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HEARING
ON
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022
AND
OVERSIGHT OF PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED
PROGRAMS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING
ON
**THE FISCAL YEAR 2022
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

HEARING HELD
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**THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 11:00 a.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Adam Smith (chairman of the committee) presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ADAM SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The CHAIRMAN. This morning our full committee hearing is on the fiscal year 2022 National Defense Authorization budget request for the Department of the Army. And we are joined by the Honorable Christine Wormuth, who is the Secretary of the Army, not an acting Secretary—this is a momentous day for us, so appreciate to have you here and congratulations on your confirmation and appointment—and General James McConville, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

We are still doing a hybrid hearing, which means some members, as you will see, are participating virtually, and we have rules for that. So I will read those rules, and then we will get started.

Members who are joining remotely must be visible on screen for the purposes of identity verification, establishing and maintaining a quorum, participating in the proceeding, and voting. Those members must continue to use the software platform video function while in attendance unless they experience connectivity issues or other technical problems that render them unable to participate on camera. If a member experiences technical difficulties, they should contact the committee staff for assistance.

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ware platform's chat feature to communicate with staff regarding technical or logistical support issues only.

And, finally, I have designated a committee staff member to, if necessary, mute unrecognized members' microphones to cancel any inadvertent background noise that may disrupt the proceeding.

Thank you.

And greetings. We are—this is our last of the service posture hearing reviews, and there have been some themes that have been continuous throughout this. I think the biggest thing that I am interested in this morning is the Army's modernization effort, starting with the night court and the blank slate review. There has been an intense effort—and not just by the Army; we have spoken with the other services as well—to modernize the force, to recognize changes in technology, changes in warfare, and to make sure that we are funding the appropriate systems to meet those modernization needs and also preparing the force in terms of readiness and training to meet those needs, and we would look forward to hearing from both of you how that process is going, and then, really, the specifics.

What does that mean? I mean, it all sounds good. You always want to do what is new and best, but what does it mean in terms of how it is going to change the way we prepare to deter adversaries and the way that we would ultimately fight if we had to?

And what is it in terms of where we need to be spending our money and not spending our money? Putting meat on those bones I think is one of the most important things that our committee is trying to wrestle with as we get ready to pass the NDAA [National Defense Authorization Act] for this year.

Second, back focused on the force, the Fort Hood report that came out, the continued concerns about sexual assault, again, across the Pentagon, not just in the Army; but, in particular, you know, Fort Hood was a particular problem that a report was filed on, that really examined what is going on with how we are treating our soldiers and protecting them.

As you know, there are a number of proposals, particularly specific to sexual assault, that this committee is considering in part as a way to address those issues. And I would be very curious to hear your comments about how you think we can best do that.

And also this will come up, so I will go ahead and mention it, the efforts to deal with systemic racism in issues in the force. We know that Secretary Austin has made this a priority. This committee has made this a priority. We had a number of provisions in last year's bill that were focused on addressing equality within the services and some adverse impacts that have been discovered in terms of administration of the UCMJ [Uniform Code of Military Justice] and also in terms of promotion. So we would be curious to hear how you are addressing that issue.

And to be clear, I think it is an issue that needs to be addressed. We have been consumed with the debate over critical race theory, but that is not really the point. The point is we have systemic racism in this country. How are we going to address it? I will be clear, from what I understand about critical race theory, that is not the way we should be addressing it. It is not the way Secretary Austin is addressing it.

So we need to have that discussion and figure out how best to approach that because this is a real problem and a real challenge. We are a Nation that is increasingly diverse, where communities of color are growing in numbers. That should be reflected in the force. In many ways it is, but it should also be reflected in promotions. It should be reflected in leadership. It should be reflected in opportunities. And it certainly should be reflected in a fair and equitable way that punishment and rewards are administered within the service, and I would be really curious about how we are progressing on that and the direction we are taking on those issues.

And, finally, there is the top line budget. There is a lot of controversy on this committee about that. It is my opinion that the President's budget is more than adequate to meet our national security needs. I have often expressed the opinion that sometimes a tighter budget actually gets a better result and incentivizes people to find the right answers that they need to find in what is always going to be a resource constrained environment. I think we are in the right place on that. Not everybody agrees. But I would be curious to hear, you know, your arguments for why you think this budget is adequate for your needs and how you are going to go about doing that.

And with that, I will turn it over to the ranking member for his opening statement.

STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE ROGERS, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALABAMA, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank the Secretary and General McConville for being here, and it is very helpful, and we appreciate your time and effort.

This is, as the chairman said, our last posture review hearing. Each of these hearings has made one thing very clear: The President's defense budget is woefully inadequate. It falls far short of providing our warfighters the resources they need to carry out their mission.

We have heard from the leaders of the other services about the sacrifices they are being forced to make as a result of this budget. Today we will hear the toll it is taking on the Army, and it is not pretty.

The President's top line for defense is forcing the Army alone to slash funding by nearly \$4 billion. That is in real dollars; \$7.5 billion when adjusted for inflation. The Army is facing cuts of 12 percent in procurement, 10 percent in research and development, and 18 percent in MILCON [military construction].

Like the leaders of the other services, Secretary Wormuth and General McConville have had to triage their limited budget allocation. They have decided to focus it on the Army's highest modernization priorities. There is no question that we need to make those investments. Doing so ensures that we have the capabilities to win conflicts 10 or 20 years from now.

But it also means it isn't sufficient in the way of funding for near-term capabilities. In fact, the Army has nearly \$5.5 billion in unfunded priorities. The budget cuts procurement of critical verti-

cal lift and ground vehicle programs. It buys fewer missiles and ammunition to replenish our arsenal, and it delays the modernization of existing assets such as the Abrams tank.

These cuts worsen current capability gaps, and I am concerned it leaves the Army ill-prepared for near-term conflict. Frankly, it is unacceptable. History has proven it is naive to think we have decades to prepare for the next conflict. The fact is the Army must be prepared at all times to fight and win a war against China or any other adversary. That means our warfighters need the training capability to win the fight tonight.

I am very concerned this budget could leave the Army and the rest of the services unprepared to do just that.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

And before turning to our witnesses, I should remind members that we have—for the purpose of this hearing, questions will go in reverse order. We will go with the most junior member and work our way up from there. We try to do that a couple of times. Our committee is so large, we can't get to everybody, don't want to be excluding the most junior members all the time, so we are going to go from the bottom up today.

And with that, I will turn it over to Secretary Wormuth for her opening remarks.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTINE E. WORMUTH,
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, U.S. ARMY**

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you.

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Rogers, and distinguished members of the committee, we very much appreciate your continued support for our Army and our people. It is a real privilege to appear before you today.

I would like to take a minute to thank General McConville for his lifetime of service to our Army and our Nation. In my 4 weeks on the job, he has been a great partner, and we are off to a running start together.

I am honored to be serving as the Secretary of the Army and to be working with Secretary Austin and Deputy Secretary Hicks once again. I thank them for their continued leadership.

As I have stepped into this role, I am impressed, but not surprised, to see the state of our Army and the professionalism, hard work, and continued sacrifice of our soldiers and leaders that make up the world's greatest land fighting force.

I would like to highlight a few key observations on the state of the Army as I see them today. First, the Army must continue to heavily invest in the development of its people, which are really the core and the heart of our Army. We are steadily working to enhance our force structure, build inclusive leadership, and invest in quality of life initiatives. Like my predecessors, I can assure you that character, culture, and climate within our formations at every installation will reflect a continued focus on placing people first.

The harmful behaviors of sexual assault and harassment, racism and extremism, cannot and will not be tolerated. We will purposely work to prevent suicide in our Army. Our responsibility is to ensure every soldier and civilian has the right leadership, policies,

and resources to be safe and successful among their teams so that they can continue to be successful in our Nation's defense.

Second, the Army is now a leader in new technology. From Army Futures Command, to cross-functional teams, to the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, to fielding next-generation soldier equipment for individual unit members, the Army is prototyping and experimenting with new capabilities and concepts. The Army is at the forefront of developing and fielding new technology, whether it is counter-unmanned aerial systems; directed energy; hypersonic weapons; next-generation assured position, navigation, and timing devices; pushing software coding to the edge; and in many other areas.

Third, the Army is opening doors in the Indo-Pacific, Europe, and beyond. The Army can be relied upon to engage with our allies, foster partnerships, maintain deterrence, and set conditions for success prior to or while engaging in conflict. Deterrence requires boots on the ground, and the Department must be present to succeed in crises. The Army is recognized as an enduring, reliable partner that can directly contribute by bringing resources, training, and expertise. Our partnerships can lay the groundwork for access and cooperation during contingencies.

Fourth, the next conflict will be an all-domain conflict. Future conflict will be in, across, all domains with ground forces to secure terrain, penetrate defenses, and achieve objectives. The Army's transformation is directly aimed at supporting the joint warfight, which will depend on the Joint All-Domain Command and Control concept, expeditionary joint logistics, and joint maneuver across domains.

As the Army continues to modernize we will maintain our overmatch against near-peer adversaries, helping to make future conflict less likely by ensuring the cost to our adversaries outweighs any benefits they might see.

Finally, the Army's readiness gains and modernization requirements must be prioritized to continue. The Army recognized the need to modernize concepts and capabilities to sharpen our global competitive edge. Working in close cooperation with you, we established a deliberate, achievable path to deliver a ready modernized Army. Significant progress has been made, but success can only be assured through continued transformation.

The Army has already made and will continue to make tough decisions to ensure the best use of resources to adapt to and stay ahead of the capabilities of our adversaries, whether they are near-peer competitors or newly emergent threats. The Army will also successfully compete below the threshold of conflict.

The President's budget will help us care for our people, maintain an enhanced military readiness, and innovate and modernize. With your continued support, we will pivot to next-generation capabilities to ensure we can win now and in the future.

Our Army is in great shape, but we have important work ahead. I want to use this window of opportunity in the next few years to make certain that the Army will continue to provide modernized and ready forces capable of responding globally. I join General McConville in striving to ensure to provide the Army the resources it

needs to succeed. I know General McConville is eager to share his thoughts as well.

So I thank you and look forward to your questions.

[The joint prepared statement of Secretary Wormuth and General McConville can be found in the Appendix on page 55.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

General, you are recognized.

**STATEMENT OF GEN JAMES C. McCONVILLE, USA,
CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY**

General McCONVILLE. I would like to thank the Secretary for 25 years plus of government service and for leading the Army at this critical time. So thank you, Secretary.

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Rogers, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today and for your continued support to the Army and our people: our soldiers, our families, our civilians, and our soldiers for life, our retirees and veterans.

The Army currently has 485,000 Active Duty soldiers and a little more than 1 million in the total force. That is roughly the size Army that we had on 9/11. Army soldiers are presently supporting combatant commanders around the world in more than 140 countries. They form the most lethal and decisive land force in the world, and they stand ready to fight and win the Nation's wars as part of the joint force. I could not be more proud of each and every one of them.

Since last October the Army's priorities have been people, readiness, and modernization, making us well aligned with the emerging national security guidance. Putting people first means recruiting and retaining the best talent our Nation has to offer, maximizing their potential, and taking care of them. We are building a culture of cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and fit, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. That is how we prevent the harmful behaviors that hurt our soldiers and break trust with the American people, these being sexual assault and harassment, acts of racism and extremism, and death by suicide.

All three of my children, two sons and a daughter, plus my son-in-law are currently serving in the Army. Providing a safe and secure environment for our soldiers is not only my responsibility as the Chief of Staff of the Army, it is also a deeply held personal commitment. We win through our people. The best fighting forces in the world ensure their soldiers and units are masters of their craft.

That is why we are shifting to a foundational readiness model that prioritizes training at the company level and below first. The Army has rebuilt a high-level readiness with the support of Congress, but that readiness level is fragile. We must sustain that high level of readiness while continuing our most comprehensive transformation and modernization efforts in over 40 years. This is the only way we will maintain our overmatch against near-peer competitors and would-be adversaries.

This year we are turning our multi-domain operations concepts into real doctrine. We are not only developing but we are delivering on our six modernization priorities, including our 31+4 signature

systems. With new doctrine, organizations, and equipment, the Army is offering multiple options to combatant commanders and multiple dilemmas to competitors and adversaries, and we are doing so along our sister services and alongside our allies and partners. The U.S. Army never fights alone. We are the strongest land force in the world, and a great source of that strength comes from our allies and partners. As a people-based organization, we uniquely qualify to foster these relationships.

Thank you for your continued support to America's sons and daughters in uniform. I look forward to your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

So what is your key takeaway from the Fort Hood report and from what happened there? And I think you mentioned it in your opening remarks, what the overall problem is in terms of it is not just sexual assault. We have got suicide problems.

We have got a real problem seemingly relating to the service members out there and making sure that they're safe and protected. But in terms of action items, what do you think is most important to do in response to that, for both of you?

Madam Secretary, you can go first.

Secretary WORMUTH. Chairman, I would say, first of all, I went down to Fort Hood a couple of weeks ago to see for myself and to talk to soldiers, and I talked to a small group of soldiers privately to hear from them candidly.

I think the biggest insight for me out of the report is the fact that, you know, for the last 20 years the Army has been enormously busy. The OPTEMPO [operations tempo] has been very high. Our leaders have been—they have had a lot to do. They have been focused on deployments and training, and I think it has made it harder to then, you know, do what they need to do to care for our soldiers.

So really what we have to do is make sure that our command climate at the lowest possible level is healthy, and we have a number of initiatives to get after that; but I think fundamentally what the Chief and I are trying to emphasize with the sergeant major is building cohesive teams and taking care of your squad mates.

And so what we are going to be focusing on is really trying to build that kind of a culture so that people are taking care of themselves, leaders are taking care of soldiers, and soldiers are looking out for each other. But it is going to take time I think to make significant progress in this area.

The CHAIRMAN. General.

General MCCONVILLE. Yes, Chairman.

And I agree with the Secretary. One of the things that I took away—and I went down and talked to the troops at Fort Hood. I served in the 1st Cavalry Division in combat during 2004 to 2005, as many of the senior leaders in the United States Army.

What I took away was, at the lowest levels it seemed that leaders were not spending time to really know their soldiers, to find out what was going on in that group of soldiers that are 17- to 24-year-olds; and when we study the problems we have, most of the problems occur with new soldiers, 17- to 24-year-olds coming into our organizations, and they live in these things we call squads.

And that is why the Sergeant Major of the Army is going after to get squad leaders building what I call a golden triangle, where everyone treats everyone else with dignity and respect within that squad, where everyone knows their squad mates, everyone takes care of each other, and they understand the importance of having a cohesive organization that allows them to fight and win on the battlefield.

But one of the things I talked about in my opening statement was foundational readiness. We have got to give time for junior leaders to spend time with their soldiers and have a chance to train them, have a chance to get to know each other in a way that we haven't seen.

And, quite frankly, some of these younger leaders, we have to teach them how to care for their soldiers and how to treat—develop a climate where they are all treated with dignity and respect.

We are going after that; but we are also going after the leaders. Leaders are responsible for the culture and climate in their organization. We have an assessment program, a commander assessment program for battalion commanders and colonel commander assessments. That is all part of it. We have got multiple other things going on to determine what is the climate like, not compliance like how many of these or how many of those that you have, but what is going on on those junior levels where most of the issues that I see happen in the Army.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. I think both of your answers are spot on, and that is the key is you sort of lost touch. I think there is a general feeling of go do your job, you will be fine, and there needs to be a far higher level of engagement.

And, also, this is my fault on the question. I want to make sure it wasn't misleading. It is not just Fort Hood. Fort Hood got the attention, but you look at some of the statistics, there are other major bases that, you know, the numbers are really not that different in terms of suicide, sexual assault, and problems with personnel. So it is comprehensive, and I appreciate your approach on that.

Mr. Rogers.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General McConville, in your letter accompanying the Army's unfunded mandate—unfunded requirement list, you acknowledge the President's budget creates, quote, a downturn in the Army's purchasing power, close quote. And you also informed us that, quote, progress is at risk if you don't have real growth of 3–5 percent above inflation going forward.

Can you elaborate on that and tell us, if we pass a budget that fails to at a minimum keep pace with inflation, hopefully with an increase, what Army capabilities or programs are at risk?

General McCONVILLE. Yes. Congressman, what we have done within the budget is try to produce the best Army we can within the resources we have. That is an Army that is 485,000 end strength. We were growing end strength; we are not going to be able to grow end strength. So we are basically keeping the end strength that we have, which I articulated was at the level of 9/11.

We are keeping a basic level of readiness. We do not want to go back to where we were a couple of years ago where the readiness of the Army was of concern. I believe right now the Army is ready to fight and win. But most importantly, what I think we have to do is we must transform the Army now for the next 40 years, and I make the argument every 40 years we transform the Army.

We did in 1940. We did in 1980 when I came in the Army. We are in 2020 right now, and so we have done everything we can to protect those modernization priorities, those 31+4 systems.

And you will see it in my UFR [unfunded requirements] list there's other things that are not going to get funded that we would like to do. We have challenge with barracks. We have challenge with what I call enduring systems that we would like to bring along in the system, and those are listed in the UFR. But make no mistake to those who are listening, the Army can fight and win today.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes. And we are all mindful of that, but we also know you have got to get ready for the future. So what do you need that this budget does not buy you?

General MCCONVILLE. Well, I think when we talk about needs, the reason you ask us to provide an unfunded requirement letter, which we did, that shows some of the requirements that were not included in the budget. The only thing I would ask is we have a prioritized budget. Everything in the budget is what we need. Those are additional priority-type items, and I would ask that if there is any—as we look at that, especially when it comes to our readiness accounts, we have really gone after them hard to make sure they are as efficient and effective as we can.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes. As I mentioned in my opening statement, we can't lose sight of the fact that this year's budget gives you \$7.5 billion less in buying power than you had in the previous year's budget.

When you look at China—and we all acknowledge China is a peer now that we have to be thoughtful about. As they ramp up their defense funding, what do you worry about them outpacing you on in the near future?

General MCCONVILLE. Well, they have a great economy. They have—you know, when we take a look at China itself, it is a very, very strong economy. They have a force that is much larger than ours. Historically they—especially when we look at an Army, they have an active duty army that is probably twice the size of ours. And as they modernize it, we need to stay ahead of them, and that is what we intend to do. That is why our 31+4 modernization priorities are so important. They give us the speed, the range, and the convergence to give us decision dominance and, quite frankly, overmatch.

So as we move forward, we are doing everything we can to protect those modernization priorities.

Mr. ROGERS. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Horsford is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and to the ranking member, for the courtesy of going in reverse order. And I want to thank our witnesses for your service and testimony today.

I was deeply concerned by recent media reporting that at least 1,900 weapons, including machine guns and rocket launchers, had been lost or stolen from arms rooms over the course of the last decade. Some of these weapons went on to be used in violent crimes.

While I am, of course, troubled by the fact that this was brought to our attention through media reporting instead of a formalized reporting requirement, I am more concerned about the broader readiness issues it pretends.

I firmly believe that arms rooms are the single best indicator of the unit's readiness. We can learn nearly everything we need about a unit's maintenance systems, accountability, and, ultimately, combat readiness through the processes implemented in the arms rooms.

For that reason, I am concerned that the loss of such a staggering number of weapons could indicate more systemic readiness and accountability issues across the Army.

Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, first, what steps is the Army taking to implement systemic fixes to weapons accountability and to modernize inventory control for sensitive items?

And, second, can you please update us on your investigation into these reports and any trends the Army has identified in units or installations where these weapons have gone missing?

Secretary WORMUTH. Certainly, Congressman. First of all, you know, we take weapons accountability in the Army incredibly seriously. And soldiers are, you know, trained to be very responsible, and anytime there is a lack of accountability or a loss of—a potential loss of a weapon, you know, the entire unit focuses to find out what has happened and to retrieve it.

What we have done in terms of trying to better understand the situation is we have stood up essentially a task force that is led by a three-star general to dig into this, and what we found so far is that out of about 1.1 million weapons Army-wide, we have only been able to identify since 2013 384 instances of a weapon going missing.

And to date, I would say it is not apparent to us that there is a particular trend that is behind the loss or of accountability. For example, I think in 2019, we had 83 weapons missing, and last year we had only 10. But we are trying to look into it and identify if we have any systemic issues as you noted and will take action on that if we find that there are systemic issues.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you. I look forward to hearing more about that.

I would like to move on now to the issue of sexual assault and specifically how the Army plans to hold commanders accountable for their performance in reducing sexual harassment and sexual assault. While I fully support efforts to move sexual assault prosecutions outside of the chain of command, there is a clear and urgent need to improve accountability among senior leaders for their effectiveness in combatting sexual assault and assault within their formations.

Secretary Wormuth, how does the Army intend to collect metrics that track the performance of senior leaders at implementing effective SHARP [Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention]

programs and then hold them accountable for their performance during promotion and command selection decisions?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congressman, first of all, as you know, the Army took the action of suspending or relieving 14 officers in the wake of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee. Going forward, we are going to be—again, we are putting tremendous emphasis on creating a healthy command climate, and it is the responsibility of our leaders in the Army to maintain that command climate.

One of the—we are fundamentally redesigning our SHARP program, for example. We are also reorganizing our criminal investigative division and will have a civilian leader of that division likely with law enforcement background.

One of the things that we are doing to hold our leaders accountable is through our Command Assessment Program. This is a new program that the Army has to help us select battalion commanders, colonels, sergeant majors, acquisition officials, and as part of that 360-degree review performance process, we are taking into account past command climate performance. So through, again, a series of sort of a multiday screening process, we are evaluating future leaders, and part of that evaluation rests on how well they are doing in terms of command climate.

And the Chief may want to add to that.

General MCCONVILLE. No. I think it is—

The CHAIRMAN. I apologize, I wasn't paying attention. The gentleman's time has expired. And I should warn the witnesses that we do this even if you are in the middle of a question; we try to move on so we can get to as many members as possible.

Mr. Fallon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I apologize for not being there in person, but a virus other than COVID [coronavirus disease] has gotten me for a few days.

Thank you, General McConville and Secretary Wormuth, for testifying today and for both of your decades of service to our country.

General McConville, if I can start with you first, I know that we share a passion for our soldiers, their safety, and their well-being and really their development as well, and I want to applaud your track record of emphasizing personnel issues. In short, you have a tremendous affection for the troops, and that shows through your actions.

In that vein, I would like to ask and address a current situation that the Army finds itself in that could be interpreted as, unfortunately, neglecting soldier safety and unnecessarily wasting taxpayer money. What I am referring to is the Humvee; 150 of our soldiers have been killed in stateside accidents, preventable Humvee rollovers during training. I know that you find this just as unacceptable and important as I do.

To address this, the Army has developed a plan to simultaneously introduce new Humvees to the fleet while upgrading existing vehicles with what the Army already considers new or modernized. Additionally, the Army is fielding replacements for the Humvee, the JLTV [Joint Light Tactical Vehicle], with an anti-rollover technology already installed, and I support this overall approach.

However, I was extremely concerned when I saw the budget request with a mere \$10 million in funding the upgrades because the upgrades are much cheaper, and we can do them quicker. With the \$10 million, only upgrading 1 percent of the 54,000 vehicle fleet and retrofitting and rendering them safe, it is quicker and it is cheaper. This gap can't be filled by only new vehicles, which really does translate, in my humble opinion, to putting soldiers' lives at risk without critical safety upgrades. As I mentioned, the cost for fielding a new Humvee is about \$400,000 and upgrading is \$17,000.

General, with this in mind, why do you think the Army appears to be content to pursue what some could say would be a less safe path and a more expensive one? And I would really like to hear your thoughts on this, sir.

General MCCONVILLE. Well, Congressman, I appreciate the concern. And as you said, we have a tremendous concern for the life, health, and safety of our soldiers. We do have a strategy. And, quite frankly, we will take your comments and take a look at that strategy. But like you said, that is what we are doing. We are taking existing vehicles and putting the new braking system on them. We are also purchasing new Humvees. And the third is, which we are really trying to get to, is the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle within the resources that we have. But I will go back and take a look at that. If there is a life, health, safety issue, that is something we can get after.

Mr. FALLON. General, what would need to happen to ensure the program could be completed as quickly as possible? Because it seems to me retrofitting would be quicker than waiting for new Humvees to come on line. I understand if we have very old Humvees, it is probably not wise to retrofit them and it would just be easier to replace them. But some of the newer ones, the ones that have, you know, about half their life left, might make it until the JLTV.

General MCCONVILLE. I owe you a better answer, Congressman, to take a look at that. I mean, the intent—just like you said, some of our Humvees are really old. They have been around a long time. And, quite frankly, we don't want to invest in them because we may be fixing one safety issue, but we may be going into another safety issue, and so we owe a look at that. We certainly want to make sure that every system our soldiers have, especially when it comes to life, health, and safety, we are not going to put our soldiers in something that is unsafe, and we have just got to figure out the best way to do it. You brought up a good point, and we will take a look at it.

Mr. FALLON. General, thank you.

Secretary Wormuth, I just want to let you know that in a letter dated May 1, me, myself, and 13 of my colleagues wrote a letter to then Acting Secretary of the Army Whitley about my concerns that I just talked to the general about, and I just wanted to make you aware of it as well.

And then, in closing, and I will yield back, there was a comment made earlier about the fact that there is systemic racism in this country. And I just want to, for the record, say that I respectfully

but patently and vociferously disagree; but that is a topic and a conversation and a debate for another day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mrs. Murphy is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to Secretary Wormuth and General McConville for being here with us today, as well as for your service.

I serve as vice chair of the subcommittee that oversees U.S. special operations forces, and I wanted to start by asking you a bit about that. As with the broader military, our special operators have been primarily focused on combatting violent extremism since September 11, but they are now rebalancing to focus more on great power competition with countries like China, Russia, and Iran.

So could you describe a little bit as to how you are adapting recruitment and training to help prepare for this mission? And I am particularly interested in your Special Forces groups, civil affair units, and psychological operations units, which I think all have a pretty important role to play when it comes to working with foreign governments, foreign militaries, foreign populations, in that context of great power competition.

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congresswoman. I will start, and then I am sure the Chief will want to add.

As you said, our special operators, like special operators in other services, have been focused on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism for the last 20 years, but we are now shifting to strategic competition with China and Russia in particular. And I think in that context there is very much still going to be a need for the kinds of skills and expertise that our Special Forces have to offer.

One way we will be—you know, first of all, we are rethinking our overall strategy for the special operations community, and there is an irregular warfare annex to the existing National Defense Strategy. What we have started to do is to look at the scenarios that we are using and the types of exercises that we are using and are changing the elements of that to align to the kinds of things we might see in strategic competition.

So I think you will see us, you know, putting an emphasis on unconventional warfare, on information operations, as you said, you know, psychological operations. Those are all going to be things that are relevant to—you know, what some people call hybrid warfare or, you know, gray-zone conflict, and those are things where our Special Forces are still going to be very much needed.

And I will let the Chief add.

General McCONVILLE. I think you asked a great question.

I just want to highlight what an incredible job our Special Forces operations have done over the last 20 years. They have just done an incredible job. And the great thing about our Special Forces is they are agile and they are adaptable. They clearly understand—I have talked to General Rich Clark, I have talked to Fran Beau-dette, I have talked to the leadership down there.

You know, counterterrorism is not going away. We are still going to have these type issues. We are still going to have counterinsurgency type operations. We are still going to have irregular warfare. That is not going away.

But what you are going to see is I think the groups are going to shift, and they are going to focus more on the combatant region that they are actually operating. Most of them have just been rotating in and out of Afghanistan and Iraq and have done an incredible job doing that, but the focus is going to change because the strength in this area of strategic competition comes from having strong allies and partners.

And our Special Forces are uniquely suited to do that, to work with allies and partners to build capacities and also to help them build their capacity in the Special Forces arena because a lot of these countries have issues with violent extremism and, quite frankly, we would rather have them provide the security than I do it.

And I would highlight things like information operations are something that we are really going to have to be able to work in the future, and I see them having a very strong participation in that also. But there is going to be plenty of work for Special Forces. They are critical to the future of the country.

Mrs. MURPHY. I appreciate you bringing that up actually, and maybe we can focus on the INDOPACOM [U.S. Indo-Pacific Command] AOR [area of responsibility]. I noticed that the Army is requesting an additional \$20 million of funds for security force assistance brigade activities across the Indo-Pacific.

Can you talk a little bit more about what these brigades have done, have achieved in other regions and how they are going to be used in the Indo-Pacific?

General MCCONVILLE. Yes, I will take that.

What we are seeing is, you know, we talk about this strategy of peace through strength, and that peace through strength comes from a holistic government approach, a strong military, and certainly a strong Army, but it also comes through strong allies and partners.

And when I look at the security force assistance brigades, they are designed to help improve the capabilities of conventional forces with these countries. And if you go—you know, a lot of people talk about, well, what is the role of the Army in the Indo-Pacific? Well, most of the people out there live on land and most of them have armies that need the capacity to secure themselves.

Special Forces also plays a critical role. They provide unique skill sets. They are fabulous at developing more high-end type forces where they are the special operation forces that can help them. Some of these countries have problems with terrorists. Some have problems with insurgents, and they can help develop those—

The CHAIRMAN. I apologize. The gentleman's time has expired, so we will leave it there.

And Mr. Moore is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOORE. Thank you, Chairman, Ranking Member. I, too, love the reverse order, so thank you.

Secretary and General, I appreciate you being here. I was encouraged to see the Army Materiel Command [AMC] earlier this year issue the 15-year Army organic industrial base [OIB] modernization strategy. I agree with General Daly, AMC commander, that now is the time for wholesale change and the OIB is an inflection point. How the next 10 to 15 years are handled will determine the

depots' ability to maintain pace with the Army's next-generation weapon systems.

As cochair of the House Depot Caucus, I have voiced the need to expedite other OIB modernization plans across the services to fit the objectives of the National Defense Strategy.

Secretary, I will direct my questions to you but, General, absolutely welcome any input. Can you provide an update on the modernization strategy, the Army OIB modernization strategy and how you think it can be accomplished in 15 years?

Secretary WORMUTH. Certainly, Congressman.

As you said, General Daly and Materiel Command are embarking on a 15-year organic industrial base plan. Our hope is that that will be completed at about this time next year. And really what we are trying to do there is a couple of different things. You know, first of all, as we undertake this, you know, first in 40 years ambitious modernization program, we need to make sure that the industrial base is going to be able to support all of those next-generation weapons.

So part of what we are looking at in the plan is assessing, first of all, the current industrial base and whether it will be able to meet our needs and then identifying any kinds of gaps that we need to fill to be able to, again, make sure that we are able to support these new systems over time.

Another important thread in the 15-year plan is, frankly, looking at our supply chain, which I think the pandemic experience has shown us is perhaps more fragile than we would like it to be. We are trying to identify where we may have potential points of failure in the industrial base. We are trying to identify where we have foreign suppliers, understanding, you know, our confidence level with those foreign suppliers, trying to identify if there are foreign suppliers that, frankly, we don't want to be purchasing from in the future.

So those are all issues that we are looking at, as well as, you know, how we may need to bring in some new manufacturing capabilities again into our existing base to support the next-generation programs.

Mr. MOORE. Excellent. Any particular comment on the 15-year? Do you feel that there is a chance that could be accelerated? Do you feel that that was—you know, any insight into 15 years, why it was chosen? Was there enough research and thought going into that particular timeline?

Secretary WORMUTH. Well, I would imagine—I mean, having not been there when it was originally decided to undertake the plan, I think what we are trying to do is move as quickly as we can because, obviously, we want to modernize our industrial base as quickly as we can, but also do it in a way that, frankly, we can support with our resources but are also able to support in terms of the kind of analysis and the kind of redesigns that may be needed.

So I think we would look for opportunities to accelerate that modernization plan where we can, but we have to look at that in the context of our overall resources and other objectives that we have, for example, in terms of readiness and supporting our people.

Mr. MOORE. And as you have mentioned advanced manufacturing, I will add in advanced sensors, robotics, computer program-

ming machine types of things. Those are expensive. There is always going to be budget constraints. What can this committee do to make sure we don't run into similar delays or unnecessary delays in this modernization plan?

Secretary WORMUTH. Well, I think, Congressman, again, you know, just your continued reliable support for our modernization efforts would be very helpful. There may be times where we may come to you to ask for additional authorities.

For example—I mean, right now I don't think that we need additional authorities; but, for example, we have been given authorities in terms of science and technology hires that have been very helpful to us in terms of bringing in civilian expertise in computer science and neuroscience. So I can imagine that might be a way where you can support us over time; but right now I think we have what we need.

Mr. MOORE. Excellent.

General, anything to add.

General MCCONVILLE. I think the importance of the 15-year plan is to lay out, you know, the whole problem set. As you know, if we just went with a 3- or 4-year plan, the resources are not going to be available. But that allows everyone to take a look, here's how we see things coming in the future.

And the other thing that I think is important to encourage the depots to modernize. You know, we are going to have new systems coming in. We can take a look at here's how these—you know, as a future vertical lift comes on board, as our long-range precision fires, as our next-generation combat weapons come, if we are looking out in the future, we can start to program them in and get them the equipment that is going to keep them effective and efficiently in the future because many of our depots and some of our—

The CHAIRMAN. Again, I apologize. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. Panetta is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PANETTA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Rogers. Madam Secretary, General, good morning, and thank you for being here. Thank you for your service.

I am just going to try and hit on three areas: military housing, COVID vaccines, and our posture in Africa. In regards to military housing, where I represent on the Central Coast of California, we have a—our military contracts with private contractors in order to have our military families in privatized housing. Unfortunately, there are times when that housing really is subpar, and the biggest issue, I have got to say, is mold and how that can affect not just the military member but, of course, the family members and, unfortunately, the children as well, amongst other issues too.

I just wanted to get your take on how the Army is holding private contractors responsible, how they are holding them accountable for their actions or inactions when it comes to providing this subpar military housing. Look, it doesn't happen everywhere. We know that. But I believe that one house that has mold in it is one too many. So just wondering if there is anything else that we can do to ensure to hold these private contractors responsible?

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congressman.

Absolutely agree with you that we want our soldiers and their families to live in housing that we would want to live in, and to do that the Army has done a few things.

First of all, we have put responsibility for the privatized housing oversight of that under AMC, and the commander of Installations Command meets every single month with the heads of all of the companies who do our privatized housing to go through household by household the status of, you know, where we are making repairs, where we are making renovations.

We have changed, frankly, you know, how we have been paying those companies. We don't pay incentive fees up front anymore. We pay them at the end when we are satisfied that they are performing. And we have also now implemented all 18 provisions of the Tenant Bill of Rights in 37 of the 44 installations where we have privatized housing, and we will have the last 7 done we hope by the end of July.

Mr. PANETTA. Great.

General.

General McCONVILLE. I think if you are talking Fort Hood, that was my first assignment, so it would—

Mr. PANETTA. There were similar houses there at Fort Hood, exactly.

General McCONVILLE. But, you know, we need to invest in the housing. We have taken a look. We know what housing is good, and we have done much better on the work orders. We have been much better on those type things, but some of these houses, quite frankly, have got to be replaced, and we are working with the private contractors to do that. They have raised additional money.

We have got a little over a couple billion dollars now to go into that, but we have got to have a long-term program to do that, and that is what we are trying to work right now.

Mr. PANETTA. Outstanding. Thanks to both of you for those answers.

Moving on to vaccines, what percentage of the Army personnel are fully vaccinated in regards to the COVID vaccine?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congressman, I believe at this point we have 63 percent of the Active Component has had at least one shot, and I think we are at about 55 percent who are fully vaccinated at this time.

Mr. PANETTA. What can we do, what can you do to ensure full vaccination going forward or to increase those numbers?

Secretary WORMUTH. I think the most important thing we can do, Congressman, is what we have been doing, which is to really explain the benefits of the vaccine to our soldiers and their families. And when we give them that additional educational information, we see more of them getting the shots.

And, frankly, as their peers have started getting the shots, we see more soldiers getting the shots. But part of the challenge is, you know, a lot of our soldiers are younger and I think, you know, feel a little bit invincible as a result of that.

So we still have work to do because certainly I think it would be beneficial to have as much of the force fully vaccinated as possible.

Mr. PANETTA. How do you feel about a mandatory vaccine in regards to the COVID vaccine? I mean, is that something you feel ob-

viously would increase the numbers, but what would that do to morale?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congressman, I think—you know, I have not looked at this in detail in terms of what the implications are, what our legal authorities are; but certainly, you know, we have made vaccine mandatory in the past.

Right now we have an emergency use authorization from FDA [U.S. Food and Drug Administration], so we can't do that. But over time I would look at that if we didn't continue to see the percentage increase; but we are seeing that percentage of our force increase.

Mr. PANETTA. General.

General MCCONVILLE. I agree with the Secretary. I think, you know, right now it is emergency use. I think once it—you know, when we see that moving forward, maybe in the next couple of months that comes out where it is fully accepted, then we can have the discussion on what is the best way to do it.

But I agree with the Secretary. Now, we think it is in everyone's interest that, you know, does not have underlying conditions, is part of the team—you know, we are seeing the effects right now. I mean, the fact that we are sitting here, you know, has a lot to do with folks like General Gus Perna and the team that, you know, got these out and did a great job of doing that.

So I think, you know, people worry about the speed of the vaccinations, but, again, I am all signed up.

Mr. PANETTA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. JACKSON is recognized for 5 minutes.

Dr. JACKSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Rogers, for holding the hearing today. I also want to thank Secretary Wormuth and General McConville for being here. Thank you.

Each branch of the military has testified before this committee on the President's budget request, and each has explained how the budget cuts are not impacting their service's readiness and modernization efforts.

I don't need to explain to either one of you, obviously, that the Army was the hardest hit by President Biden's budget cut with a decrease in funding from last fiscal year and a decrease in end strength. Not only does this not align with the 3–5 percent growth called for in the National Defense Strategy but it will make it much harder for us to compete with China.

I appreciate both of your efforts to justify this budget cut as acceptable, but I firmly believe that this request from President Biden is inadequate.

Of the countless modernization priorities that we need to focus on, I want to spend a little bit of time talking about the future vertical lift, one of the Army's six modernization priorities. The Future Long Range Assault Aircraft, or the FLRAA, will be a medium-lift aircraft that will eventually replace the Black Hawk.

The Future Attack and Reconnaissance Aircraft is the Army's third attempt over the past two decades to develop a new attack and reconnaissance helicopter.

Both of these are part of the critical future vertical lift modernization effort that will help us compete with China in the Indo-Pacific in particular.

The FLRAA is a modernization program that the Army needs, in my opinion. The Army has consistently discussed the need for speed and range, as well as survivability when it comes to future vertical lift aircraft.

There are countless reasons as to why we need to provide adequate funding for this program, but I want to discuss the medevac [medical evacuation] mission in this platform as it takes over for the H-60.

In the theater like the Indo-Pacific, it will be critical to have aircraft with speed and range necessary to transport an injured soldier. I have been in the combat zone. I have seen firsthand how speed and range of medevac aircraft are key components of whether or not somebody's life is saved.

The golden hour is a concept that presumes that some deaths are preventable if appropriate care is provided in a timely fashion. It is imperative that we not only extend the golden hour radius, but the aircraft supporting the medevac mission should be able to give injured soldiers the best chance for survival in the event of an injury in the combat zone.

When it comes to medevac, every second obviously matters. Future vertical lift and Future Long Range Assault Aircraft will provide increased speed, range, and endurance.

General McConville, I know that you are an aviator. How important are speed and range when it comes to a commander's ability to medevac an injured soldier? And how critical is that exponential jump in capability associated with this new platform with regards to medevac and the golden hour and specifically when looking at the Indo-Pacific theater?

General McCONVILLE. I think it is absolutely critical, Congressman. You know, the point you made, it is absolutely critical to be able to medevac our soldiers, and we want to be able to do that.

But what is interesting, as you take a look at what does the range allow you to do, with the golden hour, you basically—when you are looking about having troops out there, we have some leaders right here that have commanded troops in combat, and what happens is, if you can only go 100 miles an hour, then, quite frankly, you can only have troops out so far from that base.

And from that base, you have to have a forward surgical team, you have to protect it. So you are putting a whole bunch of your troops on the battlefield just to create that capability for medevac, which we want to do.

By having this capability, you provide much, much more options to that ground commander, and I am fully in support of making this happen. But more importantly, what I am fully in support of is the way industry is aggressively going at that, working with us.

That we are flying before we are buying. We are very concerned about being very efficient the way we do this. We have got industry teams invested into this capability, and I think it is something we need for the future.

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir, I agree with you 100 percent. Obviously, I think it is a game changer. And I just had some data here. Obvi-

ously, it increases the speed from 120 knots to 280 knots. It increases the maximum radius from 109 nautical miles to 230 nautical miles, and it decreases the golden hour radius from 46 nautical miles, pushes it out to 110 nautical miles. So I think it is an absolute game changer.

I thank you for your response. I look forward to working with each of you and my colleagues here on the committee to address the evolving threats that we face and to provide our young men and women the training, the resources, and everything they need to accomplish their mission.

Thank you.

With that, I yield back, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Veasey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VEASEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the reverse order likewise.

Secretary Wormuth, in your confirmation hearing to the Senate Armed Services Committee, you confirmed that the long-range precision fire [LRPF] is still the Army's number one modernization priority, with particularly importance in the Indo-Pacific region and Russia.

My concern is that the Army may not be considering the modernization priority for the enabling capabilities required to have a successful kill chain. What is the Army doing to ensure airborne deep-sensing capabilities that include both SIGINT [signals intelligence] and are sufficient to meet the LRPF requirement and other demands in the Pacific and in Europe?

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congressman.

You know, first of all, people like to prioritize, but the way I look at our modernization program, we really need to comprehensively modernize, and we have sort of six focus areas of which long-range precision fires is one. But equally important is our network portfolio area, for example, because, again, to your point, we have to be able to connect our sensors and shooters together.

We have to be able to defend those systems and our forces from aerial and missile defense fires. So, for example, integrated air and missile defense is another portfolio area that we are emphasizing.

And in our budget we have put 74 percent of our RDT&E [research, development, test, and evaluation] funds towards the 31+4 modernization, and we have worked very hard to protect the whole suite of next-generation capability areas.

So while the long-range precision fires I think is a very important capability both in INDOPACOM and Europe, we absolutely need those other areas to be modernized as well to be able to be successful and to be able to contribute to the joint force.

Mr. VEASEY. Thank you very much.

General McConville, I was just at Fort Hood on a CODEL [congressional delegation] about a month ago, and we were talking about the sexual assault and how the Army is trying to root out racism, and it occurred to me—I was watching a program from 1964, and they were interviewing these people in this small southern town to ask them what they thought about the 1964 Civil Rights Bill.

And I thought it was important because these people, they weren't in the Klan. They weren't a part of any other hate group. They were people that were going to the grocery store. They were part of the Baptist Church. They were just everyday Americans. And their answer was that Black people already have civil rights. I don't understand why we need to talk about equality; black people already have equal rights. And they were serious. They weren't like, you know, saying it just to be saying it. And, again, they were just normal people.

And so when you hear people today say that there is no systemic racism, it is really not a surprise. It is really a continuation from people just living their everyday lives and not having to experience that themselves.

So we heard a lot of stories from women and soldiers of color. How do you—with that sort of micro aggression, how do you root that out?

How do you work with the generals to make sure that people are really taking this seriously? Because there is just going to be that resistance. And even though those people in 1964, even though it was blatant segregation—it said colored bathrooms, White bathrooms—they were very serious when they were looking into that camera saying, Black people already have equal rights.

And so when it is that engrained, how do you really get to the root of it to make sure that the workplace is good? Because one of the things that the soldiers told us when we had off-the-records with them, when you decide to re-up, if you have a commander or a noncommissioned officer that is supportive of you, that may be the determining factor in whether or not you decide to re-up. If you have somebody that is not going to be supportive of you, you are probably not going to re-up.

General MCCONVILLE. I think that, Congressman, at least what we are trying to do in the Army, and really get down to the lowest level, is building a cohesive team where everyone treats everyone with dignity and respect and everyone takes care of each other.

Well, how do you do that? I mean, some of it is just having a basic conversation about, "Where you are from? What is your story?" and having those discussions where you build this team.

Because what is really important in the military is you are going to fight with your brothers and sisters. And you want everyone—I use an example.

You know you have got cohesion right in your team when every single soldier is willing to run through withering fire to get you when you are being carried away by the Taliban. That is what Sal Giunta did in the 173rd. But that is the type of attitude you want inside your organization.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired. I think that is a very important discussion.

Mrs. McClain.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ranking Member Rogers. And thank you both for being here.

I want to speak on the issue of China and the steps that the Army is taking to prepare for any eventualities.

Madam Secretary, your budget request to this committee has requested several cuts in different departments. You request a cut in

total forces from fiscal year 2021's current projected levels and even a cut in the procurement of munitions.

As China continues to spend billions on building up its military, why are we requesting a cut in force strength and munition procurements? It seems like they are going this way on spending and we are going this way.

In every hearing that I am in, "China is our number one threat, China is our number one threat." Yet, we continue to spend less and less money and they continue to spend more and more. It is very concerning.

Secretary WORMUTH. Congresswoman, thank you.

First of all, I am very concerned about China's comprehensive modernization and the breadth of its modernization over the last 20 years. They have definitely taken advantage of the time that we have been in Iraq and Afghanistan to build their military up quite a bit.

I think what I would say is what is most important, in my view, in terms of our ability to stay ahead of China—and I think it is very important to underscore, as the chairman said, I think, last week—we outmatch China today. There is no question that our force and that our Army is superior to the People's Liberation Army, even with the modernization that they have undertaken.

But it is our next-generation capabilities that are most important and will make a difference in us staying ahead of China. And that is why in this budget we have worked so hard to prioritize the 31+4 programs to make sure that they are sufficiently funded.

That has meant that we have made some reductions to some of our older munitions, for example, and we have reduced some of the funding for some of our enduring programs. But we are protecting investments in the new capabilities.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. But the budget requests also roughly \$4 billion in cuts for the research and development, acquisition and procurement budgets. So isn't that a future budget that we are also cutting?

Secretary WORMUTH. What we have tried to do there, again, is 74 percent of our RDT&E is focused on our next-generation programs. We have, again, to make sure we could protect the most important crown jewel modernization programs, we did reduce RDT&E in some other areas.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. But research and development is for the future, correct?

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes, but—yes. But we have—the most important future programs we have fully protected.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Okay. I am going to switch gears.

For my final question, I would like to ask you both, Madam Secretary and General, to comment on what is next for the Abrams tank.

As China continues to build up its forces, the U.S. Army's continued procurement of the modern Abrams tank is essential to our readiness, as well as the U.S. industrial base.

Can you both please give me a sense of what is next for the generation of Abrams tank, what it is going to look like, or what requirements and technologies do you have in mind for that specific tank?

Secretary WORMUTH. Certainly, Congresswoman. And I will let the Chief also add.

I would say, first of all, we are continuing to buy the Abrams tank. That is a system we will continue to need. And we are making sure that we have funding for it in our budget.

We are also, however, looking at a new Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle. That is one of our six modernization focus areas. So we will be, again, sort of keeping our existing capability to make sure that we have a bridge until we get to the future armored capabilities.

And I will let General McConville add.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Is there funding in your request for the new generation of Abrams?

General MCCONVILLE. Can I?

Secretary WORMUTH. Please.

General MCCONVILLE. I mean, first of all, when it comes to the Abrams right now, I see that as—people talk about legacy and modernization. I have another [inaudible]. I call it enduring.

The Abrams main battle tank is not going anywhere. We are continuing to incrementally improve that. We have got the M1A2 SEP [System Enhancement Package] Version 3. We are fielding that right now. There is a modernization program.

And you will see, based on the resources available, we went to three quarters. We were fielding a brigade a year. We are going to three quarters of a brigade a year. And that is in my unfunded requirement that lays it out.

Some of the programs that we call enduring, that is like the Apache helicopter, that is the Black Hawk, that is the Abrams, you will see that fielding slowing down, because we are trying to give you the best Army we can within the resources that we have.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. Strickland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Thank you, Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Rogers.

And thank you to Secretary Wormuth and General McConville.

I have the privilege of representing Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the more than 40,000 service members who call it home. Joint Base Lewis-McChord, or JBLM, is the Army's only force projection platform west of the Rockies in the continental U.S. and has an important role as the Department continues to focus on the Indo-Pacific.

I also recognize that Joint Base Lewis-McChord is one of the fastest growing [inaudible] in the entire United States and that creates challenges with housing [inaudible] and encroachment concerns. I am committed to working with JBLM and all parties to address these issues and maintain JBLM's readiness.

Secretary Wormuth, I want to discuss several issues that are very important to my district.

One of my priorities in entering office is to facilitate a productive and positive relationship between JBLM and the Nisqually Tribe [inaudible]. As the Nisqually Tribe tries to meet these growth needs it has been constrained by JBLM on three sides. The

Nisqually are seeking to transfer 112 acres of unused land from JBLM to the Nisqually.

While negotiations over this transfer have been progressing for the last year and a half, it is my expectation that all parties will ensure that the negotiations maintain prioritization and that negotiations are finalized in a manner that is equitable and timely.

So, Secretary, will you please commit to working with me to help resolve this issue in a way that provides equitable benefits to all parties by fiscal year 2023? My staff and I stand at the ready.

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congresswoman.

I certainly commit to you to work on this issue with you. I am actually going to be going out to see JBLM in August, I believe, and would be happy to, frankly, learn more about the situation there, and would be again happy to work with you to make sure that we are being inclusive in terms of the negotiations that are ongoing.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Well, thank you. We look forward to your visit. And thank you for that commitment.

I want to talk a bit now about JBLM's role in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific. It is strategically vital and we know it is important to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The Army plans to have three Multi-Domain Task Forces, MDTFs, one in Europe and two in the Indo-Pacific. Joint Base Lewis-McChord was proud to host the pilot program.

As you consider requirements in the Indo-Pacific, will you commit to keeping one of the task forces at JBLM?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congresswoman, we are also very proud of the first Multi-Domain Task Force and are very pleased that it is already being part of our ability to experiment with new concepts and new operational approaches.

Certainly, it is going to be very important to be able to have a West Coast orientation for our MDTFs. I think we will want to look overall at our strategy, particularly as this administration is developing a revised National Defense Strategy. So we will want to look at the entirety of our global posture and where we put our new capabilities.

But we are very pleased with the work that MDTF is doing already, and I think it is in a good place right now.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Right. And then one quick issue that one of my colleagues raised is the issue of housing.

As one of the fastest growing markets in the country, I hear from service members coming [inaudible] and their spouses that housing is hard to find. And it is expensive here because the supply is constrained.

In many cases, we have a baseline for housing that just doesn't keep up with the cost of housing in our market. And spouses are often required to work so that they can meet their basic needs and put food on the table.

So will you please work with me to find creative solutions to addressing the housing affordability and supply crisis affecting our service members? For example, there are over 700 households on the waiting list right now to get housing on post at JBLM, but we know that 70 percent of those who serve live off base.

Thank you.

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes, Congresswoman. I will certainly work with you to try to address these kinds of challenges. We see costs, frankly, also rising, and in Austin, Texas, where we have Army Futures Command. And we know that is a challenge, particularly for some of our younger soldiers and families. So we will do our best to work with you in this area.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Alright. Thank you very much for answering those questions.

I yield back my time, Mr. Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Franklin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKLIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ranking Member Rogers.

And I appreciate our witnesses being here today. I know you all are very busy, so thank you for carving time out of your days for us.

Mrs. McClain mentioned before and I wanted to touch on some more, General, the matter of munitions, specifically precision-guided munitions. In the testimony it was discussed that there are a limited number of suppliers for key components of those precision-guided munitions. Those are critical assets, they are in high demand.

What are we doing to ensure that we are going to keep these suppliers alive when it looks like our munitions budget is being cut by about 25 percent? Is that a concern for you? And what do we address and how are we addressing that going forward?

General MCCONVILLE. I think it is a concern. I mean, we learned a lot about supply chain.

And as you said, some of these precision munitions take a long—they have some long lead type items that you have to purchase. And that is part of our equation we take a look at.

So we may be buying long lead, not necessarily—we always have to be a little more finesse in these type systems. If we can't afford the entire munition, we may buy the long range up front, the long lead type items, and go ahead and do that.

But we are taking a close look at that and trying to do the best we can within the budget we have.

Mr. FRANKLIN. Well, and I know for a lot of these suppliers predictability and consistency from one year to the next. We budget in this 12-month cycle, but they need to look out long term, so that they need to know that we are going to be there consistently buying, for them to keep their processes in place.

I want to touch a little bit more on this issue we have talked a little bit regarding discrimination. A couple of members have brought it up. In his opening remarks, Chairman Smith had addressed the issue of discrimination in the ranks and the services issues to eradicate it. I think we can all agree that that is—it is very important.

Secretary Wormuth, you spoke about the importance of building cohesive teams—General, you did as well—and talking about the need for dignity and respect.

In my experience, whether it is sports teams, military units, businesses, really the foundation of that cohesiveness I think fundamentally comes down to trust. And that trust is really built on a

matter of character and competence. And certainly if there is discrimination in the ranks, that is going to erode at that character element.

I have been surprised. I have had a number of constituents who were on Active Duty—a lot of veterans, but I am placing more stock currently in the Active Duty folks—reach out to me, which is kind surprising. I never in my 26 years in the Navy would have ever dreamed of going outside the chain of command to reach out to someone in Congress, but there is a lot of concern.

One in particular, I thought so much about it I called this gentleman up, spoke to him at length. He is an Army senior non-commissioned officer. His concern is that we are sowing—potentially sowing distrust among the troops and that we are kind of telling these people, in a military that has civilian oversight, that your leaders basically can't be trusted. Whether they know it or not, inherently they have got bias in everything they do and every decision they make is viewed through a lens of race that they can't help. I don't know that I necessarily agree with that.

But, General, what—well, and he went on to say that, "I am teaching these guys, these folks"—and he is in a leadership position or a training capacity. These are folks that are going to have to give orders in combat. They are going to have to give them and receive them.

And his concern is, are we creating a climate of mistrust where when someone makes a decision that is a life or death moment, and it may involve the death of soldiers, is someone going to stop to think, "Now, is that decision, is that order being given through a lens of race?"

What measures have you taken to help ensure that your commanders' intent isn't being distorted by the time it reaches the deckplate levels?

General MCCONVILLE. I think what is really important is our approach to all these what some people call harmful behaviors. How do you get after sexual harassment, sexual assault? How do you get after extremism, racism if there is in your organizations?

And I argue that is why it starts with building cohesive teams where you treat everyone with dignity and respect. And you bring them together.

We have done a lot of—it is interesting. We had a—I know we don't have a long answer—but you go to someone that does this for a living, that wrote "The Tribe," and how you build cohesive teams for civilians.

Well, you get a small group together. You take them on a long hike. You have them stay out overnight. And that is really good for building cohesive teams.

That is exactly what we do in the Army, is we have got to build cohesive teams, we have got to trust commanders. We have got to make sure as we change anything that—commanders are the ones that are going to make this happen. Leaders are the ones that are going to make things happen in the Army. We should never forget that.

Mr. FRANKLIN. I thank the gentleman. And I yield back

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Kahele is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAHELE. Mahalo, Mr. Chair, Ranking Member Rogers.
And Aloha, Madam Secretary and General McConville.

In your joint written testimony you stated, “Strategic readiness involves installation capabilities to mobilize, train, and deploy formations, and then sustain them from the homeland.”

I would like to ask a question regarding the Hawaii Infrastructure Readiness Initiative [HIRI], which the Army has committed to a 10-year, \$1 billion program to invest in the Army infrastructure in Hawaii.

This will be roughly \$100 million per year. It is mostly MILCON. The funds are essential in repairing, renovating, and constructing facilities that USARPAC [U.S. Army Pacific] has identified as critical to meeting the DOD [U.S. Department of Defense] strategic plans for the Indo-Pacific region.

By the Army’s own admission in 2019, approximately 45 percent of all Army infrastructure in Hawaii is failing, putting efforts to meet operational needs at risk. The total cost to repair that infrastructure is \$1.1 billion and the cost to address the deficit of that infrastructure is \$3 billion.

HIRI addresses several major facility and infrastructure deficiencies, including aviation maintenance facilities; operations facilities; tactical equipment maintenance facilities; the Pohakuloa Training Area; and a vital MILCON project, the West Loch ammunition storage facility.

Recently, competing demands within the Army have caused the delay of HIRI projects. Additionally, there is a perceived cap of \$100 million for HIRI projects within the Army that is causing several projects to be broken up into several smaller projects to meet this arbitrary cap. And as a result, many projects are now more expensive than if executed as a single project.

So my question, Madam Secretary, is how can we accelerate the timeline of HIRI and help the Army save money by allowing projects to be executed as a whole instead of a piecemeal development strategy?

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congressman, for that question.

First of all, our footprint in Hawaii is very, very important, particularly as we look to the Indo-Pacific theater, and we remain committed to the Hawaii Infrastructure Readiness Initiative.

We are, as you know, making—we are balancing our people, taking care of our people. We are balancing readiness. We are balancing modernization. So we are having to make some hard choices.

I think what I would like to do is look into the issues that you raise in more detail, particularly the issue of potentially the fact that we are breaking up larger projects into smaller projects, to see what we might be able to do to accelerate things.

But, again, part of this is we are balancing and we have an overall facilities improvement plan that we use to guide what we are doing. But we are committed to the infrastructure in Hawaii, so I will look into that and get back to you.

Mr. KAHELE. Okay. Thank you.

Sticking with the Indo-Pacific, and my colleague from Ohio raised this earlier. And I am also concerned that just in the last hour and 20 minutes of this hearing we have talked about China multiple times. We always talk about China in this committee. And

I am concerned that some of the talking points that have come out of the Pentagon are not reflected in the sense of urgency to respond to China.

And in reviewing the Army's budget and its fiscal year 2022 budget request, I am concerned we are not dedicating enough funding to the Pacific and INDOPACOM. In the Army's Pacific Deterrence Initiative request of about \$1.8 billion, that is \$1.5 billion less than the Army's request for EDI [European Deterrence Initiative], which is \$3.43 billion.

As we pivot to the Pacific and China and their rapidly advancing military, sir, General, does this budget meet, in your opinion, the future needs of the Army to fight, to win in the Pacific, to deter China from taking any more territory in the region, to support and keep our forces in the first island chain, to add more troop rotations, more exercises that can prepare us for China and for potential conflicts in the Western Pacific?

General McCONVILLE. I think that what is in the budget, it does, Congressman, as far as setting it. But there is some long-term—there is a strategic posture review that is going on right now that is going to inform what type of investments should be made. We certainly have contingencies for that. We are taking a look at that.

And just going back to the 25th in Schofield Barracks, where I had a chance to serve, those barracks are something we really want to get after. Really concerned about the soldiers living there. They do an incredible job, and we want to get after them as soon as we get the resources to make that happen.

Mr. KAHELE. All right. Thank you.

Thirty seconds, Madam Secretary. Anything in regards to the Pentagon's budget and PDI [Pacific Deterrence Initiative]?

Secretary WORMUTH. Again, I know that we are looking, again, Department-wide at PDI to make sure that we are reflecting congressional intent. But I think we have 69,000 troops aligned with the INDOPACOM with USARPAC, and the focus of our modernization is really to get after the China threat.

Mr. KAHELE. Okay. Mahalo.

Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. I yield the remainder of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mrs. Bice is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BICE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Secretary and General McConville, thank you for being with us today.

And, General, thank you for your service and the service of your children.

My home State of Oklahoma is proud of the tens of thousands of soldiers who are stationed at Fort Sill. The Fort Sill and Lawton, Oklahoma, communities work hand in hand to support the mission of the United States Army and to support the military personnel and families stationed there.

My first question focuses on the Paladin Integrated Management program, which is assembled in Elgin, Oklahoma. The Army identified an unfunded requirement of \$149.5 million for the Paladin program.

When coupled with the Army's fiscal year 2022 budget request, this would procure up to 36 sets of the equipment. However, that

is still only half of the full rate of production volume specified in the DOD-approved acquisition program baseline of 60 sets per year.

I am concerned that this level of volume will cause significant growth in the cost of each unit and could lead to adverse impacts on the highly skilled workforce in my State.

General, what analysis did the Army use to determine the unfunded requirement for that \$149.5 million?

General MCCONVILLE. With the analysis that we used, Congresswoman, we can come back and give you some detailed analysis. But it is basically looking about the resources available. It is looking at what the manufacturer can actually complete within the time. And then, within the prioritization, taking a look at what resources are available and making those type calls.

Mrs. BICE. I believe the 36 sets is actually less than that required, that allotment of able production in that timeframe.

What do you believe the impact on fielding to soldiers and the industrial base by moving away from the current volumes of the 44 to 48 sets per year?

General MCCONVILLE. Well, they are not going to modernize as fast as we would like them to.

Mrs. BICE. Madam Secretary.

Secretary WORMUTH. I would agree with what the Chief said. As I am learning in real-time, we have a very detailed process that goes underneath how we build the budgets. And we look at equipping. We look at sustaining. We look at training. And we look in tremendous depth.

But given available resources, we are not always able to fund all of those priorities in all of those program elements to the 100 percent level. But we do try to be very, very thoughtful and careful about where we accept risk, for example.

Mrs. BICE. Do you believe that this is a critical component for Army readiness?

Secretary WORMUTH. Certainly the Paladin program is an enduring program for us. Again, as you have pointed out, we have reduced the funding somewhat to be able to balance other requirements, but it continues to be an important capability for us.

Mrs. BICE. Thank you.

My second question touches on the Extended Range Cannon Artillery [ERCA] program, which is also assembled at Elgin.

The Army program manager in charge of the range—excuse me for just a second—recently identified a two-part acquisition strategy for the program, which includes a competition to build and assemble kits for ERCA and a separate competition to integrate those kits into the Paladin.

Can you verify that this is the ERCA acquisition strategy? Do you have any perspective on that?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congresswoman, while the ERCA program is an important part of our long-range precision fires, it is not a program I have had the opportunity yet to dive into deeply. So I will yield to my chief to take that one.

General MCCONVILLE. Yeah. We will come back to you on the programmatic. I mean, I know what we are doing with the Ex-

tended Range Cannon is something we want to do. We are very pleased with the result so far, the ranges we are getting.

As we talk about deterrence in great power competition, the ability to have speed and range, there were other people that came before committees like this and said we are outranged or outgunned, we don't see that in the future. And that is what we are trying to make sure we can produce.

Mrs. BICE. Do you think that we will be able to meet the goal to field a battalion in 2023 and another in 2024 based on the requirements? And you may not be able to answer that given—

General McCONVILLE. That is our intent.

Mrs. BICE. Okay.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Ms. Jacobs is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACOBS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, for being here with us.

I want to start with you, Secretary Wormuth.

The Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle [OMFV] is the first of several vehicle modernization programs the Army is developing.

What lessons were learned from last year's cancelation of the initial solicitation, specifically with the requirements process? And how can we do better with requirements early in these programs?

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congresswoman.

I think the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle is a good example of how, as I have come into this role, how the Army is approaching modernization and its acquisition efforts differently than we have in the past.

So unlike the Future Combat System, for example, where we loaded up a lot of requirements very early in the process and were perhaps somewhat unrealistic about what was technologically possible, with OMFV we are trying to do it in a much more incremental, iterative way.

So, first, we went out and we did market research to understand what might be possible, what kinds of producers might be out there. We then engaged in conversation with industry about what kinds of characteristics we are looking for in the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle. We then moved incrementally to looking at potentially what designs will be out there.

And we are going to, again, continue to pursue this iterative approach which, first of all, gives more opportunity for more companies in the private sector to compete, but also will give us a better sense of what is actually possible and achievable before we down-select.

So I think actually we have learned a lot and feel good about the path that we are on right now with OMFV.

Ms. JACOBS. Thank you.

General McConville, anything to add before I move on to the next topic?

General McCONVILLE. When we talk about transformation, we are transforming the way we actually buy weapon systems. And what we are finding is, by going to characteristics vice requirements early on in the process, we encourage innovation, we get

other people to participate in the process. And as we move forward we actually get the “drive before we buy” or “fly before we buy,” which we think is a much better approach.

Ms. JACOBS. Thank you.

I would now like to discuss the long-range precision fires. I know we have talked about it a few times already and it was in your written testimony. But I wanted to drill down a bit further.

How do you see these nonstrategic hypersonic weapons playing a role in the battlefield of the future?

Specifically, their long-range nature will completely change the way the Army needs to collect targeting information.

And has the Army adequately thought about the way sensors will need to be connected to shooters in order to make these weapons effective?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congresswoman, a couple comments on that.

First of all, I think long-range precision fires are really essential for the Army—but, frankly, for the entire joint force—in terms of helping us address the anti-access/area denial challenges that both China and Russia present to us.

And I think it is important to not forget about the European theater and about the challenges we face from Russia. There is a lot of appropriate emphasis on China, but we need to remember the European theater as well.

And the programs that we are pursuing here, whether it is Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon or PrSM [Precision Strike Missile] or the Extended Range Cannon, those are all weapon systems that will allow us to hit targets from much longer standoff distances.

And in terms to your very important point about connecting sensors to shooters, we are trying to use our Project Convergence initiative, which is sort of our campaign of learning, to try to help us understand how we can use these capabilities, how we can work with the other services to use our sensors to connect to the best shooters for a particular target.

And we have a joint board of directors for our Project Convergence initiative that allows us to bring in all of the services to our efforts so that we can explore those issues.

And the Chief may want to add something.

General McCONVILLE. Yeah. I think the Secretary laid it out.

The only thing I would add, long-range precision fires require long-range targeting and precision targeting, and we are certainly developing the capabilities to do that within the joint force. And that is what we are having the discussion about: Who is actually going to do that targeting and what is the best way to do that?

Ms. JACOBS. Well, thank you.

And in my final 20 seconds, I will just echo my colleagues' encouragement to make sure we are addressing housing and continuing to execute the Army Housing Campaign Plan.

And I, too, was on the CODEL to Fort Hood and encourage you to continue working on sexual assault.

And, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Green is recognized for 5 minutes.

Dr. GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member.

Thanks to our witnesses for being here. I have known General McConville for many, many years. And to my members, fellow members, his service is venerable.

Thank you, sir.

And, Madam Secretary, it is great to meet you.

As I flip through the budget, I know I am digging into the weeds here, General McConville, but seems like the Army is getting tasked fairly significantly, in fact it looked like more than any other service branch, for the INDOPACOM. And I just wondered if you wouldn't elaborate on that a little bit and kind of tell us what kind of missions they are getting tasked to do out there.

General McCONVILLE. Yeah. I think it is interesting, a lot of people want to look at the Indo-Pacific and they see a lot of blue water out there and they say it is a maritime theater and it is an air theater. And I would say certainly that is very, very important.

But we have key allies and partners out there. I can run the whole list. But I have spent a lot of time with the chiefs of staffs out there.

And so the question becomes, what does a combatant commander want from the Army? What do our allies and partners want?

They certainly want our Multi-Domain Task Force capability, which has the ability to provide long-range precision effects and long-range precision fires for deterrence.

Our security force assistance brigades right now are being used in many countries out there because they are building partner capabilities and capacity. Special Forces is in high demand out there for the same type reasons.

We are doing multiple exercises with our allies and partners, not only in the theater. They have actually come to our Joint Readiness Training Center because they want to get that type of training. We think that is extremely important.

When it comes to logistics, the Army does logistics. If you have got a vaccination, you know a little about Army logistics.

And so the Army has a critical role out there, and we just need to be postured to provide that.

Dr. GREEN. Well, good. Thanks for elaborating on that.

My office is getting, Madam Secretary, I would say pictures texted to us about once a month at a minimum about the barracks at 1st Brigade.

And I keep pushing this issue. As I have been told, I can't do an appropriation on it unless you guys, MILCON, puts it on its list. And I understand there is a 21 percent increase in the budget for MILCON.

But I would like to ask you to take a look at what those barracks look like and ask yourself, 1st Brigade, the 101st Airborne Division, if you would want your son or daughter in there. My son happens to be. Mold and issues like that need to be addressed in those buildings.

General McConville, on the issue of aviation, I noticed a combat aviation request of \$2.8 billion, a \$1.3 billion decrease from 2021.

And as we talk about the Army's use in INDOPACOM and the commander wanting to see you guys out there more, wouldn't there need to be an increase in the aviation budget as opposed to a de-

crease? And if so, is there some risk we are taking? And can you talk about that risk.

General MCCONVILLE. Well, we are certainly concerned about making sure that our pilots get the flying hours that they need to do. And what you will find is, if we don't invest in flying hours, whether it is flight school or flying hours in the units, we see a lack of proficiency, and that tends to come back in accidents.

So we are concerned about that. We are trying to make sure that we get the right amount of money that is needed. And I would say that the money that we have in readiness right now needs to stay there. We have done some very stringent, I want to say, uses of readiness. There is not room when we put in UFRs—

Dr. GREEN. You can't cut it any more, is what you are saying.

General MCCONVILLE. I can't cut it any more. We need to keep that readiness because it has been very efficiently managed, I guess is the way I want to say it.

Dr. GREEN. That is a very good way to say it, I guess.

And I echo what the ranking member said earlier. We are concerned that the budget that the administration has handed you or asked you to live under is probably less than what you need.

But one thing in the final minute that I have. I mentioned this with General Milley just a few weeks ago. And that is the CTC [Combat Training Center] rotations.

And I went back and did my homework, and I was right, they were set for 26 in 2021 and it looks like 17 in 2022. That is a big concern as we think about China and Russia, these pacing threats, large-scale ground operations.

Can you elaborate a little bit on that cut? And is 17 enough?

General MCCONVILLE. Well, Congressman, I probably need to brief you offline, because I just have—I have the numbers in front of me. It is a little different.

Dr. GREEN. Sure.

General MCCONVILLE. We have got 20.

I think what is interesting is, if you take the 22, we have 22 rotations scheduled, 8 in NTC [National Training Center], 8 in JRTC [Joint Readiness Training Center].

Now, two of those, we are doing something different now. We are going to actually do the rotations, probably one in Alaska and one in Hawaii, which is a little—so if you are talking to the folks at the CTCs, they are going to go, “Hey, wait a minute. We used to have this many.”

And the other thing we are doing—

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mrs. LURIA is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LURIA. Thank you.

And, General McConville, I want to go back to something General Milley said during his testimony last week. He said: “Decisive outcomes in war are ultimately achieved on land.”

Do you agree with this statement?

General MCCONVILLE. Absolutely.

Mrs. LURIA. So in your opening statement you write: The Army remains prepared to fight and win the Nation's wars.

Can you briefly describe what it would mean from the Army's perspective to win in a war with China or, as General Milley put it, to achieve a decisive outcome?

General McCONVILLE. Yeah. I would say winning with China is not fighting China. I think the way I would describe it is to have the ability that we have overmatch.

And, again, I kind of believe in a philosophy of peace through strength. And that strength comes from a whole-of-government effort where you have a very strong military, you have a very strong Army, so people do not want to take the risks of doing certain things.

And you also have strong allies and partners who share the same vision of the world order and they are going to stand side by side and not allow some of these things to happen.

Mrs. LURIA. So then focusing on the Army's component on that, a ground component such as the Army, what would the Army provide towards this decisive outcome, which I think we would all agree we would like to not fight ultimately that war?

General McCONVILLE. Well, it is going to provide the capabilities. It is going to provide long-range precision fires. It is going to provide maneuver vehicles that can—the only way to compel people is on the ground to stop those type things from happening.

And what we want to have is a very lethal and agile Army. And we think we get that through having speed, range, and convergence that gives us decision dominance, and having the appropriate amount of capability within the joint force to be able to deter them from taking on those type actions.

Mrs. LURIA. Okay. So, as you know and you referred to earlier, that many strategists have said that the conflict in the Western Pacific is primarily a naval and an air campaign. And it seems that, based on this discussion, you see a role for ground forces and a role for the Army in a conflict in the Western Pacific.

Recently, the head of Air Force Global Strike Command said that your effort, the Army's effort to base long-range missiles in the Pacific, was expensive, duplicative, and stupid, and the number one priority for PACOM [U.S. Pacific Command] in the Pacific Deterrent Initiative is missile defense. Yet, that is your number six modernization priority behind long-range precision fires, next-generation combat vehicle, vertical lift, and others in your budget submission.

Can you briefly explain why the Army is pursuing long-range fires in the Pacific, including shore-based anti-ship missiles, when, one, there are no basing agreements to house these weapons in the first island chain; two, the Marine Corps is developing the same but a more mobile capability; and three, the cost of delivering this capability far exceeds the Navy and Air Force capabilities?

General McCONVILLE. Yeah. I think, Congresswoman, that we absolutely need long-range precision fires. I think it provides multiple options for the combatant commander.

If you take a look at what the Secretary was talking about, and you have to take a look at anti-access/area denial, and I would recommend get a classified brief on what those capabilities they have, because our adversaries have sophisticated integrated air and missile defense, they have sophisticated—

Mrs. LURIA. I am not trying to argue against long-range fires, but just the role of the Army in that when the Navy and the Air Force already—Marine Corps and Air Force are already developing those capabilities at potentially a lower cost.

And just pivoting on that as well, so the Army has a good and soon to be improved ground-based missile defense capability if the Low Tier Air and Missile Defense system works. But the Navy operates Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System.

Why doesn't the Army take over the Aegis Ashore, which is what the PACOM commander asked for in Guam, instead of building a new multibillion dollar radar?

General McCONVILLE. Well, we are going to take a look at what is the best way to do integrated air and missile defense. We have got an IFPC [Indirect Fire Protection Capability] capability and Iron Dome capability.

Where the Army is going right now is on an Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System that will take advantage of convergence using multiple sensors to multiple different shooters. And that is where we are going as far as that process.

The Aegis right now we do not have people—it is not a matter of just taking over. We would have to train a whole cohort of—

Mrs. LURIA. I understand that. But my whole point is that there is duplicity, like, we are duplicating things amongst the services. When at the same time you and other service chiefs will talk a lot about jointness, it seems like there is excess redundancy and funds in this budget that go to things that are significantly overlapping amongst the services.

And I am sorry, my time has expired.

General McCONVILLE. Okay. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Before we move on to the next person, two programming notes. We are going to stop at 2 o'clock and there are votes between here and there. Again, as I did last time, I am going to try to keep going and have members coming so we can maximize the time, make sure someone is here to ask a question. So just be prepared for that.

Mr. Johnson, you are recognized.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, thank you both for being here today.

And thank you, General, for your commitment to maintaining peace through strength. I appreciate how you articulated that a few moments ago.

Last week, I asked Secretary Austin and General Milley, who were here, about Army readiness. And General Milley had what I thought was a memorable quote. He said: "Wars are often started from afar, from long-range weapon systems. They are always ended, however, somewhere on the ground. And the last bullet of a war is usually fired by a Marine or Army infantryman."

So it is critical to maintain the readiness of the United States Army.

Our training centers, both at Fort Irwin and Fort Polk, as well as in Germany, are going to be critically important moving forward to maintain our current ground force capabilities. I represent Fort Polk, it is in my district, proudly.

How would you say the President's budget request for the Army accounts for those considerations, namely Army readiness and getting rotations through our training centers? I know you were addressing that briefly with Congressman Green a few moments ago. Maybe I will go to the Secretary first.

Secretary WORMUTH. Sure, Congressman.

First of all, readiness is incredibly important. It is one of our—I think of—I sort of think of the overall Army program as a three-legged stool. You have modernization, you have readiness, and you have force structure.

So we, as the Chief said, we have funded 20 rotations, CTC rotations, in our budget because the Army has worked very hard in the last several years to dig itself out of a readiness trough that was substantially a result of sequestration and the Budget Control Act.

And maintaining that readiness to be able to fight tonight is very important. So we have tried to emphasize that and don't feel that there is really any head space in that area, if you will.

I don't know, General McConville, if you want to add to that.

General MCCONVILLE. I think our Combat Training Centers are really the gold standard of how we train battalion and brigade units. And so, they are absolutely critical for what we are trying to do.

With the budget, and, again, as we take a look at—we are trying to most efficiently use the resources we have. So if you take a look at the 20 rotations, currently we are doing 8 out at the Combat Training Center at NTC. That is kind of armor, large-scale type ground combat operations. And most of the units are fairly close to that, so they are able to do that.

For the Joint Readiness Training Center we are doing a couple of things. One is we are going to move them actually maybe to Alaska, the cadre, to run a CTC-like rotation in Alaska under the conditions. Because if you are going to be an Arctic warrior, it might be better to be trained in that environment, and the same thing out in the jungle. So we are taking a look at that.

And the same thing for units going to Europe. To cut down the OPTEMPO, we have a CTC there. So what we would like to do is run them through a Combat Training Center as part of their deployment, rather than having them get to a deployment and taking a look at the OPTEMPO.

So we are trying to balance everything within resources. And one of resources is time. So how do we best use their time?

And if we have to bring a unit's equipment all the way from Hawaii, put it on a boat, by the time it gets to Fort Polk, and then put it on a boat and send it back, they are away from their equipment for a couple months.

So we are trying to figure out the best way to do this within the resources that we have.

Mr. JOHNSON. Just a parenthetical note that Fort Polk can mimic the conditions of anywhere except the Arctic.

General MCCONVILLE. No, I know. That is right. I spent some good quality time there.

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes, sir. I am sure you have.

The new Global Defender exercise is funded in the budget request and described by the Army as additive and designed to show-

case Army modernization priorities and, quote, “key Department of Defense and congressional audiences,” unquote. Yet, the large-scale theater-level Defender-Europe exercise that was previously scheduled for fiscal year 2022 is not funded in the budget request.

First of all, what are the goals of the Global Defender exercise? And what does the Army mean by that in terms of the audiences who it is focused for?

Secretary WORMUTH. Why don’t I let, given how new I am, why don’t I let the Chief talk about that one?

General MCCONVILLE. Defenders have really been running across three kind of scenarios. One is certainly Defender-Europe, which was a large amount of forces going that was impacted by COVID, but we still were able to accomplish a lot of goals. And those will continue, but the focal point was that. The same thing with 21 Indo-Pacific. That was a major exercise.

The intent of this exercise is just to take a look at, as we look at the future, what is the global impact of being contested all the way from home to one of the theaters we are going to have to go to?

So, you know, we see the change in environment. We are seeing little effects of that from cyber and some other things, that people can basically impact the United States in ways that we have never seen before.

And so we need to be aware of that. We need to be able to mobilize our forces. We need to be able to get them through the various centers. And we need to make sure the infrastructure is going to support us deploying in a contested environment.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you both.

I am out of time. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Escobar is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

And, Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, thank you so much for being here today. Really appreciate your service to our country and your time before our committee this morning.

And, Madam Secretary, I look forward to at some point welcoming you to El Paso and to Fort Bliss.

And, General McConville, I look forward to our visit coming up soon.

I have the honor and privilege of representing El Paso, Texas, home to Fort Bliss, America’s second largest military installation, largest Joint Mobilization Force Generation Installation in the Army, and the 1st Armored Division, America’s only armored tank division.

And I have had the privilege of spending some time visiting with soldiers, not just on base and off base, not just in my district, but outside of my district.

And with regard to women in particular, I can tell you, I really appreciate your leaning into addressing sexual harassment and sexual assault, because on many fronts we really, truly have failed women and we have to do better.

The same thing goes for suicides. And we had a conversation yesterday about the most recent suicide at Fort Bliss and the tragedy surrounding that suicide. But also this is the second death in just several months. Two young women soldiers.

And it is—I know that this is a terrible and difficult issue to address. But what is it?

In looking back, I appreciate that we now understand very clearly where the chronic issue is and who needs to be provided resources and reinforcement, so to speak.

But what, in your view, is happening? What is going on here where we have not done well enough? And what are the first steps to doing better?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congresswoman, a couple of things.

On suicide, we are certainly very concerned about that. And we have a historically high rate of suicide in the Army right now, which is very concerning.

Often suicides come about with behavioral health issues, often relationship problems, sometimes financial issues. But I think what we are trying to do through the “This is My Squad” initiative, through working on improving our command climate down to the lowest level, working on trying to introduce evidence-based suicide prevention programs, we are trying—some of the things we are doing I think will help us get after a range of harmful behaviors, whether it is sexual harassment or whether it is trying to prevent suicide.

A lot of it is trying to make sure, as General McConville said, that we have got that golden triangle of, do our soldiers feel connected to their families, connected to their squad mates, and connected to their leaders?

And if they have those connections, we have a better opportunity to get ahead of any potential problems.

But this is something I think we are just going to have to continue working on. And it is going to take, I think, consistent, year after year focus and effort.

Ms. ESCOBAR. And I appreciate that.

One thing that I would add, obviously we are not the first institution to deal with this, and with this particular age group, as was mentioned, with the vulnerability of this population.

Are we looking essentially outside the box and outside of the DOD for best practices and for advice and support?

I appreciate the DOD’s response, the Army’s response, et cetera. But there are institutions outside of the U.S. military who have had to grapple with this as well. And are we looking, leaning on them at all?

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes. I think we are, as I said, trying to really look outside the Department for evidence-based suicide prevention programs and to learn from other institutions.

We have a pilot program running at a couple of major installations that is focused on the suicide challenge in particular.

But we absolutely should be looking to every possible source of good ideas outside of the Army and the Department of Defense.

Ms. ESCOBAR. And in my last 30 seconds, the last thing I will add, we have had this conversation about infrastructure on Fort Bliss, the barracks, the railhead.

And I really look forward to exploring with you and would seek your commitment to really taking a long, hard look at the cost-benefit analysis there, especially for the railhead, the lack of invest-

ment in that, and what it is costing us in the long term the longer we wait.

But also the barracks. Clearly it is a chronic issue. I have heard it from other colleagues as well on this committee. But really would love for you to see those barracks on Fort Bliss. They are in desperate need of investment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Mr. WALTZ is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALTZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good to see you, Chief, Madam Secretary.

General McConville, in your Senate testimony you described 2020 as the Year of the National Guard. And I couldn't agree more, between COVID response, national unrest, vaccine deployment, record hurricane season, record firefighting season, plus the overseas missions that they have to be ready to deploy.

The problem is these domestic missions are disproportionately affecting our various States where the Guard's force structure is aligned.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit for the record a letter signed by 55 of my colleagues from Texas, Florida, and California addressing this issue. If I could ask consent.

The CHAIRMAN. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

[The letter referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 77.]

Mr. WALTZ. Thank you.

It is addressing this issue that these States per capita have the smallest National Guard force structure. So they actually rank 52, 53, and 54, I think somewhat surprisingly.

You overlay with that, they are most prone to natural disasters, certainly in California, Texas, and Florida in particular.

So I want to be clear. I am not asking or suggesting that States should lose force structure. What I am asking your support to work with us on is that as some of these States voluntarily shed, because they can't recruit or for other reasons, that we take those population factors into account.

This domestic mission is critical. And would you—I would think you would agree that the strain on the force from domestic missions is impacting the Federal operational mission in recruiting, in retention. Every time you have to go to that employer and say, "I am leaving," that really has an impact.

Will you work with us on that and work with NGB [National Guard Bureau] on this?

General McCONVILLE. No, absolutely. And one thing I would add, Congressman, is we need to take a look as we move in the future, and I have talked to General Hokanson and General Jensen, and really we want the input from the Guard on—as you know, certain States want to have certain type units. Some can raise special forces or can raise this type organization.

Mr. WALTZ. Right.

General McCONVILLE. And some have talent in cyber and different type things.

And so we want to work with the States and lay out, "Hey, can you do this, can you put more here," and do it in a collaborative way.

Mr. WALTZ. And all of those factors absolutely should be factored in. But you can't have a tank unit there if you don't have the ranges, right?

General McCONVILLE. That is right.

Mr. WALTZ. That should be all factored in.

But population, particularly as they are shifting, and that domestic mission, which I know isn't your number one priority, but it impacts you.

And further, I think we need to look at what we are calling homeland defense, right? Our adversaries have made it clear with Colonial Pipeline and others that they can hit us here and will hit us here. When it impacts whole regions, I would put that squarely in your bucket and not in the Governors' buckets necessarily.

So that line is getting very blurry. And I would just ask your support in working with us on that.

Shifting to the budget, I do think there is a narrative out there that as we shift to the Indo-Pacific that is primarily an Air Force and Navy fight. And I know that there are a quarter million soldiers assigned just to Indo-Pacific COCOM [combatant command]. There are 60 percent of COCOM requirements are on your shoulders, or on the Army's shoulders.

But as we have little recap investments from the Middle East, the R&D [research and development] budget is down, our O&M [operations and maintenance] is stretched, the munitions budget is cut, increased demand on the Guard, as I mentioned, Madam Secretary, I am having a hard time believing you have a sufficient budget.

Are you testifying that you have a sufficient budget for all of those needs?

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes, Congressman. I think the budget that we have now is adequate to provide us the resources that we need to both maintain our readiness, make sure that we can fulfill current operational demands from the combatant commanders, and prepare for the future.

Mr. WALTZ. Thank you for that.

Chief, do you have enough money? I will just note that your predecessors were always here demanding more and fighting for more. Chief, you testify that you have enough?

General McCONVILLE. What I am testifying to, Congressman, is you have my unfinanced requirements. I can tell you my priority when it comes to the budget. And we are giving you the best Army we can with the budget that we received.

Mr. WALTZ. Thank you, Chief.

In the few seconds I have remaining, I just want to go to the physical requirements of combat.

I applaud the move to a branch-specific, it makes sense, to a branch-specific physical requirement. And it makes sense. Infantry and artillery requires more than cyber or dentist.

Madam Secretary, could you submit for the record your plans to maintain gender-neutral physical requirements or what you are looking at shifting?

The CHAIRMAN. It has got to be yes or no.

Mr. WALTZ. For the record. For the record.

Secretary WORMUTH. We can certainly brief you on where we are with APFT [Army Physical Fitness Test] now.

[The information referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 85.]

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's has expired.

Mr. WALTZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Bergman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary Wormuth, you previously stated that the Army National Guard may not be able to fund training for the remainder of the fiscal year if supplemental funding is not provided to offset the cost of the Capitol security response.

The Air National Guard is also in is a similar position.

Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, with just a simple yes or no answer, if supplemental funding isn't immediately approved, will Guard readiness suffer? That is, will it be reduced?

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes, Congressman, it will. We will have to cut training for August and September.

General MCCONVILLE. Yes. And I would add, Guard morale will also be affected, because there are going to be guardsmen that are not going to get credit for this year's service if they don't get a chance to make the 39 days.

Mr. BERGMAN. And that is a great point to dive into, because not only do you affect the readiness, you affect the morale. And to restate it, those who have committed to 20-plus years in the Guard, a sat [satisfactory] year with the 50 points that enables them to have another qualifying year.

This is a big deal. So there should be no delay.

Thank you for your response.

Secretary Wormuth, in your view, what are the differences between command climate in garrison—example, a base like Fort Hood—and command climate in a forward-deployed unit engaged in kinetic activity, that is, combat?

Secretary WORMUTH. Well, Congressman, I would say, for starters, I think to some extent—and I have learned this in discussions with commanders in our Army and in previous years of working in the Pentagon—often when you are there in combat or forward deployed, potentially being ready for combat, there is a crucible there where the command climate is often quite positive because commanders are right there with their soldiers. They know their soldiers. There is a shared sense of purpose and objective.

I think at garrison, sometimes that can be more challenging. I mean, first of all, there is—

Mr. BERGMAN. And you are on point. My question is, you know, unit commanders are selected, not elected. They are selected because they went through rigorous training, years of experience, and they are tasked with leadership, both life and death of their units, whether it be in garrison or whether it be in the fight.

And we talked earlier about, General, as you mentioned, in the last 20 years, a lots of our unit commanders, especially at the younger levels, when they have come back from deployment, have forgotten that they are still in charge of young soldiers and Marines and airmen. They are not bad people. They are tired. And we know that when you are in command, you are in command day on,

stay on, 24/7, 30 days a month until appropriately relieved of your command by someone else.

I guess when I consider how we train and prepare our commanders, our officers, and senior enlisted for command, we are walking down a very unique road here, and not a good one, when we start separating things out of the command authority, because you are either all in command of everything or you are in command of nothing. And I believe the road we are walking down here, as we start separating out, an example, sexual assault, then what is next.

So I would ask you to consider that as we move forward to make sure our troops are, number one, ready to fight and, number two, ready to care for each other, whether it be in garrison or in the fight.

I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Ms. Speier is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Thank you both for your service. I will commend you, Ms. Wormuth, for your ability in very short order to have a very commanding understanding of the issues that confront you.

Let me start with what I am convinced is the next epidemic in the military, and that is suicide. I just got word that the 11th, count it, the 11th suicide has taken place now in Alaska. We have got to get a handle on this.

So my first question is, will you please provide me with the number of suicides at each of our bases around the world?

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes, Congresswoman, we will. And I agree with you, we have to get after this. I have been in the job 4 weeks and I get emails every week, more than once, telling me that one of our soldiers has committed suicide, and it is extremely disheartening and tragic, and we need to focus on it more.

Ms. SPEIER. So, General McConville, the crushing, unsustainable OPTEMPO I think is a major factor, not just in suicide. I think it was a major factor in the toxic climate at Fort Hood, and I am concerned that this problem extends to other bases and to the rest of the Army.

Last week General Milley testified before the committee, and he says the OPTEMPO is too high. So what are you doing within the Army to address the OPTEMPO and make it more manageable?

General MCCONVILLE. I absolutely agree with General Milley. I think one of the things that we learned from Fort Hood, when people look at Fort Hood, is the amount of deployments that they did, and part of resources—we often talk about money here—is time.

It is time for leaders to spend with their soldiers. It is time to get to know their soldiers. In many cases some of the soldiers that are having challenges are going to be left behind because the unit is going forward with them or without them, but building these cohesive teams—and I use the motto of the golden triangle—where squad leaders know their soldiers and every soldier has a buddy, and they know the families because when we look at these suicides—and I have been looking at this for a long time, it breaks my heart to lose people to suicide.

It breaks my heart to lose any soldiers, but there is always something there about why did this soldier not, you know, have the will to live, what would make them to be in that position where they no longer want to live.

And we have behavioral health—my daughter does that. She is a behavioral health officer in the Army right now trying to help these young men and women. But there is something to do with connecting them, making them feel connected—

Ms. SPEIER. Okay. General, I am going to stop you there, unfortunately, because I have to ask a couple more questions.

General MCCONVILLE. Okay.

Ms. SPEIER. But I appreciate your recognition that we have to address it.

We have an unacceptable condition in many of our barracks and housing across the military. You have heard from a number of members talk about housing in their various districts.

At Fort Hood, in my number of visits there, the barracks were—some are being restored; some are not. The members of the committee that were on the CODEL that were previously in the service were appalled at the condition of the barracks at Fort Hood.

Now, there is a 10-year, \$10 billion plan to modernize the barracks within the Army. There has only been a request for \$262 million for fiscal year 2022. At this rate, you are never going to do \$10 billion in 10 years. So it suggests that there isn't the commitment to making this a priority.

So, Secretary, would you please comment on that? How—you need to do a billion dollars a year to be able to make that commitment that you made of \$10 billion over 10 years.

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congresswoman.

I have been—when I was at Fort Hood, I also had the opportunity to see the barracks, and I saw good barracks, modernized barracks, but I also saw bad barracks.

What I would commit to you is, you know, we are—we do have the \$10 billion over 10-year plan. What I would like to say to you is I will look carefully at that plan because I, myself, you know, particularly hearing all of the concerns that we are hearing about barracks, would like to dig into that and make sure that I feel satisfied that it is going after modernizing barracks in a way that I feel comfortable with. And I have not looked at the 10-year plan in detail, so I will commit to do that and come back to you.

Ms. SPEIER. All right. One last point. There is \$485 million that is being spent on housing, family housing at Fort Hood, but it is not a decision that the commander has any authority over based on the contracts that we have—

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

I am going to recognize Mr. Gaetz for the purposes of a UC [unanimous consent] request.

Mr. GAETZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I ask for unanimous consent for all committee members to have 5 legislative days within which to submit documents for the committee record.

The CHAIRMAN. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

Ms. Cheney is recognized.

Ms. CHENEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to both of our witnesses for being here today.

I wanted to talk in a little bit more detail about what we are seeing in terms of our adversaries' capabilities. We have had multiple testimonies over the course of our posture hearings this year, as we have in previous years; but this year in particular comments like the breathtaking speed with which we are watching the Chinese, for example, modernize.

In the context that we are seeing adversary capabilities increase, the Biden administration defense budget is woefully insufficient, inadequate to maintain our own capabilities. In your joint testimony, you said, "While America's Army maintains a tenuous overmatch, it is fleeting."

And I would like to ask you first, General McConville, we have heard this again year after year, this notion that we have still got overmatch but just barely. Could you explain exactly what you mean by tenuous overmatch and on what basis—I understand in this setting it may be with less specificity, but on what basis you feel confident to say we still maintain tenuous overmatch?

General MCCONVILLE. Yes, Congresswoman. What I would say is we are at an inflection point right now. So the systems that we basically developed in the 1980s, you know, the Big Five weapon systems, the Abrams and all of those type systems, the doctrine that we developed, the training, all of those things we developed, we have incrementally improved over the last 40 years.

I think we are at a point right now where we must transform the Army to put us on a path to keep us at the overmatch we need. So what I am talking about, it is not just the six modernization priorities, which is the 31+4 systems. It is new doctrine. It is joint all-domain operations of how we are going to fight as a joint service. And I add a "C" to "combined all-domain operations" because we are going to fight with our allies and partners. It is new organizations we are building, like the Multi-Domain Task Force. It is going to give us long-range precision effects, long-range precision fires, that we need to have to penetrate this anti-access/area denial capabilities developing. It is new ways we train. It is new ways that we bring things on board.

And, more importantly, it is a 21st Century Talent Management System where we manage people and compete for people very differently.

All of those things need to be done. And as we discuss this, people are going to say, well, the barracks aren't this or this. You know, we are trying to take the money we have and apply it so we are postured the best we can with the money we have been given for the future.

Ms. CHENEY. Well, I appreciate that, and I think that is a key point for the American people to understand, that you are doing the best you can, but at this moment our adversaries are not facing the same constraints.

In a contested environment, General, today, do you think that the joint force would have dominance across the entire spectrum?

General MCCONVILLE. I do.

Ms. CHENEY. Because 2 years ago, in 2018, as the Army began to change the doctrine, there was testimony at that time that, in

fact, then we would not have. But do you think that we have now increased our capacities and our capabilities, that they have improved since 2018?

General MCCONVILLE. I think we have. I think we are on a good path right now. I feel comfortable with the Army we have. I spent a lot of time talking to allies and partners and moving around, and I have fought with this Army, and I feel pretty comfortable that we are on the right path with the Army we have. And, again, I think where we are going is going to give us not the tenuous overmatch. I think it is going to give us significant overmatch that we need for the future.

Ms. CHENEY. Well, I would also just urge that we can't get to that significant overmatch if we don't have the resources, and time is not on our side.

And I appreciated your comments about whole of government, but, again, I come back to the notion that the deterrence fundamentally requires that our adversaries understand we have the capability and the will, and that is the military capability and the will.

And so, Secretary Wormuth, could you explain how you are thinking about deterrence in new ways? Because it seems pretty clear that being able to depend upon overmatch, being able to depend upon dominance across every domain isn't where we are headed with this budget. So what are the new ways that you are thinking about effective deterrence in that world?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congresswoman, I would say a couple of things. First of all, I think one, you know, area of overmatch that we have is our relationships with allies and partners.

And, you know, I firmly believe that part of our deterrent is going to be signaling clearly that we have friends that China doesn't have in the theater, for example, who would be willing to be with us. And the Army has put a lot of emphasis and I think is well positioned to strengthen and thicken that network of relationships of allies and partners.

I think another area that we need to work on and that we are working on with things like our artificial intelligence integration—

Ms. CHENEY. My time has expired, Secretary. I look forward to continuing that discussion. I think that there are no amount of allies that can substitute if we allow our adversaries to get ahead of us from a capability standpoint.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Mr. Morelle is recognized for 5 minutes.

I think you are still muted, Mr. Morelle. Could you try and unmute yourself?

All right. Mr. Kim is recognized for 5 minutes.

We will try and get back to Mr. Morelle.

Mr. KIM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the two of you for coming on. It is great to see the both of you again.

I wanted to start with you, Secretary Wormuth. About a week ago, a little over a week ago, there was an article in The Washington Post about hunger concerns in our military, particularly with regard to reservists saying that, you know, there are increas-

ing data showing that there is hunger and food insecurity amongst our service members and their families.

In that same article there was a spokesperson for the Guard that said that he was skeptical about the food insecurity census data and that he had not encountered service members who have complained of household hunger.

So I guess I just wanted to kind of get a sense of how the Department of Defense and how you see this. Is this a problem that you are aware of or do you feel like it is something that is under control?

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congressman. And it is good to see you.

I think, you know, this is not an area that I have been able to dig in extensively in terms of having a lot of analytical data, but certainly I have heard anecdotally some expressions of concern about food insecurity. And I think if you look at the—you know, our military families have suffered a lot of hardships during this past year with COVID, as have millions of Americans, and so it is entirely possible to me that there may be families, you know, with spouses who have lost their jobs, for example, that may be contributing to this.

I think what we are trying to do for starters certainly is to make sure that we are providing educational resources to our soldiers and their families to help them with things like financial planning to make sure that they know what resources are available, to help them with food insecurity if they are struggling.

Mr. KIM. Well, I appreciate your response and the way that you approached it because I think that this is something that clearly we all need to look into more and try and figure out what it is that we can understand. I mean, I look at the priorities, and your testimony is saying that your top priorities are about investing in people and sustaining readiness.

And certainly I think, you know, investing in people and sustaining readiness, you know, starts with making sure that we have our service members and their families being able to have what they need to be able to be healthy.

So I was a little alarmed by just the skepticism that was kind of laid out by that one spokesperson. So I would love to be able to continue to work on this because I can tell you from my end, we have indications and we have reports in my district of community service organizations needing to provide food assistance to dozens of service member families in my district and it has been getting worse.

So this is something that I have been worried about for quite a few months, and I just feel like this is something that we need to address. I think we can all agree that no one in uniform should go hungry. I mean, I would love to say no one in America should go hungry. I think that is something as well that we recognize, but those that protect us.

In that same vein, another thing that I would like to just get on your radar, may not be something you are tracking right at the forefront, but, you know, there is a piece of legislation that I am trying to work forward with my colleague, Trent Kelly, called The

Healthcare for Our Troops Act, and if you don't mind, kind of take a look at this, but it is the same kind of approach.

It is saying that right now we have over 120,000, if not more, Guard and reservists wearing a uniform that don't have healthcare, and that seems like a huge problem. That seems like a readiness issue.

That seems like a problem in terms of just treating people with decency and especially those that are there to try and protect us. So I just wanted to get it on your radar and would love to be able to follow up with you.

But I think you would agree, Secretary, that, again, anyone that wears a uniform should be able to have the food that they need, to be able to provide for their family, and certainly, when they are certainly putting themselves in harm's way, should have the healthcare that they need, too. Is that correct?

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes, Congressman. And as you know, you know, when our guardsmen, soldiers, men or women, are mobilized, you know, particularly for a length of time beyond 30 days, I believe, they do qualify for healthcare insurance in that phase; but there are certainly some who, you know, if they don't have civilian employer coverage, healthcare can be a challenge. So that is certainly something I would like to look into with you.

Mr. KIM. I think that is something that we can deliver for them and especially given what they have done. We look at what Guard and reservists have done over the last year, all the different mission sets we have been pushing them towards, so I would love to be able to work with you on that.

Thank you so much.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Votes have been called. Mr. Kim, could you do me a favor and stick around for like 5 minutes? I hate to do this publicly, but I have got to run and vote and come back. We need someone to run the committee. I will go and do that.

Mr. Bacon, you are recognized for 5 minutes. I will be right back.

Mr. BACON. Thank you, Chairman, and thank you, Ranking Member. Madam Secretary and General McConville, you are both doing a great job today, so I appreciate your leadership.

Most of my questions are directed to the general. First, on long-range fires, there is a need. China has an asymmetrical advantage. But I am a big believer, proponent for the B-21 and the Navy long-range fires. That is not to say there is not a place for the Army version here. My concern is housing and basing.

Are we confident we can find countries in the INDOPACOM region that will take these weapon systems?

General MCCONVILLE. I think, Congressman, if we take a look around the world—and I don't want to get ahead of certain countries because their politics may not be such, but I know one country that a lot of people thought that we couldn't get troops into, and at one time, based on interests, we were 500,000 troops there.

So I think things can change, and what we are looking at is providing that option. There are some places where we certainly can get that capability as set, and then as far as the ability to actually base that, that is a discussion that we will have to have. But I

don't want to get in front of some of our allies and partners, especially in this environment.

Mr. BACON. Well, I see a need, but I hate to see it undercut two other long-range capabilities that we know we can find basing for. But I just think that is the long pole in the tent and——

General MCCONVILLE. I would be glad to discuss it as part of another venue. I think it would be worthwhile to have that discussion.

Mr. BACON. Okay.

General MCCONVILLE. Because it is certainly worthy of discussion. And I think from a military standpoint, we should not limit ourselves to some of the options, especially when we are taking a look at what we see the future threat, at least from where I sit.

Mr. BACON. Well, I think multiple angles of attacking capability are needed, so I would be sympathetic.

When it comes to Taiwan, what more can we do to improve deterrence there? Because day one of China attacking is a day too late. What we do now is deterrence.

General MCCONVILLE. Well, I think from a Taiwan standpoint, you know, them having the appropriate capabilities and capacities, it is a fairly large country. But, I mean, when you think about what—if I was to give them advice, anti-access/area denial, how do you get that? You get that with an integrated air and missile defense capability, and you get that with some type of anti-amphibious capability, and I would make sure they had that.

Mr. BACON. I am totally with you, absolutely, and I think we have to work now to ensure they have access to these capabilities.

Also, I just want to say I agree with your concerns about removing commanders' case disposition authority. I think—I am a five-time commander in the Air Force myself—having two chain of commands would create friction and concerns, I believe. I think it undermines the cohesion of a squadron. But if we are going to do it, we should limit it to Article 120 offenses. So can you elaborate on your proposal to make changes on a 3-day trial basis and why this would be beneficial to the force?

General MCCONVILLE. Three-day, I am not sure—are you talking about to the Secretary, Inhofe letter? Is that the one that you are——

Mr. BACON. Correct. Thank you.

General MCCONVILLE. I guess I am a believer in commanders. This certainly had an opportunity to give best military advice both to you all and to the Secretary of Defense, and there is going to be a position coming forward. I trust commanders.

Commanders are going to implement these type of things. And at the same time there is going to be a decision made on what is the best way to get after that, and once that decision is made, since I have had my chance to give my best military advice, I will follow that decision.

Mr. BACON. Thank you. And I appreciate your position on it. As a five-time commander, I agree with you.

Right now we are involved with Poland with the Enhanced Forward Presence mission there. I worry about the Baltics. I am the chairman of the Baltic Security Caucus. I think that is the most vulnerable area when it comes to NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Or-

ganization] and Russia. What more can we do to also improve deterrence from the Baltic states?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congressman, one thing I think we can do—and the Chief I think alluded to this a little bit in his discussion earlier about Special Forces—is really provide—you know, I think there is—we want the Baltics to present a deterrent to Russia, and I think part of what we can do in the Army is have our special operations forces work with the Baltic militaries to help them in terms of, you know, frankly, developing kind of potentially resistance, what I would call resistance capabilities.

And I think the Balts can do that relatively inexpensively, but they would benefit I think quite a bit from our expertise and, you know, deep knowledge base with our Special Forces.

Mr. BACON. Let me just close and say we have rotating units going in and out of the Baltics.

I would sure like to see a more permanent presence, if they are amenable to it, because I think it makes deterrence more assured if you are coming from the perspective of the Russians.

But I am out of time, so I have to yield back.

Thank you.

Mr. KIM [presiding]. The gentleman yields back.

We are going to turn it over to Mr. Morelle. Mr. Morelle, over to you.

Mr. MORELLE. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Secretary and general for being here, for your testimony, for your service to our country.

Secretary Wormuth, I wanted to go back and follow up a little bit on a line of questioning my colleague, Representative Horsford, began with some time ago regarding weapons accountability. And having read some of the articles on this question, gun safety is critically important to all of us as Americans, and given the recent spike in violence, much of it with illegal weapons, I wanted to just follow up on the task force that you said the Army set up, and I look forward to tracking the progress and the recommended changes.

It was a little concerning to me, I think there was a significant discrepancy in the number of missing weapons reported in the Associated Press articles versus what the task force has found. It was about a discrepancy of maybe 500 or more weapons. And I wondered if looking—first of all, just figure out whether the task force is going to look at that discrepancy and try to understand what has caused it and to look at the trends of the lost weapons, is the task force also addressing how to make sure that reported losses in the future are accurate?

Secretary WORMUTH. Thank you, Congressman.

Yes, you are right. There is a discrepancy between the figure that the Associated Press has reported and what we are—what we have found to date based on the documentation that the Army has available to it, and certainly we will look into that to understand the nature of that discrepancy. I am not intimately familiar with the records, if you will, that the Associated Press based its reporting on.

But we will look into that, and we are certainly trying to, you know, use the most authoritative documentation that is available

to the Army to keep track of this. And if there are systemic issues that arise, we will absolutely develop recommendations to address them, and I would be happy to discuss that with you at that time.

Mr. MORELLE. I appreciate that. And I would say that I think that the report suggests that they feel like the number that they have made may be undercounted, and it is certainly not just the Army. They acknowledge the other services as well.

I appreciated hearing you say how trained soldiers are to be responsible and that the entire unit focuses on retrieval. The fact that the weapons are going missing, I am sure to you and to me and to most people who read the articles, is concerning. Is the task force considering changes in training to ensure greater accountability and reduced loss on the part of soldiers?

Secretary WORMUTH. Congressman, I don't think the task force has yet, you know, come to conclusions about what the key shortfalls are or, you know, areas that are problematic; but if our work reveals that we need to change or increase our training to make sure we have got accountability, we will do that.

Mr. MORELLE. Great.

And I would just leave you with this, and I appreciate your candor and I recognize you are probably just getting into looking at the subject; but I am just hoping that we will certainly have accurate reporting, that there will be transparency.

And, lastly, given the number of reported violent incidents around the country, some of them involving weapons that are being obtained from the military, I would certainly hope that we will have continued communication between the Army and the Congress about just the nature of the problem, what is being done, and whether or not we are able to make some inroads in addressing it.

So thank you for your testimony, for all your good work. And I yield back to the chair.

Mr. KIM. Next we are going to call on, if he is available, Representative Scott.

Well, thank you so much.

Right now, as you know, we are in the middle of votes, so we are certainly having a few members kind of scrounge around so—but I wanted to thank the two of you for coming here and for us to be able to have this conversation. It is so incredibly important as we are thinking through here some of our next steps and to make sure that we are giving our military the resources that they need to be as strong as they are.

So appreciate your service there, and we are going to gavel out on this hearing.

Thank you so very much.

[Whereupon, at 1:28 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

JUNE 29, 2021

PREPARED STATEMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

JUNE 29, 2021

RECORD VERSION

**STATEMENT BY
THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE E. WORMUTH
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**

AND

**GENERAL JAMES P. MCCONVILLE
CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES ARMY**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FIRST SESSION, 117TH CONGRESS

ON THE POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

JUNE 29, 2021

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION
UNTIL RELEASED BY THE COMMITTEE**

Evolved Priorities

America's Army remains prepared to compete globally and fight and win the Nation's wars as a member of the Joint Force. As demonstrated repeatedly over the past year, we also remain the Nation's principal response force to protect our country and communities in the face of unexpected crises. We thank Congress for the consistent, predictable, and sustained funding you have provided. This funding enabled us to deliver a ready Army that responded promptly and superbly to a dynamic and unpredictable security environment, like the COVID-19 pandemic, Middle East tensions, civil unrest, cyberattacks, and south-west border mission. Our priorities are well aligned with the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance: investing in people, sustaining readiness, divesting of legacy systems to reinvest in cutting edge technologies and capabilities, mitigating the impact of climate change, and strengthening our alliances and partnerships.

Last October, the Army evolved its priorities to people, readiness, and modernization. This evolution reflects the achievements of a multi-year effort to rebuild readiness and accelerate modernization. Six years ago, we recognized that readiness had declined precipitously after years of reduced funding, uncertain budgets, and deferred modernization. We also recognized the need for new concepts, capabilities, and posture to compete aggressively in the Indo-Pacific and Europe. With your support, we rebuilt tactical readiness in our units and built strategic readiness in our power projection infrastructure. We deliberately executed internal reforms over the last four years by realigning over \$35 billion within the Army budget to self-fund modernization priorities in support of joint all-domain operations.

Thanks to your continued support for Army modernization, we are successfully pivoting from the incremental improvements of the past to fulfilling the robust Army Modernization Strategy that Congress prescribed in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Because of this strategy, and new Congressional authorities to streamline the acquisitions process, we are already beginning to field new systems in long-range precision fires, air and missile defense, and soldier lethality, with more on the way in next generation combat vehicles, future vertical lift, and the Army network. With these modernization capabilities, we are able to deliver multi-domain concepts,

capabilities, and formations that will give the Joint Force asymmetric, all-domain advantages against near-peer potential adversaries. Our gains are real, but fragile. With Congressional support, we established a deliberate achievable path to deliver a ready and modernized Army by 2028 and a transformed multi-domain Army by 2035. However, sustaining today's readiness and modernizing for tomorrow's readiness is only possible through your timely, adequate, predictable, and sustained funding.

Strategic Environment

A dynamic global security landscape continues to challenge our nation. These challenges include: (1) borderless threats, like COVID, cyber, violent extremism, and climate change; (2) the global siege on democracy to include an increasingly contested information environment; and (3) the changing distribution of global power that draws new lines and value propositions for many of our allies and partners. These challenges require an agile, ready, modern, and multi-domain Army that works alongside strong allies and partners. Strategic competitors and regional actors are testing American norms, institutions, and alliances. China, our pacing threat, increases its global assertiveness, while Russia increases its disruptive behavior. Threats from Iran, North Korea, and violent extremism and terrorism remain. While America's Army maintains a tenuous overmatch, it is fleeting. Future conflicts will manifest at longer range, across all domains, and at much greater speed, both physically and cognitively.

Climate change is altering the Army's operational environment and adding new mission demands; mitigating these effects has been an ongoing priority for the Army for several years. Climate change impacts Army installations globally and opens the Arctic as a new geographic theater for competition. The Army must consider alternative energy sources, improved energy storage, fuel-efficient design, more robust power distribution, and new technologies, such as weather pattern and terrain stability modeling to better inform operations.

The Army must also contend with threats from within. The harmful behaviors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, racism, and extremism hurt Soldiers and break trust with the American people. The Army is working diligently to solidify a culture of cohesion and intervention to protect our Soldiers, not only from the deliberate fratricide of these

behaviors, but from the invisible danger of mental and behavioral health issues, and other stressors that can increase the risk of suicide.

People First

Listening to Soldiers led to our very deliberate decision to re-align our priorities. The Army's number one priority is now people. Our people are our Soldiers from the Active, Guard, and Reserve components, Army families, Army civilians, and retiree and veteran Soldiers for Life. At every echelon, the Army must promote and build cohesive teams (1) that are highly trained, disciplined, and fit, (2) that are ready to fight and win, and (3) in which each person is treated with dignity and respect. Cohesive teams are the foundation of all our people initiatives and how the Army can best sustain readiness and transform for the future. Three critical enablers from the 2019 Army People Strategy continue to set conditions for putting people first: Army Culture, Quality of Life initiatives, and a 21st Century Talent Management System.

Army Culture

Last December, the Army stood up the People First Task Force to address and implement the 70 Fort Hood Independent Review Committee recommendations, with the understanding that the issues identified are not unique to a single installation. Army leaders are stewards of a special bond of trust and confidence with the American people. We held accountable those leaders deemed to have broken that trust. We have fundamentally transformed our command selection process in order to improve the way we choose future leaders to assume positions with the most influence over Soldiers. We are piloting independent climate assessment teams of subject matter experts to identify unit climate trends early and respond before systemic problems emerge. We are listening to our people to learn and lead better. We conducted 96 listening sessions across 14 locations in addition to a special "Solarium" conference that asked junior- and mid-career leaders to develop solutions. The Army is now working to change policies and aspects of Army culture that impede prevention and response to harmful behaviors. The first policy change introduced "absent – unknown", an additional duty status code which affords missing Soldiers oversight not present in "Absent Without Leave (AWOL)."

"This is My Squad" is the foundational principle for Army culture. This initiative, led by the Sergeant Major of the Army, promotes cohesion by encouraging Soldiers to better know those around them, develop greater compassion, and intervene early to protect others. Implementation actions include increased non-commissioned officer professional military education, redistribution of experienced leaders, and better reception processes for integrating new Soldiers at each installation and unit.

Project Inclusion is a holistic effort to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion across the force. As of March of this year, the Army had conducted 83 Project Inclusion listening sessions with over 4,700 attendees. Separately, the Army reviewed its policy on official photos and removed official photos from all promotion boards. The Army later redacted race, ethnicity, and gender data from Soldier Record Briefs in accordance with the Secretary of Defense's direction. The Army is building relationships with influencers in diverse cities and communities to better acquire, develop, employ, and retain the best talent across the entire nation.

Quality of Life (QoL) Initiatives

Putting people first also means creating a duty and installation environment that allows Soldiers to thrive. The Army continues to prioritize the QoL focus areas identified in 2019. The COVID era only reinforced how essential each of those initiatives is to the well-being and readiness of our Soldiers and their families.

Housing and Barracks. We continue executing the Army Housing Campaign Plan to shape policies, procedures, and processes at every echelon. The Army implemented 14 of the 18 tenets of the Tenant Bill of Rights in its Residential Communities Initiatives (RCI) projects. We expect the remaining four (common tenant lease, 7-year maintenance history, dispute resolution and rent segregation) to be available at the majority of installations with privatized housing by June 1, 2021. We implemented mechanisms that hold privatized companies accountable to residents for proper maintenance and customer service, hired additional personnel to provide quality assurance oversight, and implemented 100 percent change of occupancy inspections and quality assurance checks. To address environmental hazards (mold and lead), we developed educational materials, a response registry, and policies for habitability and

displaced residents. Through the RCI, we are committing over \$1.8 billion and reinvesting another \$1 billion to improve residential housing. Additionally, the Army is projected to invest over \$10 billion in the next 10 years, in both Restoration & Modernization and Military Construction funds, which will renovate or replace more than 1,200 barracks for all components and eliminate sub-standard barracks.

Healthcare. Army Medicine is partnering with the Defense Health Agency to deliver the best care for our beneficiaries across our installations. We are focusing on readiness as the Military Health System reforms. We will emphasize operationally oriented training, modernized capabilities, and innovative operational concepts. We are grateful to Congress for increases in Health Professional Officer special pay caps. This necessary investment ensures Army Medicine can recruit and retain the best quality healthcare professionals for the sustainability of the force.

Childcare. Childcare professionals serve on the front line of the Army's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as they allow mission essential personnel to maintain Army readiness. The Army has a multi-pronged strategy to maintain, and in some cases, increase access to care. With continued Congressional support, we plan to build 21 additional Child Development Centers by FY30, adding approximately 4,000 spaces. We appreciate Congressional support for the three centers funded in FY21, two in Hawaii and one in Alaska. We continue to invest in these professionals, adjusting compensation to recruit and retain quality staff. We are incentivizing the family child care program, like a \$1,000 bonus for new providers and for families that stay in the program after a move. We implemented revised DoD priorities for childcare to grant more access to military families. Finally, we continue to invest in fee assistance to buy down the cost of off-post care when on-post care is unavailable.

Spouse Employment. With the support of Congress, the Army continues to make improvements in spouse employment. The Army reimburses up to \$1,000 for professional licensing and certification in a new state, with Army Emergency Relief offering an additional \$2,500. We thank Congress for its efforts to bolster the support of individual states in granting reciprocity. We streamlined the Home-Based Business application and approval system, improved policies for military spouse hiring

preference, strengthened the Employment Readiness Program, and made the transfer of non-appropriated fund employees between installations easier. We continue to work with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to promote workforce development scholarships, improve state license reciprocity and professional license compacts, and reduce overseas employment barriers.

Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Moves. Soldiers are now receiving PCS orders an average of 120 days before their report date, an improvement of 30 to 90 days. Families can now claim 100 percent of their costs for reimbursement when conducting a personally procured move. Our development and launch of the “Army PCS Move” app and automation of several business processes, including the Smart Voucher program, are helping families research, book movers, track progress, and file claims, expediting reimbursement. Though COVID-19 heavily impacted last summer’s peak PCS season, we still executed over 70,000 moves with a 95 percent satisfaction rate.

21st Century Talent Management System

The Army continues to refine and implement its 21st Century Talent Management System in order to effectively acquire, develop, employ, and retain talent. We are maximizing the potential of each Soldier. We are evolving our marketing and recruiting with initiatives like Army Hiring Days and the “What’s Your Warrior?” campaign to bring in the best talent from across the country, including cities and communities with populations who may be unfamiliar with the opportunities military service affords. This year the Army launched cutting-edge digital talent initiatives. Our Army Artificial Intelligence Center partners with Carnegie Mellon University to grow data engineers and data technicians, while our Software Factory leverages the extraordinary existing talent in our Army to grow coders to solve Army problems.

At the heart of the Army’s 21st Century Talent Management System are new approaches, systems, and processes that leverage deep data about unit needs and Soldier knowledge, skills, behaviors, and preferences. The Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) is on track to go live across all three components by the end of this calendar year. Release 2 is complete, having brought IPPS-A to the Army National Guard across 54 states and territories. Release 3, currently in testing, will

integrate the active and reserve forces and complete the Army's transition to a single system across all components capable of identifying needed talent and managing Soldier careers from accession to transition.

Talent management starts with having the right Army leaders at the battalion and brigade-level. These are the Army's most consequential leadership positions in terms of affecting retention and attrition. In the biggest change to the Army's command selection process in fifty years, the Army now uses a Commander Assessment Program to select future battalion and brigade commanders, as well as command sergeants major. This intensive five-day program evaluates individuals for their temperament, cognitive fitness, physical health, and leadership skills. We are also expanding to build a system to assess and select our Army Acquisition Corps civilians at the same echelons. We are putting the right people in the right place at the right time to remain ready today.

Ready Today

The Army stands ready today to compete globally and fight and win the Nation's wars in support of the Joint Force. This is only because we recognized six years ago that readiness had declined precipitously after three years of reduced funding and uncertain budgets. Since then, and funding from Congress, we rebuilt tactical readiness and built strategic readiness. However, readiness is fragile. We require continued support to maintain it, in order to reliably meet the needs of combatant commands without overstressing our people.

People are the Army's most important weapon system. The Army represents 25 percent of the Defense budget, 35 percent of the active force, and 45 percent of the active and reserve forces, but meets over half of global demands. Today, the Total Army supports the Joint Force by supplying Soldiers to combatant commanders in more than 140 countries. Over 69,000 Soldiers are in the Indo-Pacific, including over 25,000 forward deployed on the Korean peninsula. Over 30,000 Soldiers are in Europe supporting NATO and the European Deterrence Initiative, including the forward command post of our newly reactivated V Corps. We remain dedicated to our counterterrorism and train, advise, assist missions, providing over 21,000 Soldiers in support of the U.S. Central Command theater. In our Nation's Capital this year, over

26,000 National Guard Soldiers mobilized from 28 states to assist with medical evacuation, communications, security, logistics and safety support. Last year, we executed 64 brigade-equivalent deployments and moved 45 thousand pieces of equipment through 55 ports of embarkation/debarkation in support of worldwide missions.

This past year highlighted the need for the Army to defend the Nation at home as well as abroad. In response, the Army continually demonstrated its capability and capacity to provide timely and effective support in crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic expanded the Army's existing mission set as DoD's leader in protecting the warfighter from biological threats and investigating infectious diseases that threaten public health. Since last March, Army scientists, medical professionals, engineers, and logisticians from all components have deployed nationwide to aid COVID prevention and response efforts. For its vaccine development and distribution initiative, America turned to an Army logistician to lead operations. Our National Guard and Reserve units across America supported both neighbor and nation in an unprecedented level of mobilization, not only for COVID support, but in response to civil unrest, hurricanes, and wildfires, all while continuing to train for wartime missions.

In 2020, the Army demonstrated strategic readiness through its series of DEFENDER exercises, despite the constraints of a pandemic environment. Strategic readiness involves installation capabilities to mobilize, train, and deploy formations and then sustain them from the homeland. DEFENDER-Pacific 2020 witnessed the deployment of combat credible forces across the breadth of the Indo-Pacific theater from Guam and Palau to the Aleutian Island chain and mainland Alaska. Under the command and control of U.S. Army Pacific, combined joint forces executed strategic readiness operations that included cargo delivery, forcible entry operations, rapid infiltration of High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), operational maneuver of Army watercraft, and fighter combat patrols. DEFENDER-Europe 2021 is currently underway with over 30,000 multinational forces from 27 nations conducting nearly simultaneous operations across 30 training areas. This year's exercise will incorporate Security Force Assistance Brigades, the Army's new V Corps, and U.S. Air Force and

Navy assets. DEFENDER-Europe 21 is led by the Army's newly consolidated U.S. Army Europe and Africa Command.

The foundation of Army readiness is our people. The Army is moving to a foundational readiness model that prioritizes the training of individuals and small units at the company level and below. The best combat units in the world ensure their individuals and small units are masters of their craft. To foster individual readiness, the Army is also investing in holistic health and fitness. We continue to study the impact of the Army Combat Fitness Test in accordance with Congressional guidance in order to better connect individual fitness with combat readiness. A solid foundation of readiness enables unit agility and provides the greatest return on an investment of limited time and resources. We will continue to use the combat training centers to bring these highly trained, disciplined, and fit teams together for large-scale collective training that validates the combat effectiveness of our battalions and brigades.

The Army must balance the continuous demand for current readiness from combatant command requirements with the imperative to secure future readiness, all without overly stressing our people or our equipment. To this end, the Army developed, tested, and rehearsed a new unit lifecycle model that will go into effect October 2021: the Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model (ReARMM). ReARMM will harmonize historically conflicting Army priorities. It will take care of people by reducing operational tempo and maximizing predictability and stability to commanders, Soldiers, and families. ReARMM will sustain readiness by carving out dedicated windows for building readiness at echelon while aligning units with primary regions and functions. Regional alignment provides units deep wells of knowledge on the terrain, culture, and people where their units are most likely to operate. Joint force commanders also gain by leveraging habitual, trusted relationships between Army formations and Allies and partners. Finally, ReARMM will facilitate modernization by giving units dedicated windows to integrate new equipment, reorganize formations, and train on new doctrine. Adopting this model transitions the Army from small, incremental, evolutionary modernization of platforms to large-step modernization of our formations.

Army Modernization - Transforming for Tomorrow

The Army faces an inflection point that requires innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship in the application of combat power. The battlefield is increasingly faster, more lethal, and more distributed. Overmatch will belong to the side that can make better decisions faster. To meet emerging challenges, the Army is transforming to provide the Joint Force with the speed, range, and convergence of cutting edge technologies that will generate the decision dominance and overmatch required to win the next fight. We are leading the way in developing and fielding advanced technology in support of the Joint Force.

The Army's materiel modernization transformation – what we fight with – is based on the six modernization priorities announced in 2018: Long Range Precision Fires, Next Generation Combat Vehicle, Future Vertical Lift, the Army Network, Air and Missile Defense, and Soldier Lethality. The Army's conceptual transformation—how we fight—begins with our Multi-Domain Operations concept, which we are currently turning into doctrine. The Army is using Project Convergence, our campaign of learning and annual capstone event, to shape future concepts and capabilities. By 2035, the Army will realize its vision of a multi-domain force.

The Army is committed to seeing our signature materiel modernization efforts through to completion. Many are coming on line according to, or ahead of, our accelerated development schedule and being delivered to our Soldiers. Through continuous reform efforts, we have been able to redirect scarce resources to these key modernization efforts; however, we could not achieve this without Congressional support and authorities. Army Futures Command is providing unprecedented unity of effort across the modernization enterprise, having changed our business model and culture through public-private partnerships and a focus on Soldier-centered design. This allows us to gain immediate operator feedback, accelerating the development process and ensuring new systems are effective in operational environments. These reforms, combined with early experimentation through Project Convergence, are paying significant dividends. Judicious use of Middle Tier Acquisition and Other Transaction Authorities enable progress from characteristics to fielded capabilities in as short as

three years, versus the five to seven years it took just to prescribe requirements in the past.

Long Range Precision Fires

Long range precision fires provide the capability to penetrate Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) environments, suppress air defenses and strike maritime targets at range from land, and establish our own A2/AD capability to open windows of opportunity for the Joint Force to exploit. In 2019, OSD directed the Army to develop a ground based long-range hypersonic weapon. In FY23, the Army will field the first Long Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW) firing battery. The Army is also developing a ground-launched, Mid-Range Capability that will complement the LRHW and the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) capabilities. The PrSM is on schedule to conduct its maximum range test in 3QFY21 and deliver 30 missiles in FY23. It will provide greater range, lethality, and survivability at a lower cost per shot than ATACMS. The Extended Range Cannon Artillery remains on schedule for delivery in FY23. It will establish overmatch against peer adversaries in the close and deep operational maneuver areas with an extended range out to 70km.

Next Generation Combat Vehicle

Next generation combat vehicles will increase the firepower, speed, and survivability of land forces, allowing them to maneuver into positions of advantage in the future operational environment. After rebaselining the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle (OMFV) program last year, the Army issued the final request for proposal for the concept design phase on December 18, 2020. OMFV is an example of how our new acquisitions process enabled the Army to learn early and recover before programs become too big to fail. The Robotic Combat Vehicle (RCV) effort envisions an unmanned platform that provides decisive mobility, lethality, survivability, and increased situational awareness to formations. RCV will undergo increasingly rigorous experiments and capability demonstrations with a decision to procure by FY24. The Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) is an adaptable and more survivable multi-variant vehicle that replaces the 1960s era M113 Family of Vehicles. Mobile Protected Firepower (MPF) is an armored combat vehicle that will provide, large caliber, long-

range direct fires in support of Infantry Brigade Combat Teams. The first unit equipped with MPF will be in FY25.

Future Vertical Lift

Future Vertical Lift platforms and technologies increase the maneuverability, range, endurance, lethality, and survivability of Army aircraft, providing joint commanders with increased operational reach and effectiveness against near-peer competitors. Our new acquisitions process has put the onus on industry to innovate and invest early, allowing the Army to “fly before we buy.” The Future Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA) closes the gap left by retirement of the Vietnam-era Kiowa. Two prototypes will fly in FY23 followed by a year-long flight demonstration. The Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) will replace the UH60 Blackhawk with increased speed, range, payload, and endurance. We expect initial FLRAA prototypes in FY25. Future vertical lift will leverage advances in Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) technology to develop Air Launched Effects (ALE) with a wide array of payloads and extended communication mesh networks with a fielding plan in FY24.

Army Network

The Army network modernization underpins Project Convergence as the Army's contribution to Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control. It provides necessary information technology (IT) infrastructure to link the right sensors to the right shooters through the appropriate command and control node. In FY21, we will field more than 150 units with new technologies while simultaneously developing the next capability set of equipment. The Army is also modernizing current Global Position System (GPS) receivers to meet current and emerging threats by providing the Joint Force with advanced assured precision, navigation and timing (APNT) systems. Included are modernized receivers that meet congressional mandates to transition to M-code GPS and integrate alternative APNT technologies for our ground combat platforms, dismounted Soldiers, precision weapons and munitions, and aviation systems. We are fielding the first generation mounted APNT systems to our forward deployed formations with a second generation ready not later than FY23. Additionally, the Army continues to invest in space-based technologies that close operational gaps in

deep sensing and targeting activities. We are coordinating with partners in the Intelligence Community and private industry to enhance Army access to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) space-based sensing and link with national-level capabilities to provide tactical-level sensor to shooter capability to combat formations.

Air and Missile Defense

Air and missile defense capabilities defend the Joint Force, allies, and partners against manned and unmanned air and missile threats. The Army's integrated air and missile defense capabilities will protect joint forces from adversary aircraft, missiles, and drones to protect the force and enable operations. This includes both theater systems and tactical / short-range air defense like the Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) which defeats aerial threats to the maneuver force with a mix of kinetic capabilities. The Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office (RCCTO) is developing a Directed Energy (DE) M-SHORAD variant that utilizes a 50kW class laser. We will field four DE prototypes for experimentation and further development. Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) will defend fixed and semi-fixed assets primarily against cruise missiles and Unmanned Aircraft Systems as well as fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Based on the authorization in the 2021 NDAA, the Army is currently preparing two Iron Dome batteries for operational deployment at the end of FY22. This spring the Army will conduct a shoot-off to inform our decision on the enduring IFPC solution. RCCTO is also working on two IFPC variants, a High Energy Laser (HEL) and a High-Powered Microwave (HPM). The IFPC-HEL uses a 300kW-class HEL to defeat Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (RAM) threats and is on track for demonstration. The IFPC-High-Powered Microwave is being developed with the Air Force to produce the Tactical High Power Microwave Operational Responder (THOR) in FY21 with a prototype expected in FY24. The Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS) initial operational capability is 3QFY22 with fielding. IBCS is a revolutionary command-and-control system that streamlines sensor to shooter linkages for air and missile defense engagements—and once fielded will enable optimized employment of the Patriot force. This enhanced tracking system delivers an unambiguous view of the operating environment, allowing commanders and air defenders to make critical decisions within

seconds. The Lower-Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor (LTAMDS) will deliver the next generation sensor that leverages the capabilities of the Patriot Missile Segment Enhanced (MSE) interceptor and is fully integrated into IBCS.

Soldier Lethality

Soldier Lethality improvements to weapons, sensors, body armor, and training will deliver decision dominance and overmatch at the level where it matters most-, allowing individual Soldiers to quickly understand and react to emerging situations. With ReARMM, we are incorporating Guard and Reserve units into the fielding schedule much earlier and more broadly than in past modernization efforts. The Army seeks continued Congressional support for the rapid prototyping, development, and procurement of the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) Rifle and Automatic Rifle, Enhanced Night Vision Goggles (ENVG), Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) - Heads-Up Display (HUD) 3.0, and the Synthetic Training Environment (STE). By 1QFY22, we'll equip the first unit with IVAS. In 4QFY22, we will equip the first unit with the Next Gen Squad Weapon Rifle and Automatic Rifle, as well as General Purpose Ammo. STE efforts that complement IVAS include the Squad Immersive Virtual Trainer (as part of IVAS) and the STE Information System that includes: One World Terrain, Training Simulation Software, and Training Management Tools.

In addition to our six priorities, the Army understands the need for considerable investment in long-term research to deliver science and technology solutions. The Army is aligning its laboratories towards modernization and partnering with over 250 research institutions. The Army's priority research areas are: disruptive energetics, Radio Frequency (RF) electronic materials, quantum research, hypersonic flight, artificial intelligence, autonomy, synthetic biology, material by design, and advanced manufacturing.

The Army is also investing in deep sensing and analysis to provide intelligence support to long range precision fires and commanders' situational awareness during Joint All-Domain Operations. We will continue to drive intelligence modernization by acquiring capabilities and capacities across the Space, Aerial, Terrestrial, and Foundation Layers nested with and in support of the Army's six modernization priorities.

We will continue to leverage the Intelligence Community (IC), other Services', and commercial partner enterprise-level Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance collection programs to provide timely, accurate, and relevant intelligence to support Army targeting efforts and enhance commanders' decision making.

The Army is not just modernizing concepts and materiel. We require continued budget support to modernize infrastructure and execute workload in our Organic Industrial Base (OIB) of depots, arsenals, and ammunition plants, along with our power projection and Mobilization Force Generation Installations to better project power from and into contested environments. We must be able to address the risk of new and emerging cyber, information, and physical threats that can thwart our ability to project power by disrupting installation operational capabilities and the supply chains supporting our forces, whether from malign actors or nature. Our installations must be resilient to disruption and modernized in support of the modernized Army force. The Army is investing significant time and resources to mitigate the effects of climate change on our installations. We are establishing energy and water resilience, efficiency, and affordability across our installation enterprise. In the past five years, energy programs, partnerships and initiatives recognized a cost avoidance or savings of more than 14 percent, every installation has added a full-time energy manager position, and 16 of 26 Army OIB depots, arsenals and ammunition plants have transitioned from fossil fuels to clean energy alternatives. We are also partnering with private industry to implement energy and utility savings contracts that maximize the latest technology to drive efficiency and reduced costs, with 99 agreements currently in execution.

The Army is also not modernizing in a vacuum, but in partnership with our sister Services. We have completed two Army-Air Force Warfighter Talks and one Army-Air Force-Navy joint session to ensure the Army's Project Convergence initiatives remains synchronized with the Air Force's Advanced Battle Management System and the Navy's Project Overmatch to meet the unique needs of each Service. As we work to stand-up a Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) in Europe later this year, our Indo-Pacific aligned MDTF continues to synchronize effects with the Joint Force during multiple exercises. The MDTF's All-Domain Operations Center enables Joint training, to include hosting

Carrier Strike Group-3 for the Navy's Fleet Synthetic Training – Joint exercise and connecting to the Navy's Continuous Training Environment network. During INDOPACOM's Pacific Fury 21, the MDTF validated its ability to virtually synchronize long range fires and effects with the Joint Force. The MDTF will participate in USINDOPACOM's upcoming Northern Edge and Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) Simulation Experiment (SIMEX) in May before rotating into the Indo-Pacific later this summer to participate in joint exercises with PACAF, PACFLT, and MARFORPAC.

Strengthening Alliances and Partnerships

America does not fight alone. Alliances and partnerships are among the greatest sources of our military strength. This global landpower network is DoD's foundation for competition, creating inroads and maneuver space for Joint and whole-of-government strategic engagement. As a people organization, the Army is uniquely qualified to maintain and expand this vital network, especially given that partner militaries and their senior leaders are predominately land force-centric. Our roadmap for building and strengthening relationships spans a range of activities that include military and key leader engagements, education and training programs such as the Department of State's International Military Education and Training (IMET) and International Professional Military Education (IPME), security assistance through Title 22 Foreign Military Sales, and advise and assist capabilities. Boots on the ground deter would-be adversaries, and small, scalable engagements with our Allies and partners open doors to the access and presence we need to compete effectively. The Army's new Security Force Assistance Brigades (SFAB) demonstrate our commitment to alliances and partnerships and our capability to compete.

Last year we completed the activation of all six SFABs, five in the Regular Army and one in the Army National Guard. Since then, 5th SFAB has already completed missions with multiple partners across the Indo-Pacific theater, including elements of the Thai, Indonesian, and Indian armies. Later this year, many of those partners will join their American counterparts in combined exercises at the National Training Center. Engagements such as these are vital, not only for interoperability, but in recognition that

Cold War-era exclusive allegiance to a single great power no longer exists. Many if not all of our allies and partners maintain concurrent relationships with both the United States and our competitors and potential adversaries. We cannot take for granted these relationships and the vital access and presence they provide us.

Closing

The men and women of the United States Army are the greatest Soldiers in the world. The Army is cultivating cohesive teams, maximizing talent, sustaining tactical and strategic readiness, progressing through our greatest transformation in over 40 years, and strengthening our alliances and partnerships. We are leading the way in developing and fielding high technology for the Joint Force. We are opening operational and strategic doors in the Indo-Pacific and Europe. We are succeeding through calibrating our force posture around the globe to assure our partners and deter would-be adversaries. And we need your continued support. With timely, adequate, predictable, and sustained funding, we will remain ready to fight and win our Nation's wars—now and into the future.

**The Honorable Christine E. Wormuth
Secretary of the Army**

Honorable Christine Wormuth was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and appointed as the 25th Secretary of the U.S. Army May 28, 2021. The Secretary of the Army is the senior civilian official within the Department of Defense responsible for all matters relating to the U.S. Army.

Prior to confirmation, she was the Director of the International Defense and Security Center at the RAND Corporation where she was a frequent writer and speaker on foreign policy, national security and homeland security issues.

Prior to RAND, she served in several roles during the Obama Administration. From December 2010 until August 2012 she was a special assistant to the president and senior director for Defense at the National Security Council. Wormuth then served as deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Forces, and led the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review. From 2014-2016 she served in DOD as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, where she advised the Secretary of Defense on the full range of regional and functional national security issues.

Wormuth entered the government as a Presidential Management Intern and began her public service career in the Policy Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 1996 through 2002.

After leaving government, she worked in the private sector on defense issues, and then was a Senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies for five years.

Wormuth holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and fine art from Williams College and a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Maryland.

She is married to a retired Navy officer and has two daughters.

General James C. McConville
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Gen. James C. McConville assumed duties as the 40th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, Aug. 9, 2019, after most recently serving as the 36th Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

He is a native of Quincy, Massachusetts, and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He holds a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and was a National Security Fellow at Harvard University in 2002.

McConville's command assignments include commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), where he also served as the commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force-101, Operation Enduring Freedom; deputy commanding general (Support) of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), where he also served as the deputy commanding general (Support) of Combined Joint Task Force-101, Operation Enduring Freedom, commander of 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom; commander of 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); and commander of C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division (Light).

His key staff assignments include the U.S. Army deputy chief of staff, G-1; chief of Legislative Liaison; executive officer to the vice chief of staff of the Army; G-3 for 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); J5 strategic planner for U.S. Special Operations Command; S-3 for 25th Combat Aviation Brigade; S-3 for 5th Squadron, 9th Cavalry; and S-3 for Flight Concepts Division.

McConville is a senior Army aviator qualified in the AH-64D Longbow Apache, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior, AH-6, AH-1 Cobra and other aircraft. His awards and decorations include two Distinguished Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Master Army Aviator Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

JUNE 29, 2021

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We appreciate the hard work of the brave volunteers that make up the National Guard. They have served our nation honorably, both at home and abroad. After the unprecedented events of the past year that included COVID-19 response and civil unrest in addition to natural disasters and overseas deployments, we owe the National Guard a debt of gratitude. However, strain on the National Guard has been building for years as hurricane response in Florida, winter storm and flood rescue in Texas, and combatting wildfires in California has been persistent.

As you may know, 15 of the nation's top 25 most populous counties are located within California, Florida, and Texas. As elected representatives from the nation's three most populous states, we have an obligation to ensure that these civilian warriors, and our state bureaus, have the resources they need to fulfill the full range of missions we task them with, including defense support for civil authorities and domestic missions in support of Governors.

However, with our current and growing population levels, our states have the lowest Guardsmen-to-civilian ratios in the country, with California at 54th, Florida at 53rd, and Texas at 52nd. The extraordinary circumstances of the past year have highlighted the strain on our Guard units have been under for too long, potentially hurting recruitment, retention, and readiness. The limited resources allocated to our states has affected our Guard bureaus' ability to rotate personnel, putting greater demands on Guard families.

We appreciate that the Department has recognized this concern. In its implementation guidance for the National Defense Strategy, the Department said: "Demographic and economic trends within the U.S. will challenge our ability to recruit and retain quality Guardsmen over the next several years. Meeting this challenge is fundamental to our long-term success."

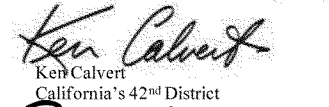
Furthermore, among the recommendations in the National Guard Bureau's "*Impact of U.S. Population Trends on National Guard Force Structure*" Report to Congress released in April 2021, the Bureau says: "as the U.S. population continues to shift from North and North Central regions of the country to the South and West, the National Guard may need to evaluate re-allocating mission sets to other geographic areas to keep pace with changing demographics across the country."

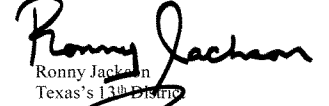
Therefore, we respectfully ask that you carefully review the report, examine the current resource allocations, and work with us to grow the size of Guard bureaus in our states. As we consider National Guard force structure policy in the National Defense Authorization Act, please let us know what resources or authorities you need to ensure they have an appropriate and sustainable force structure allocation to meet their mission requirements, without impacting missions in other states.

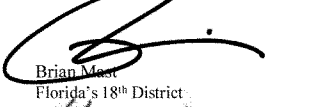
Thank you for your kind consideration.

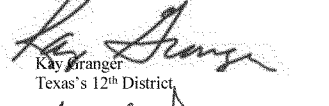
Cordially,

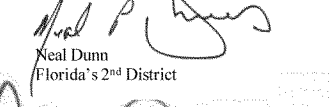

Michael Waltz
Florida's 6th District

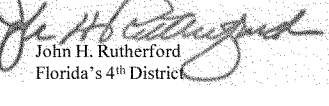

Ken Calvert
California's 42nd District

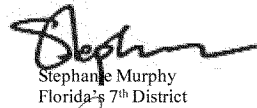

Ronny Jackson
Texas's 13th District

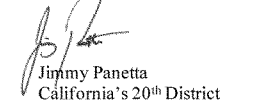

Brian Mast
Florida's 18th District

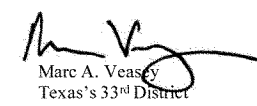

Kay Granger
Texas's 12th District

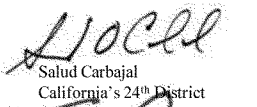

Neal Dunn
Florida's 2nd District

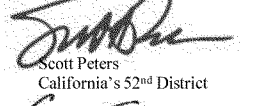

John H. Rutherford
Florida's 4th District

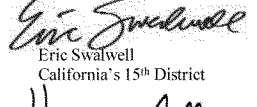

Stephanie Murphy
Florida's 7th District

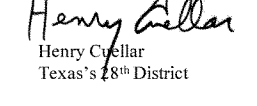

Jimmy Panetta
California's 20th District



Marc A. Veasey
Texas's 33rd District



Salud Carbajal
California's 24th District



Scott Peters
California's 52nd District


Eric Swalwell
California's 15th District


Henry Cuellar
Texas's 28th District



Maria Elvira Salazar
Florida's 27th District


Carlos Gimenez
Florida's 26th District

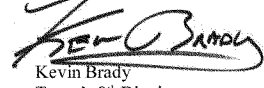

Louie Gohmert
Texas's 1st District

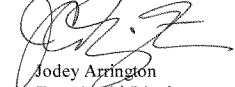

Pat Fallon
Texas's 4th District

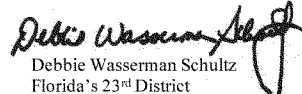

Matt Gaetz
Florida's 1st District



John Carter
Texas's 31st District


Scott Franklin
Florida's 15th District

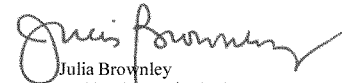

Kevin Brady
Texas's 8th District

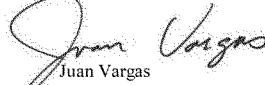

Jodey Arrington
Texas's 19th District



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Florida's 23rd District

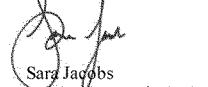

Val Demings
Florida's 5th District

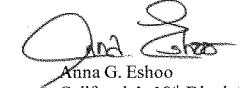

Al Lawson
Florida's 5th District

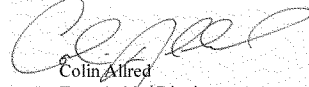

Julia Brownley
California's 26th District



Juan Vargas
California's 51st District



Mike Garcia
California's 25th District



Sara Jacobs
California's 53rd District



Anna G. Eshoo
California's 18th District



Colin Allred
Texas's 32nd District


Tony Gonzalez
Texas's 23rd District



Young Kim
California's 39th District

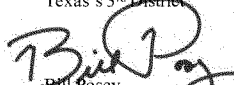

Jay Oberholte
California's 8th District



David G. Valadao
California's 21st District

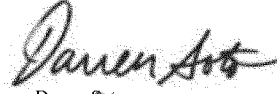

Darrell Issa
California's 50th District

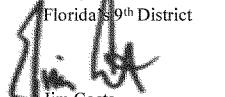

Lance Gooden
Texas's 5th District

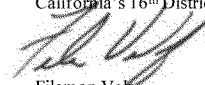

Van Taylor
Texas's 3rd District

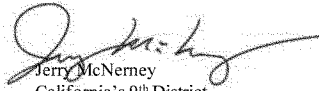

Bill Posey
Florida's 8th District


Kat Cammack
Florida's 3rd District



Darren Soto
Florida's 9th District



Jim Costa
California's 16th District



Filemon Vela
Texas's 34th District

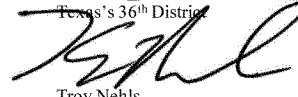

Jerry McNerney
California's 9th District


Lois Frankel
Florida's 21st District


Charlie Crist
Florida's 13th District

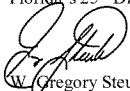

Kathy Castor
Florida's 14th District


Brian Babin
Texas's 36th District


Troy Nehls
Texas's 22nd District



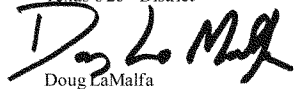
Mario Diaz-Balart
Florida's 25th District



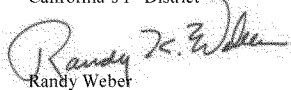
Gregory Steube
Florida's 17th District



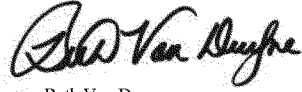
Roger Williams
Texas's 25th District



Doug LaMalfa
California's 1st District



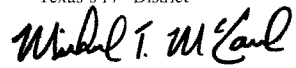
Randy Weber
Texas's 14th District



Beth Van Duyne
Texas's 24th District



Pete Sessions
Texas's 17th District



Michael T. McCaul
Texas's 10th District



Gus Bilirakis
Florida's 12th District

**WITNESS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED DURING
THE HEARING**

JUNE 29, 2021

RESPONSE TO QUESTION SUBMITTED BY MR. WALTZ

Secretary WORMUTH. The Army has currently established gender-neutral grading standards on the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). The required number of repetitions or time limits for each event is exactly the same for men and women. Prior to considering other modifications, and before the final decision to fully implement the ACFT, we are accumulating further data across the Army, in all three components. The Army is collecting this data while awaiting a congressionally directed independent study as well. [See page 41.]

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS POST HEARING

JUNE 29, 2021

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, I am concerned that the Army does not know when it is dependent on China for critical and irreplaceable components and materials. In particular, PCBs and other microelectronics are often sourced from China, or even assembled into components in China, without any need to report that fact to the Army or DOD. Are you comfortable with this situation, where 3rd, 4th, or 5th tier subcontractors are making critical electronic components that enable next-generation Army systems, like IVAS and JADC2? Would you agree that understanding the extent of the problem is a key need for the Army in determining how resilient its systems are against foreign infiltration or disruption?

Secretary WORMUTH and General MCCONVILLE. With regard to security risk, the Army has program protection plans in place to ensure that components are reviewed and tested prior to their inclusion in Army equipment, including electronic equipment. However, in addition to such efforts, we must continuously work to understand and assess the risk in our supply chain in order to further reduce risk. The microelectronics supply chain has become global in nature, driven by market forces to lower cost. The Department of Defense is less than 1% of the microelectronics demand and has therefore limited leverage to influence suppliers. To manage this risk, the Army is working with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to support the Interagency Defense Microelectronics Cross-Functional Team (DMCFT), which will address these issues in microelectronics. By using a whole of government approach, DMCFT will address the key microelectronics challenges to deliver capabilities for current and future missions. As an example, DMCFT will seek to ensure access to domestic fabrication, packaging, and testing facilities and the development of tools and capabilities for advanced supply chain analysis and integrity. It is also the intention of the DMCFT to understand current part usage, the risks associated with legacy components, and to develop digital engineering techniques to aid in the modernization of these legacy parts.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY MRS. HARTZLER

Mrs. HARTZLER. Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, I am deeply concerned about the budget request for the procurement of Army ammunition, specifically the small and medium caliber account. The FY22 President's Budget request reflects severe reductions in the budget request for the 5.56MM, 7.62MM, and .50 Caliber ammunition. The reductions from the FY21 enacted levels equate to reductions of 26%, 28%, and 49% respectively, for an overall reduction of approximately 30% in the small arms ammunition account.

This is concerning to me because last year's FY22 FYDP reflected an increase for each of these accounts. I am concerned that these severe reductions will affect the overall readiness of our ground forces and severely handicap their ability to train and to fight. Additionally, the severity of these reductions will have an impact on the ability to sustain a workforce at the Lake City Ammunition Plant, the location where the Army plans to produce the 6.8mm ammunition for the Next Generation Squad Weapon. With these proposed cuts, the Army is risking losing an experienced workforce, which could take nine months to a year to restore.

Why is the Army requesting such a large reduction from what was previous planned for small arms ammunition? What solutions are being considered within the Pentagon to mitigate risks to the health and resiliency of America's critical defense industrial support base?

Secretary WORMUTH and General MCCONVILLE. The Army ammunition enterprise completed an extensive analysis determining our current levels of ammunition globally for small and medium caliber ammunition required to support the national strategy. In this process, the Army munitions requirements process identifies war reserve, training, and test munitions requirements as part of the Total Munitions Requirements. The Center for Army Analysis conducted modeling and simulation of the Combatant Command war plans to ensure their munitions needs are met. At this time, there is sufficient inventory of small and medium caliber ammunition to

support COCOM requirements. Based on a comparison of the munitions requirement to the current and projected inventory, the Army was able to determine the funding levels necessary to maintain sufficient inventory to meet current requirements as well as the necessary funding required to replenish small and medium caliber consumption to meet future requirements. This process also took into consideration the organic industrial base by ensuring that the funding reductions to small and medium caliber ammunition maintained minimum sustainment rates, which will protect the critical production capabilities at the Lake City Ammunition Plant and other facilities.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. MOULTON

Mr. MOULTON. In the Department's budget justification documents, it clearly states that "the Department is prioritizing China as the number one pacing challenge and has included the Pacific Deterrence Initiative to . . . bolster deterrence and maintain our competitive advantage." The Pacific Deterrence Initiative is a clear demonstration of the Department's commitment to matching and surpassing the threat of China. And if you look through the initiative, there are funding lines going to the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Missile Defense Agency, and others . . . but zero funding lines directly for the Army.

Secretary Wormuth and General McConville, I think it's interesting that in one of the Department's most prominent initiatives for countering China, it did not see any role for the Army. Why should Congress continue to fund the Army at a steady rate when we all agree we need to focus on China, and the Department doesn't seem to think the Army plays a big role in that fight?

Secretary WORMUTH and General MCCONVILLE. The Secretary of Defense, the Army, and the entire Department of Defense are committed to prioritizing China as the number one pacing threat. The FY 2022 Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) justification book features a \$5.1 billion subset of the Department's FY 2022 budget request in targeted investments for the Indo-Pacific region. Although Army investments and activities were not included in this PDI amount, DOD did approve \$1.9 billion within the Army top-line for continuing and expanding the Army commitment in the Indo-Pacific.

The Army has had, and continues to play, a critical role in deterring Chinese aggression and in opening doors in the Indo-Pacific for both diplomatic and military-to-military engagement. Given the full scope of the challenges in the Indo-Pacific, the Army views the development of advanced, asymmetric capabilities and organizational capacity designed to operate in an anti-access/area denial environment as centrally important to Pacific deterrence. To expand and enhance the Army's commitment to the Indo-Pacific security environment, the Army has undergone a multi-year effort to develop the necessary structure to rapidly move forces into competition or conflict. The Army maintains a persistent presence with allies and partners through Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) and Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) deployments, as well as through the establishment of a theater processing, exploitation, and dissemination center that improves critical intelligence and targeting capabilities. These Army formations and initiatives directly contribute to sustaining and deepening our alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, advancing the U.S. vision for a free and open, rules-based Indo-Pacific order and enabling collective responses to common challenges that undermine security and stability. Furthermore, the Army continues to provide forces that are resilient, ready, and postured to respond quickly and effectively against aggression in the region.

Maintaining military readiness and promoting experimentation and innovation is a critical element of deterring aggression and preventing conflict. The Army actively executes theater-level joint exercises to do so, including two exercises this year as part of Defender Pacific 2021. The first, Forager 21, a U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) exercise, tested the ability to flow land power forces into occupied territory through combined Army and Japanese Ground Self Defense Force airborne operations; integrated Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard elements; and experimented employment of the Army's Multi-Domain Task Force. The second exercise, Talisman Sabre 21, took place in the summer of 2021. Talisman Sabre is the largest bilateral combined training activity between the Australian Defense Force and the United States military. It exercised combined operations between the U.S., Australia, South Korea, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the UK. As part of this exercise the U.S. Army launched the first Patriot Interceptor from Australia. These activities, which are enabled by the Army's budget request, signal and emphasize the Army's commitment to the Indo-Pacific security environment and support to our allies and partners in the region.

In addition to exercises, the Army's FY 2022 request supports increased readiness with requested funds for the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC), an exportable Combat Training Center (CTC) system. This will enable USARPAC to ensure the readiness of two Brigade Combat Teams, as well as numerous other brigade-sized elements at home station in Alaska and Hawaii who must train, operate, and fight in either tropical jungle/archipelagic conditions or extreme cold/mountainous conditions. This capability is adapting how the Army generates, postures, trains and equips its forces for the Indo-Pacific and Arctic, while seeking smart efficiencies.

Equally vital for the Indo-Pacific environment are Army theater support capabilities and a forward force posture that ensures resiliency. The funding requested allows the Army to expand the number of Army prepositioned stock locations in the theater, reducing strategic lift requirements and enabling rapid Army delivery of vital theater opening/port opening capabilities, logistics, munitions and medical sustainment stocks to the Joint Force from dispersed locations. Additionally, the Army will optimize Army Watercraft Systems (AWS)—that facilitate joint operations in the INDOPACOM theater—in three ways: (1) increasing the ability to deliver supplies to remote island locations; (2) refurbishing and expanding AWS assets in the western Pacific, to include posting the Army's two newest Koruda Class Logistics Support Vessels (LSVs) in Japan; and (3) fielding new units in Japan and other strategic positions to pair transportation, ship-to-shore connector vessels, and austere port management throughout the Indo-Pacific.

To win in an Indo-Pacific theater contingency, the DOD must sustain and grow a lethal and resilient force able to protect the interests of the United States as well as our allies and partners. Continuing to modernize Army formations and capabilities while improving key theater support elements, ensures the Joint Force is best equipped, trained, and positioned to accomplish this in competition or conflict. The Army's FY 2022 budget, specifically the \$1.9 billion tied to the Indo-Pacific, supports Pacific Area of Responsibility training and operations, experimentation and innovation within the Army's signature modernization efforts, enhances interoperability, and enables sustainment and logistical support to key theater enabling units. To meet emerging challenges, the Army is transforming to provide the Joint Force with the speed, range, and convergence of cutting edge technologies that will generate the decision dominance and overmatch required to win the next fight; achievable with Congressional support through timely, adequate, predictable, and sustained funding.

Mr. MOULTON. Secretary Wormuth, I appreciated your opening statement and its emphasis on modernization for the Army. But it isn't enough to just buy new equipment; we also need to train our forces to use that equipment effectively with future warfighting environments in mind. We can buy all the unmanned ground and air vehicles we want, but it won't do us any good if deployed units don't know how to use them and haven't integrated them into their concepts of operation. Has the Army updated its training for enlisted ranks and officers to integrate new technologies that they will have to use in the future, like drones and AI-augmented equipment? Has the Army updated its education curriculums for officers to shape their decision-making in a way that accounts for new technologies like AI that will change the speed and complexity of their operating environments?

Secretary WORMUTH. Yes, the Army continuously updates training and professional military education to account for changes in technology and to prepare Soldiers and leaders to operate in complex environments. The Army is supporting the development and fielding of capabilities needed to train and educate the Army for Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). Emerging capabilities, such as cyber, space, and electronic warfare, are integrated into both home station training and training rotations at our Combat Training Centers (CTCs). To support the larger warfighter exercises used to train and develop leaders at the division, corps, and theater Army headquarters levels, the simulation capabilities are continually updated and includes cyber, electronic warfare, and space capabilities.

Additionally, the Army is identifying those camps, posts, and stations that must be modernized for our Soldiers to maximize the employment of new technologies. These improvements include: (1) MDO and Mobile Protected Firepower capable range complexes, (2) upgraded CTC OPFOR capabilities that will not only test maneuver and fires, but also our ability to fight against electronic warfare, cyber, and degraded space operational environments, and (3) the implementation of the Synthetic Training Environment.

Regarding improvements to the Army's professional military education (PME) program, the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) incorporates artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies into the curriculum, including during the capstone division-level tabletop exercise. Additionally, the newly developed Informa-

tion Advantage Scholars program offers electives that explore AI, cyber, and other emerging technologies in greater depth. At the School for Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), students receive one lesson specific to AI, and they consider AI and other emerging technologies in general within their "Future Operational Environment" block of instruction. Additionally, conceptual and soon-to-be-fielded capabilities are inherent to the tabletop exercise design, so graduates can successfully employ the capabilities they will soon see within the force. Lastly, while company grade PME does not specifically address new technologies or AI, it does develop the fundamental critical and creative thinking skills required to effectively employ decision-making processes and includes content regarding the military implications of rapidly changing technology and an increasingly complex environment.

Mr. MOULTON. General McConville, as we hopefully reach the tail-end of COVID, it seems appropriate to think about its impact on the force and how we can be better prepared for the next biological threat. It's clear that COVID took a toll on operational readiness, and it seems unlikely that this is the last biothreat the force will face. I'm aware of various efforts, ranging from mass surveillance testing to biothreat detection equipment, that might improve future responses, but I'm concerned that DOD will neglect these potential solutions now that the immediate threat of COVID has passed. How does this year's budget prepare the Army for future biothreats, whether they come from unintentional or malicious sources?

General MCCONVILLE. The Army will continue to include biological threats (both naturally occurring and manmade) as a part of Army modernization. The FY22 Army budget request includes investment into vaccines, therapeutics, and drugs to close gaps where the Army cannot close them by other means. The Army has also recently published an Army Biological Defense Strategy (ABDS) to help focus Army efforts to maintain the Army's capability and capacity to accomplish its mission and ensure readiness in the face of biological hazards and threats. The Army recently added the considerations in the ABDS into the Army Modernization Strategy. The Army will continue to work closely with Defense-wide efforts to ensure that biological defense is prioritized in such a way to ensure that the capabilities are available to meet emerging threats.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. CARBAJAL

Mr. CARBAJAL. Secretary Wormuth, the science and technology directorate is critical for the Army's ability to develop groundbreaking capabilities for the next generation of warfighting. However, I have concerns that the Army is willing to sacrifice investments in S&T in order to resource near-term investments and modernization priorities. The Army's University Affiliated Research Center, the Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies, is located in my district at UCSB. The ICB conducts 6.1 basic research projects and used to receive funding for 6.2 applied research funding until FY2019. How will the Department further utilize Army UARCs for applied research projects? And more generally, how is this budget balancing needed research that will support long-term projects for short-term modernization projects?

Secretary WORMUTH. The Army maintains a science and technology (S&T) portfolio balanced between investment in near- and mid-term research aligned to the Army Modernization Priorities and investment in mid- and far-term research in technologies that will enable the next generation of military capability. Army funding for far-term basic research investments remains steady. Total Army S&T funding in the President's Budget Request (PBR) for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) is \$2.7 billion, approximately \$100 million above PBR FY21. In the PBR for FY22, the Army specifically realigns 6.2 and 6.3 resources from near-term research aligned to the 6 Modernization Priorities to mid- and far-term research into enabling technologies to lay the technological foundation for the future force. The Army's University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs), including the Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies (ICB), conduct innovative basic research aligned to the Army's Priority Research Areas. The Army is actively seeking opportunities to transition innovations from the UARCs into our 6.2 applied research programs. Recent transition successes highlighted by the ICB include the large-scale Army production of protein-based materials emerging from basic research at the ICB, and transfer of biological additive manufacturing technologies and materials from the ICB to Army labs.

Mr. CARBAJAL. General McConville, as the Space Force is being stood up, the services invested in the space domain are having to adjust. How is the Army working through reassignment of personnel and programs to the Space Force? What efforts do you envision remaining Army core competencies when it comes to the Space domain?

General MCCONVILLE. The Army is fully supporting the establishment of the Space Force. Currently, the Army is planning and executing the transfer of two critical space-related capabilities. The first is the wideband communications satellite payload planning and control function. The Army is conducting deliberate planning for the phased transfer of responsibility for this function. At transfer, the U.S. Space Force will assume responsibility for organization, training, and equipping this function, as well as presenting it to the U.S. Space Command for employment. Our priority and focus is to ensure the timely transfer of this capability without disrupting this important mission. The second transfer will be the theater missile warning and battlespace characterization function with its associated military authorizations. This is currently in the initial planning phase. Additionally, the Army assigned and detailed 21 officers and two civilians to the Office of the Chief of Space Operations to assist in creating and establishing the Space Force service headquarters and operational structure. The Army also developed and published an InterService Transfer Policy for Regular Army Enlisted Service Members to transfer to the Space Force, to help provide manning support, as required, from all ranks and specialties. The Army and the Chief of Space Operations have agreed that the Army will retain groundbased space control capabilities, which are essential for success in Multi-Domain Operations. The Army will retain its core space expertise in our Space Cadre, consisting primarily of Army Space Operations Officers, which is a career field that Army officers can choose after initial assignments in other basic branches. The Army will continue research, development, testing, and experimentation with space-enabled capabilities focused specifically on supporting Army requirements.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. GALLAGHER

Mr. GALLAGHER. Secretary Wormuth, during your confirmation hearing, you called out long-range precision fires as your #1 modernization priority. How do the Army's Mobile Medium Range Missile and Precision Strike Missile contribute to the Army's plan in light of threats from China and Russia, and what would be the consequence if these programs went unfunded?

Secretary WORMUTH. After a detailed analysis of our peer competitors across the globe against our existing capability gaps, we have identified Long Range Precision Fires as a vital modernization priority. To alleviate those gaps and in coordination with the Navy and Air Force, the Army determined the need for hypersonic weapons, mid-range capable weapons, and a deep strike missile. The Army's Mid-Range Capability (MRC) and Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) contributes to the joint fight by providing the Combatant Commander with a maritime strike and deep fires capability. The MRC complements the Long Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW) and provides the Joint Force commander additional capability against maritime and littoral targets. The PrSM first complements, then ultimately replaces, the Army Tactical Missile (ATACMS), providing theater and corps commanders the ability to shape the deep fight in large scale combat operations. The PrSM will evolve to have a maritime strike capability, enabling the Army's ability to deny opponents access to the sea lanes. The loss of program funding for these weapons will impact the Army's ability to compete, and win, in multiple theaters including the Pacific.

Mr. GALLAGHER. General McConville, I am concerned by the Army's decision to terminate out the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Extended Service Program (HEMTT ESP) modernization program in the face of significant requirements across all three components of the Army for this essential combat enabling program. Given the important role these vehicles play for our National Guard and Reserve forces, and that we may have to rely on the Guard and Reserve more in the future, I have a hard time understanding the program termination. General McConville, do you agree that the HEMTT A4 fleet is an important enabler to support Brigade Combat Team formations?

General MCCONVILLE. The Army fully recognizes the important role that the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck plays in Brigade Combat Team formations. Currently, the Army has 100% of its HEMTT requirement on-hand and over 70% of the HEMTT fleet has been modernized to the A4 configuration. Earlier this year, we started a comprehensive study of our tactical wheeled vehicle fleet in support of Multi-Domain Operations. The results of that study will inform future HEMTT modernization requirements.

Mr. GALLAGHER. General, I am also concerned about the Army's failure to maintain a stable industrial base for tactical wheeled vehicles. The rapid shifts in funding for programs like the JLTV and others make it hard for the small businesses that support this industrial base to stay in business. Given the importance of a strong, stable industrial base in that can surge capacity in the event of war, how

does the Army determine the breaking point of an industrial base that could be called upon at any minute to ramp up production or restart from a production break?

General McCONVILLE. The Army's Tactical Wheeled Vehicle (TWV) fleet is a critical enabler for the Army's employment of lethal and non-lethal capabilities in all formations. Funding requests are balanced against the Army's modernization efforts, aligned with the National Defense Strategy. The Army monitors the TWV industrial base through periodic engagements with industry partners, industrial base assessments, and other methods. The Army mitigates risk by maintaining a warm TWV industrial base to support ongoing modernization and readiness.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. KEATING

Mr. KEATING. General McConville mentioned the importance of allies and partners. Secretary Wormuth mentioned supply chain issues that the Covid pandemic highlighted.

What plans beyond our domestic supply chain does the Army have for a second ring for an allied supply chain network?

Secretary WORMUTH and General McCONVILLE. The challenges of global supply chains require the Army to actively work with our allies to mitigate risks in the availability and cost of items. Leveraging of our National Technology and Industrial Base partners (Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom) and other close allies allows us to broaden our access to components and spread the demand over a large base to ensure ready production capacity. This approach ensures that the U.S. has access to the best technology while strengthening our relationship with partner nations.

Mr. KEATING. Regarding the changes to Defender Europe's scheduled exercises, how have our allies reacted to this change? What modifications have occurred in our training procedures?

Secretary WORMUTH and General McCONVILLE. During the onset of COVID, impacts to allies and partner nations supporting DEFENDER 22 varied based on their internal COVID-19 control measures. However, our allies and partner nations are now able to participate in the scheduled exercises. DEFENDER 22 will employ Army, Joint Forces, allies, and partner forces to exercise the Persistent Training Environment in Europe (PTE-E); all exercise and training objectives will be met.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. GAETZ

Mr. GAETZ. Given the difficulty of supporting large civilian populations with comparatively small NG force structure in certain States/territories, why does NGB refuse to consider guardsmen-to-citizen ratios when allocating new, or re-allocating existing, force structure?

Secretary WORMUTH and General McCONVILLE. The National Guard Bureau follows Department of Defense, Army, and Air Force guidance and processes in determining force structure size, mix, and allocation. The National Guard Bureau does not explicitly consider the size of a state's population in determining where to allocate force structure; however, it does consider the ability to recruit and the propensity to serve, which indirectly accounts for population size. A metric considering strict population size without consideration of potential for recruitment could result in a force structure that could not be sustained in the state.

Mr. GAETZ. Given the fact that some States/territories are forced to use their NG troops for domestic response year after year much more than others, why doesn't NGB consider historical domestic operations tempo data when deciding on force structure apportionment to help "disaster-prone" States relieve this strain?

Secretary WORMUTH and General McCONVILLE. The primary consideration for National Guard capabilities is its federal mission as the combat reserve for the Army. The Army National Guard allocates its portion of the total Army force structure based on demographics, supportability, and suitability, as well as the need to balance the allocation of capabilities by echelon across the 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Disaster-prone states also have the option to raise state militias to focus solely on the Governor's domestic response needs in order to relieve strain on the Army National Guard formations.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. WALTZ

Mr. WALTZ. As States voluntarily divest force structure, will the National Guard Bureau, amongst its criteria for force structure rebalance decisions, consider domestic up-tempo missions and population growth, to relieve the strain on recruitment and retention on State Guard formations?

Secretary WORMUTH and General McCONVILLE. If states should voluntarily divest force structure, the Army National Guard will allocate force structure based on demographics, supportability, suitability, and a balanced allocation of capabilities by echelon across the 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. These considerations are driven by the National Guard's primary purpose as the combat reserve of the Army. Governors also have the option to raise state militias to focus solely on the domestic response needs to relieve strain on the Army National Guard formations.

Mr. WALTZ. The Colonial Pipeline incident demonstrated how adversaries can hit the homeland and affecting entire regions. The lines between Federal and State missions are becoming increasingly blurry. How can the National Guard Bureau better define "Homeland Defense" when it comes the Federal and State response missions?

Secretary WORMUTH and General McCONVILLE. The lines between federal and state missions are becoming increasingly blurred, especially within the competition environment that is short of conflict. The National Guard Bureau has a critical role within the Department of Defense to address incidents that straddle federal and state jurisdiction. The National Guard Bureau will coordinate with the Department of Defense to better define the term "Homeland Defense," and its relationship to state response missions.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. VEASEY

Mr. VEASEY. The Army has repeatedly stated that long range precision fires (LRPF) is the number one modernization priority. However, the necessary sensing platforms are not properly funded or prioritized right now. In order to execute the LRPF mission, an airborne deep sensing capability that will carry both radar and signals intelligence and will have the range to meet the global requirements while operating a minimal fleet size must also be funded and prioritized. This platform is the High Altitude Detection and Exploitation System or HADES. Funding was provided in FY21 in the EMARRS line with the intent to fund this capability as HADES and additional funding is still being put against platforms that cannot meet the requirements for global range and multi intelligence. What are you doing to accelerate HADES as the solution to meet the requirement for deep sensing to support long range precision fires?

Secretary WORMUTH. The Army is pursuing a robust approach that will accelerate the fielding of HADES and drive-down the programmatic and operational risks associated with multi-intelligence Army ISR capability development. In August 2020, the Army Requirements Oversight Council approved the abbreviated requirements document for HADES. However, the Army's Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Task Force is currently utilizing contractor-owned prototypes to conduct a variety of technology demonstrations and Soldier touchpoints in the Pacific and European theaters. Additionally, we continue to exercise these surrogate systems in Army Futures Command-led experiments, such as EDGE-21, Global Defender, and Project Convergence. In FY22, the Army will expand on these essential experimental efforts to refine the final HADES capability requirements, maximize competition in the industrial-base, and reduce cost escalation for the follow-on program of record. We are working with our joint partners to ensure the Army's future investments in sensing platforms are fully aligned with the strategic aims of the Joint Warfighting Concept and responsive to the specific collection requirements levied by forward-deployed Army and Joint Commanders.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. BROWN

Mr. BROWN. The Future Vertical Lift aircraft are an important component of the Army's modernization strategy and will bring needed speed, range, and maneuverability when it is fielded. While the aircraft capabilities are vital, the aircraft alone does not constitute a weapons system and does not provide overmatch capability against a peer-threat and we must have an acquisition plan for the associated sensors as well. What is the Army's timeline to plan to fund, develop, and procure advanced mission sensors to integrate into rotorcraft weapon systems? Additionally, FLRAA is the most expensive program in the portfolio and is a few months from

a final RFP release. How will the Army's Final FLRAA RFP address the total weapon system needed to fight and win in the peer near-peer conflict?

Secretary WORMUTH. The FY22 Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) competitive contract award to a single vendor will encompass the development, prototyping, flight test, and fielding of the FLRAA weapons system, not just the air vehicle. The Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA) and FLRAA programs are working in conjunction to maximize mission equipment commonality, while optimizing performance for each aircraft's unique mission and design. Both programs utilize the Future Vertical Lift (FVL) architecture framework of standards and interfaces, enabling future mission systems commonality and adaptability. The FVL architecture provides the basis for rapid hardware and software upgrades as the threat evolves.

To address the total FLRAA weapon system cost, the Request for Proposals (RFP) maximizes competition, which allows the Army to negotiate for competitively priced options and critical intellectual property. In constructing the RFP, the Army consistently communicated FLRAA's requirements to both Bell and Sikorsky-Boeing, incorporating their feedback to improve the final RFP. The final FLRAA RFP was released on 6 July 2021. The Army believes the resulting contract will produce a weapon system that will contribute heavily in competition and potential conflict.

Mr. BROWN. The FARA and FLRAA mission equipment strategies have taken two different approaches, even though their schedules are very close. How is the Army creating synergies between the two platforms and assessing ways to maximize the benefits of commonality in mission systems? What is the projected budget required for the mission systems for FARA and FLRAA over what would have been the FYDP if it was delivered?

Secretary WORMUTH. The FARA and FLRAA programs are working in conjunction to maximize mission equipment commonality, while optimizing performance for each aircraft's unique mission and design. Both programs utilize the Future Vertical Lift (FVL) architecture framework of standards and interfaces, enabling future mission systems commonality and adaptability. The FVL architecture provides the basis for rapid hardware and software upgrades as the threat evolves. Further, the FVL ecosystem includes the use of a Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA). MOSA ensures that the design of each aircraft is modular, specifies key/critical interfaces, and utilizes consensus based upon standards. MOSA increases industry's business opportunities and reduces the Government's dependence on single sources for numerous hardware and software components. Lastly, the Army is pursuing "leap-ahead" technologies for FVL through a disciplined approach. Achievable and affordable technologies inform all FVL requirements documents. Recent Congressional Budget Office and Center for Strategic and International Studies reports provide indication that the Army's timeline and plans for FARA and FLRAA are affordable.

FARA and FLRAA analyses, demonstrations, risk reduction, and prototyping efforts will inform future budgets. The Army is committed to keeping Congress updated on these efforts. Procurement requirements will initially align to support the Army's First Unit Equipped target of FY 2030 and will be informed by the vendors' performance throughout developmental testing. The Army remains committed to the long-term affordability of both FARA and FLRAA. This commitment includes goals and caps on Average Procurement Unit Cost and Operations and Sustainment costs, which really serve as the long-term measures of affordability. The Army is committed to transparency regarding the FARA and FLRAA programs, and will provide further information at appropriate junctures, understanding the current Administration's ongoing efforts regarding National Security and Defense Strategies.

Mr. BROWN. Secretary Wormuth, what is the sensor architecture for Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) and how is this capability being integrated into the modernization effort? How does organic ISR capability within the Army affect the operational effectiveness of LRPF?

Secretary WORMUTH. The sensor architecture for Army Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) is one portion of the joint sensor architecture. The Army's Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node (TITAN) will receive intelligence data from surface, air, and space sensors from multiple systems operating in all Services. TITAN will then quickly produce actionable target information and relay that information to command and control systems that will generate and transmit the Fire Mission to a specific shooter. The Army is focusing on this architecture in our Project Convergence series, reducing total response time from target identification to fires launch from minutes to seconds. The network is the critical element of the Army's fires architecture. Organic ISR capabilities within Army forces enrich the joint force's intelligence picture and reduce the potential for single points of failure within the joint force. All elements of the joint force, not just Army forces, benefit from Army organic ISR capabilities, just as Army forces benefit from other Service, and

even multinational, ISR capabilities. Organic ISR forces also enable Army forces to find and neutralize critical targets that may not be supportable by limited national-level or other Service ISR capabilities.

Mr. BROWN. General McConville, it's critical that the Army is equipped with the platforms and capabilities it needs to meet the pacing threats of China and Russia. Investing in Army modernization priorities will not only deter these competitors but also ensure overmatch in potential future conflicts. What capabilities does the Army need in the Indo-Pacific that are similar to the capabilities it has in Europe, and how are they different? What are the Army's projected force structure requirements for airborne deep sensing ISR capabilities and how are you balancing the competing demands of near peer/A2AD conflict in the two separate theaters of the IndoPacific and in Europe?

General MCCONVILLE. The Army requires Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)-enabled capabilities, including at the division level, in Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), and with enablers. In addition, the Army requires MDO enabled long range fires, cyber, and air defense capabilities in both theaters. Looking ahead at projected force structure, the Army is studying layered, multiintelligence, cross-service options for the optimal mix of manned and unmanned systems arrayed at echelon from Theater (MDTF) to the Tactical (BCT) hosting a variety of MDOaligned aerial and non-aerial ISR capabilities. The Army is balancing competing demands of near peer/A2AD conflict in separate theaters by prioritizing investments in capabilities suitable for use against multiple threats, including long range fires, air defense, cyber, electronic warfare, network, and Soldier lethality.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MRS. BICE

Mrs. BICE. I understand that the Army is not assembling the Extended Range Cannon Artillery at Elgin, OK, but instead the program is currently utilizing Army organic depots/arsenals for assembly of the early prototypes. Earlier this spring, the Program Manager in an on-line forum (Michigan Defense Exposition) identified that ERCA will be a two-part acquisition approach beyond these initial prototypes with the first competition to validate the US Army designed/built prototypes and the 2nd competition to select a vendor to build/assemble and integrate ERCA kits onto a recently built M109A7 PIM howitzer. I understand that the first part of that strategy (validate design) was recently published by the Army as a Market Survey.

Could you please verify whether this is in fact the approved Army acquisition strategy?

If so, how does this two-part acquisition strategy support GEN McConville's testimony to field a battalion set in 2023 and the second battalion set in 2024 in light of the Government Accounting Office (GAO) May 2021 report that identified an 8 month schedule slip to the ERCA program "due to COVID, technology risks and technology immaturity of 6 of the 8 key technologies for ERCA success"?

How does this acquisition plan, tied to the PIM production reductions in this budget request affect expected work at Elgin, OK?

Secretary WORMUTH and General MCCONVILLE. The Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) rapid prototyping strategy is a direct reflection of the Army's intent to field a battalion set in 2023 by providing 18 ERCA prototypes (one battalion) at the end of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) for a one-year operational assessment throughout FY24. This timeline already accounts for COVID-19 impacts and technology maturity issues. The organic industrial base is building the rapid prototype systems and commercial vendors are supplying some of the prototype components. For the final production configuration, ERCA will transition from a rapid prototyping effort to a traditional acquisition program. The production strategy is in development to support fielding the first production vehicles to the operational test unit in FY25 and will not affect the ongoing Self-Propelled Howitzer Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) production. The risk of impacts to the BAE facility at Elgin, Oklahoma due to decreased funding for base PIM production is being assessed.