love to have maybe a briefing in the office. I
18 thought it was very helpful for us to do that. We can get
19 into greater detail.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Thank you both.

22 Senator Wicker: And thank you, Senator Tillis.

23 Thank you to our distinguished witnesses. We look
24 forward to continue working with you.

25 And this marks the conclusion of our hearing, and the

1 hearing is now adjourned.

2 [Whereupon, at 11:37 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25