

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON UNITED STATES STRATEGIC
COMMAND, UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND, AND UNITED
STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND PROGRAMS AND BUDGET IN REVIEW
OF THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017
AND THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Washington, D.C.

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U.S. Senate

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Committee on Armed Services

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13 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:02 a.m. in
14 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. John
15 McCain, chairman of the committee, presiding.

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Committee Members Present: Senators McCain

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[presiding], Inhofe, Wicker, Ayotte, Fischer, Cotton, Ernst,

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Tillis, Sullivan, Graham, Reed, Nelson, Manchin, Gillibrand,

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Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, King, and Heinrich.

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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN McCAIN, U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM ARIZONA

3 Chairman McCain: Good morning. The committee meets
4 today to receive testimony on the posture of U.S. Northern
5 Command, Southern Command, and Strategic Command to inform
6 its review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal
7 Year 2017.

8 I'd like to extend our appreciation to the witnesses
9 for their many years of distinguished service, and to the
10 men and women of our military who defend our Nation every
11 day.

12 Admiral Tidd, this is your first time testifying before
13 the committee as the Commander of U.S. Southern Command.
14 After nearly 2 months in command, I look forward to your
15 assessment of the challenges within your area of
16 responsibility, as well as your strategy to confront them.
17 It's clear you face a daunting array of security and
18 governance challenges in the region, yet SOUTHCOM continues
19 to suffer from persistent resource shortfalls that undermine
20 efforts to confront these challenges. I hope you will
21 outline for the committee where you are being forced to
22 accept the greatest risk as a result of these shortfalls.
23 Of particular concern is the deteriorating situation in
24 Central America, where feeble governance, endemic
25 corruption, and weak security institutions are allowing

1 transnational criminal organizations to operate with
2 impunity. We, of course, must improve and adequately
3 resource our drug interdiction strategy to combat these
4 groups, but we must also renew our efforts to combat the
5 real driver of drug trafficking: the demand here at home.
6 The demand for the drugs that these groups traffic --
7 heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine -- is too high, and the
8 profits too great, to dissuade these criminals from their
9 illicit actions.

10 To be clear, the threat posed by these groups extends
11 beyond the drugs they smuggle into our communities. The
12 smuggling routes they control are also used to traffic
13 weapons, bulk cash, and human beings. And, as your
14 predecessor, General Kelly, testified before this committee,
15 terrorist organizations could seek to leverage these same
16 smuggling routes to move operatives with intent to cause
17 grave harm to our citizens or even bring weapons of mass
18 destruction into the United States.

19 On a more positive note, I'm interested in your
20 assessment of the ongoing talks in Colombia and how you
21 believe the U.S. can best support our partners as they enter
22 a new and likely more challenging era. Colombia, once on
23 the cusp of becoming a failed state, has emerged from
24 decades of conflict as a stark example of what sustained
25 U.S. support and engagement can achieve. It's vitally

1 important that we continue to invest in our relationship
2 during this critical period so as not to squander the
3 extraordinary progress that has been achieved.

4 I'd like to take a moment to recognize the military
5 servicemembers conducting detention operations at Guantanamo
6 Bay. Too often in the course of debating the future of the
7 detention facility, we lose sight of the remarkable men and
8 women who serve honorably under extraordinarily difficult
9 conditions. Admiral, please convey our deepest appreciation
10 for their service and the professionalism they display each
11 and every day on behalf of our Nation.

12 Admiral Gortney, I look to you for an update on the
13 current state of U.S.-Mexican security cooperation and
14 opportunities for our two nations to strengthen this vital
15 partnership. While Mexico's efforts to combat transnational
16 criminal organizations have resulted in notable successes by
17 capturing or killing senior cartel leaders, such as El
18 Chapo, the security situation remain highly volatile and
19 continues to directly impact the security of our southern
20 border. Heroin, largely produced in Mexico, continues to
21 ravage communities all across the Nation and demands a
22 renewed effort to combat this scourge, both in our seats and
23 also at its source.

24 I also look forward to your assessment of the
25 increasing threat posed to the homeland by the development

1 of advanced missile capability -- of advanced missiles
2 capable of carrying nuclear payloads by Russia, Iran, and
3 North Korea.

4 Admiral Haney, the strategic threats to the United
5 States and its allies have increased exponentially in just
6 the few short years since you've taken the helm of Strategic
7 Command. While nuclear, cyber, and counterspace threats
8 generally have been on the rise, Secretary Carter's warning
9 that, quote, "We're entering a new strategic era," has great
10 implications for STRATCOM. And return to great power
11 competition noted by the Secretary means that deterring
12 Russia and China once again assumes primacy in your planning
13 and operations. Whatever President Obama may have hoped
14 for, the United States can no longer seek to reduce the role
15 of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy or
16 narrow the range of contingencies under which we would have
17 to consider their use. U.S. Strategic Command faces
18 significant near- and longer-term challenges.

19 In about 15 to 20 years, U.S. nuclear submarines,
20 ICBMs, air-launch cruise missiles, heavy bombers, and
21 nuclear-capable tactical fighters will have to be withdrawn
22 from operational service, having been extended well beyond
23 their original service lives. Modernization programs are in
24 place to replace these systems, but there is no slack left
25 in the schedule. Today's Congress supports fully the

1 modernization of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. Any reduction
2 in funding over the next decade, however, could delay the
3 development of these replacement systems, increasing
4 strategic risk at a time when Russia and other countries
5 continue to modernize their nuclear capabilities.

6 Russia, then, is your near-term challenge. Russia's
7 aggression in Ukraine and destabilizing actions in Syria
8 take place under a nuclear shadow. Russia has threatened
9 our NATO allies with nuclear strikes, is developing a new
10 nuclear ground-launch cruise missile capable of ranging most
11 of Europe, and has fired air- and sea-launch cruise missiles
12 against targets in Syria, missiles that could be armed with
13 nuclear warheads and flown against European and U.S.
14 targets.

15 And so, your task, Admiral Haney, is to ensure that
16 strategic Command is prepared to deter Russian nuclear
17 provocations. This requires better intelligence about
18 Russian nuclear capabilities and plans, a nuclear planning
19 process tied to EUCOM and NATO operations, and a survivable,
20 well-exercised, and ready nuclear force.

21 Finally, as this committee continues its review of the
22 Goldwater-Nichols Act, we're interested to hear your views
23 as to whether our defense enterprise is organized properly
24 to perform the missions that cut across the functional and
25 geographic boundaries we have drawn. We also welcome any

1 ideas on reform we might consider to make our defense
2 enterprise more effective without minimizing the vital tasks
3 that must be done.

4 I noted, to the members of the committee, that
5 yesterday we had an all-Army panel, and today it's an all-
6 Navy panel, a definite upgrade.

7 [Laughter.]

8 Chairman McCain: Senator Reed.

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

3 Senator Reed: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 And may I point out that the meeting of the United
5 States Naval Academy Alumni Association will take place
6 immediately following the hearing in the ante room.

7 [Laughter.]

8 Senator Reed: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 I want to welcome our witnesses, particularly Admiral
10 Tidd, who's appearing before this committee for the first
11 time. Thank you, sir, for your service.

12 And, Admiral Gortney, this could be your last hearing
13 before the committee. Thank you for your extraordinary
14 service in so many different capacities. Not only you, but
15 your families, have served with great distinction and great
16 sacrifice. And obviously, the men and women in your
17 commands have done so much.

18 And, Admiral Haney, likewise to your family and to the
19 men and women of your command.

20 And I'm pleased to see some senior noncommissioned
21 officers here. Thank you for what you do to lead our
22 forces.

23 Admiral Haney, your command has responsibilities for
24 the functions that are global in nature -- space and
25 nuclear, to name a few. But, your first and foremost

1 responsibility is to ensure that the nuclear triad can deter
2 threats that are existential to our Nation. This
3 administration has committed to the modernization of all
4 three legs of our triad. Our current nuclear forces cost
5 about 4 percent of our DOD budget, which is a relatively
6 good bargain, considering the threats they deter on a daily
7 basis. But, in the late 2020s, as the Chairman has
8 mentioned, when this modernization is at its peak, that
9 figure will rise to about 7 percent of the DOD budget.
10 While this is about half of what we spent at the height of
11 the Cold War, it is still a considerable amount of money,
12 and I will want to hear your views on the importance of this
13 modernization and how it can be done in the most cost-
14 effective manner possible.

15 Admiral Gortney, your mission is to protect the
16 homeland, to deter and defeat attacks on the United States,
17 and to support civil authorities in mitigating the effects
18 of potential attacks and natural disasters. While Admiral
19 Haney is responsible for synchronizing global missile
20 defense, planning, and operation support, you are
21 responsible for the operation of our homeland ballistic
22 missile defense system. We look forward to hearing about
23 the ongoing improvements to the ground-based missile defense
24 system, particularly the enhancement of sensors and
25 discrimination capabilities.

1 In addition, NORTHCOM works closely with other Federal
2 agencies, the Governors, and the National Guard to
3 collaborate on responding to natural and manmade disasters,
4 and partners with Canada and Mexico to promote security
5 across our borders. I look forward to hearing about your
6 current efforts in these areas and how these would be
7 impacted by the return of sequestration next year.

8 A number of the problems in NORTHCOM originate from the
9 SOUTHCOM AOR. Drug traffickers and transnational criminal
10 organizations are not bound by geographic borders, and the
11 violence and instability they engender have pushed
12 individuals to flee, often seeking sanctuary on our shores.
13 An obvious answer then is to address the problem at the
14 root. Of course, such efforts require a whole-of-government
15 approach, incorporating the capabilities of interagency
16 partners, such as the State Department, FBI, and the Drug
17 Enforcement Agency. Consequently, any cuts made to their
18 budgets have direct implications on the ability,
19 particularly, of SOUTHCOM to carry out its mission.

20 SOUTHCOM is responsible for maintaining our security
21 relationship in the region. And the closest military-to-
22 military relationship in the AOR is with Colombia, who, with
23 our sustained assistance, has undergone a remarkable
24 transformation. It is now equally important to ensure that
25 the peace implementation phase of this transformation is as

1 robustly supported as the kinetic operations.

2 Admiral Tidd, as you stated in your testimony, nowhere
3 is our own security more inextricably intertwined to that of
4 our neighbors, partners, and friends than in Latin America,
5 and the Caribbean. I look forward to hearing your views on
6 how we can best maintain our engagement in this important
7 area of the world.

8 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

9 Chairman McCain: Welcome the witnesses. And your
10 complete statements will be made part of the record.

11 Admiral Haney.

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1 STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL CECIL E. D. HANEY, USN,
2 COMMANDER, U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND

3 Admiral Haney: Good morning, Chairman McCain, Ranking
4 Member Reed, and members of the committee.

5 I'm honored to be here with you today and pleased to
6 testify with Admiral Bill Gortney, Commander, U.S. Northern
7 Command, Admiral Kurt Tidd, Commander, U.S. Southern
8 Command. I'm also honored to represent my team of sailors,
9 soldiers, airmens, and marines, and civilians who carry out
10 the various missions assigned to U.S. Strategic Command.
11 They are dedicated professionals who represent our most
12 precious resource and deserve our unwavering support. As a
13 result of their efforts, our Nation's strategic nuclear
14 deterrent force remains safe, secure, effective, and ready,
15 and we are working hard to improve the resiliency and
16 flexibility in space and cyberspace.

17 It is critical, as you've stated, that we modernize our
18 strategic nuclear deterrent capabilities that underpin our
19 Nation's security. As you know, the current global security
20 environment is more complex, dynamic, and uncertain than
21 possibly anytime in our history as adversaries and potential
22 adversaries challenge our democratic values and our security
23 in so many ways. They are modernizing and expanding their
24 nuclear capabilities, developing and testing counterspace
25 and cyberspace technologies, and are advancing conventional

1 and asymmetric weapons.

2 Future deterrent scenarios will likely include multiple
3 adversaries operating across multiple domains and using
4 anti-access aerial denial asymmetric warfare in "escalate to
5 de-escalate" tactics. These trends affect strategic
6 stability.

7 Given all of this, the missions of U.S. Strategic
8 Command remain important to our joint military forces, to
9 our Nation and our allies and partners. Comprehensive
10 strategic deterrence and assurance and escalation control is
11 far more than just nuclear weapons and platforms. It
12 includes a robust intelligence apparatus, space, cyberspace,
13 conventional and missile defense capabilities, and
14 comprehensive plans that link together organizations in a
15 coherent manner.

16 Additionally, we engage daily on a broad range of
17 activities across our other mission areas, including
18 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, combating
19 weapons of mass destruction, joint electronic warfare, and
20 analysis and targeting.

21 These guide my command priorities. Achieving
22 comprehensive strategic deterrence, assurance, and
23 escalation control requires a long-term approach to
24 investing in capabilities in a multi-generational commitment
25 to intellectual capital. The President's budget for fiscal

1 year '17 strikes a responsible balance between national
2 priorities, fiscal realities, and begins to reduce some of
3 the risks we have accumulated because of deferred
4 maintenance and sustainment. This budget supports my
5 mission requirements, but there is no margin to absorb new
6 risk. Any cuts to that budget will hamper our ability to
7 sustain and modernize our forces.

8 Thank you. And I look forward to your questions.

9 [The prepared statement of Admiral Haney follows:]

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1 Chairman McCain: Admiral Gortney.
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1 STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL WILLIAM E. GORTNEY, USN,
2 COMMANDER, U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND AND COMMANDER, NORTH
3 AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND

4 Admiral Gortney: Chairman McCain, Senator Reed,
5 distinguished members of the committee, it's an honor to be
6 in front of you here today with my longtime shipmates,
7 Admiral Cecil Haney and Admiral Kurt Tidd.

8 First off, I'd like to thank you for the 2-year budget
9 relief to sequestration. Last year, I talked about
10 sequestration being the biggest threat to national security.
11 The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 is a much appreciated step
12 in the right direction, and we all look forward to a more
13 permanent solution in the future.

14 I also appreciate the time many of you have spent with
15 me over the past 2 weeks. And, from our discussions, I
16 believe our time is spent -- best spent if I quickly
17 summarize the range of significant threats to the homeland,
18 because I agree with DNI Clapper when he told your committee
19 last month, "Unpredictable instability has become the new
20 normal."

21 And I look at threats to the homeland from those most
22 dangerous to most likely. On the most dangerous, the
23 nation-states: Russia, China, North Korea, where the
24 peninsula is more unstable than it's ever been since the
25 Armistice, and, of course, Iran. Non-state actors: Daesh,

1 and, in the future, whatever adaptation Daesh will morph
2 into. And then transnational organized crime who move
3 product -- drugs, humans, weapons, or anything that will
4 make them a profit, exploiting the many seams between the
5 nations in North, Central, and South America, the seams
6 between the many agencies of the governments of those
7 nations, the seams created by the inadequate authorities,
8 resources, and training of many of those agencies in those
9 nations, and, yes, the seams created by the geographic
10 boundaries of our combatant command structure, seams for
11 which Kurt Tidd and I are accountable to close while we work
12 the military-to-military effort of our Nation's whole-of-
13 government approach to the many shared challenges within
14 North, Central, and South America.

15 The number-one priority of the Department and NORAD and
16 NORTHCOM is homeland defense. It's a no-fail mission, and
17 it's just as important today as when NORAD and NORTHCOM were
18 established, with one single commander responsible for the
19 defense of our homeland through the many domains of air,
20 space, maritime, land, and cyber, although, within cyber,
21 our responsibility extends only as far as defending our own
22 networks.

23 Today's evolving and resurgent threats are a function
24 of the return-to-great-power competition and the continuing
25 global terrorist threat. And these threats create

1 vulnerabilities best mitigated through an integrated and
2 binational approach across the multiple domains, which
3 requires a fully integrated defense in the air, space, sea,
4 and land domains. As a result, together NORAD and NORTHCOM
5 have evolved well past our Cold War and 9/11 origins, and
6 are today inseparable. We defend the homelands in the air
7 through the NORAD, and the remaining domains through
8 NORTHCOM, facing the traditional and nontraditional threats
9 in our assigned battlespace. And NORAD and NORTHCOM work
10 seamlessly together in defense of our homeland. We're
11 focused on complete unity of command and unity of effort.
12 We are two commands, but a single, fully-integrated
13 headquarters organized and trained to face the diverse array
14 of evolving threats to our Nation's security.

15 Outside the traditional military threat and again
16 created by the return-of-great-power competition is the
17 nontraditional threat to the homeland. To counter this
18 threat, I'm a supporting commander to the Department of
19 Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the many
20 law enforcement agencies engaged in this crucial fight.
21 Here, my primary concern are homegrown violent extremists
22 who are self-radicalized and are in the receive-only mode
23 and not actively communicating back to Daesh. These
24 extremists are targeting SOF, Department of Defense
25 personnel and facilities, and our own fellow citizens. And

1 this is what occurred in Chattanooga on a DOD facility and
2 in San Bernardino against our Nation's civilian population.
3 As the commander accountable for setting the force-
4 protection condition of DOD facilities in the continental
5 United States, we at NORTHCOM work closely with the Army,
6 Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps in order to balance the
7 enduring nature of this threat with the services' ability to
8 complete the many missions they have here in the homeland.

9 In closing, I want to mention our homeland partnerships
10 that enable our success. We partner continuously with the
11 numerous interagency components of the government. These
12 include the National Guard, both airmen and soldiers, the
13 intelligence community, law enforcement agencies, and our
14 closest mission partner, the Department of Homeland
15 Security. Our mission partners maintain nearly 60 liaison
16 officers in our headquarters, and these patriots are fully
17 embedded into our ops and our intel organization.

18 Building partnership capacity within the homeland is
19 absolutely vital to our mission. At NORTHCOM, 70 percent of
20 our major exercise -- and this is nearly 200 each year --
21 are focused on our mission partners as the primary target
22 audience of the exercise programs. We call this Theater
23 Security Cooperation within the Homeland. And this is
24 NORTHCOM supporting our mission partners, and our mission
25 partners supporting us, which is why we view these homeland

1 partnerships as our center of gravity, as they are critical
2 to the success across all of our assigned mission areas.

3 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, and I
4 welcome your questions.

5 [The prepared statement of Admiral Gortney follows:]

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1 Chairman McCain: Admiral Tidd.
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1 STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL KURT W. TIDD, USN, COMMANDER,
2 U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND

3 Admiral Tidd: Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed,
4 distinguished members of this committee, thank you for the
5 opportunity to speak with you today.

6 I'm honored to represent the men and women of United
7 States Southern Command, and I'm very pleased to be here
8 today with my very good friends and shipmates, Cecil Haney
9 and Bill Gortney.

10 I'd like to thank the Congress, and this committee
11 specially, for its longstanding support to our mission and
12 to our partners in Central America, South America, and the
13 Caribbean.

14 I'd like to focus my opening remarks very quickly on
15 three Cs and three Gs. The Cs are connections, Colombia,
16 and Central America.

17 The first C, of connections. Security in this
18 hemisphere connects directly to other parts of the world.
19 Smuggling networks run through South America directly into
20 our homeland. Foreign terrorist fighters flow from the
21 Caribbean to Syria and to Iraq. And, as part of their
22 global strategy, Russia attempts to discredit our
23 reliability as a trustworthy partner here in our own region.
24 These issues transcend artificial boundaries, and they
25 demand a transregional, united response.

1 The second C is Colombia. As has already been
2 recognized, this committee knows well Colombia's
3 transformation has been remarkable. Once on the brink of
4 failure, Colombia is now on the brink of peace. But, the
5 hardest work lies ahead, extending government influence into
6 dangerous criminal-controlled territory, confronting the
7 persistent threat of cocaine production and trafficking,
8 and, above all, securing a just peace that will end more
9 than 50 years of conflict. With the blood and treasure that
10 they have already sacrificed, with all that they continue to
11 do to export security across the region, the Colombian
12 people have more than earned our sustained support.

13 The third C is Central America. As we recognized
14 during the 2014 migrant crisis, what happens on the streets
15 of San Salvador and Tegucigalpa have a -- has a direct
16 impact on the streets of Tucson and Providence. Our Central
17 American partners are doing all they can to win their
18 countries back from vicious gangs and narcotraffickers, but
19 they cannot do it alone. And, because we remain the number-
20 one world's consumer of illicit drugs, we owe it to them to
21 do our part.

22 Now to the three Gs: global networks, global
23 competitors, and Guantanamo Bay.

24 Global networks are the biggest threat that we face in
25 our region. No two networks are alike. Some are

1 international criminal enterprises focused on transporting
2 any illicit cargo for the right price. Others are small
3 operations that smuggle desperate migrants. Still others
4 support terrorist organizations through financing and
5 through the spread of their violent extremist ideology. No
6 matter the motivation of these groups, though, all of them
7 have a corrosive effect on the stability and the security of
8 every country that they infect, including our own.

9 Global competitors. They also operate deliberately in
10 the western hemisphere as part of their broader global
11 strategies. The most concerning of them is Russia, which
12 portrays the United States in our theater as unreliable and
13 as withdrawing from this pivotal region.

14 And finally, Guantanamo Bay, where we conduct the most
15 principled, humane detention operations anywhere in the
16 world. And we will continue to do so until the very last
17 detainee steps on an airplane and departs the island. I
18 know this committee shares my enormous pride in the men and
19 women who serve in this demanding, sensitive, and often
20 thankless mission with honor and with the utmost discipline,
21 professionalism, and integrity. They are every bit as
22 engaged in the war and every bit as deserving of our thanks
23 and praise when they return home, just as their brothers and
24 sisters who have returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan.
25 And I thank very much your recognition of the hard work that

1 they do.

2 Mr. Chairman, members, thank you again for the
3 opportunity to appear before you today. And I look forward
4 to our continued discussions.

5 [The prepared statement of Admiral Tidd follows:]

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1 Chairman McCain: Thank you very much, Admiral Tidd.

2 Admiral Gortney, it's been described by many Governors
3 and law enforcement individuals in the Northeast and the
4 Midwest that the drug overdose deaths of manufactured heroin
5 is now, in the view of some Governors, a, quote, "epidemic."
6 That is now being brought to my attention, and many, many
7 others, particularly those who represent these States.
8 How's it getting in?

9 Admiral Gortney: It's coming through the traditional
10 legal border crossings in very small quantities, some --

11 Chairman McCain: By individuals or vehicles, or both,
12 or --

13 Admiral Gortney: Both. Both, sir. By very small
14 quantities, because of the profit margin. I was just down
15 in -- at the San Diego-Tijuana border crossing, an immense
16 challenge separating the legal versus the illegal activity
17 that comes across the border and how the technology is --
18 that our Custom and Border Patrol and Immigration are using
19 is being circumvented by a very adaptable enemy.

20 Chairman McCain: What do we need to do?

21 Admiral Gortney: Well, two things, sir. We need to
22 work on the technologies that allow us to detect this. We
23 need to work at the root cause within Mexico, in the case of
24 the poppy production and the eradication of the poppies.
25 And we'd work with SEDENA and SEMAR on that, in our mil-to-

1 mil responsibilities, as well as working with our partners
2 north of the border. We do that through JTF North, helping
3 them improve their -- our mission partners improve their
4 capability and capacity where --

5 Chairman McCain: Should we expect more of the Mexican
6 government?

7 Admiral Gortney: I would think we -- yes, sir, we do
8 need to expect more of the Mexican government and all of the
9 agencies within the Mexican government.

10 Chairman McCain: The manufactured heroin is much
11 easier than cultivated heroin.

12 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir. Between heroin and
13 methamphetamines, the precursors in methamphetamines are
14 coming from China, factories in China, and we have to tackle
15 all of the illicit drugs that are coming across the border,
16 sir.

17 Chairman McCain: So, part of it, as you mentioned in
18 your remarks, it has got to do with the fundamentals of
19 economics, and that's supply and demand. If there's a
20 demand, there's going to be a supply.

21 Admiral Gortney: That's absolutely correct, sir.

22 Chairman McCain: Admiral Tidd, you, I think very
23 correctly, applauded the agreement in Colombia with the
24 FARC. I think it is a testimony to the Colombian people and
25 government, first of all, but it is a sign and a story that

1 we should understand better, and that is, it's been a long-
2 term investment by the United States of America of billions
3 over time because the heroin -- excuse me -- the cocaine was
4 obviously a threat to the United States of America. But,
5 now we are hearing that poppy cultivation -- or cocaine --
6 is way up. Is that correct?

7 Admiral Tidd: Yes, sir, that's correct. I think in
8 the next set of figures that will come out, we're going to
9 see a very significant increase in coca production.

10 Chairman McCain: So, with the cocoa production up,
11 that means there's going to be more cocoa coming into the --
12 cocaine coming in the United States.

13 Admiral Tidd: I'd -- that's what I would expect, yes,
14 sir.

15 Chairman McCain: That's where the market is. So, what
16 do we need to do there? Because obviously it will lower the
17 cost of cocaine, the -- more people will find it affordable.
18 What do we do there?

19 Admiral Tidd: Sir, I think it's a multifaceted
20 approach. First and foremost, we need to continue to stand
21 steadfast with our Colombian friends. As you recognized,
22 it's a -- it is a relationship that extends over decades.
23 We will need to continue to work very closely with them.

24 With regard to the actual movement of cocaine, those
25 transnational criminal networks that have moved the cocaine,

1 we need to do everything that we can to apply pressure on
2 them to detect, to illuminate, and then to disrupt them.
3 That disruptive work will require the efforts of both -- all
4 of our interagency partners as well as allied partners.

5 Chairman McCain: Admiral Gortney, what -- we know that
6 Mr. Baghdadi, the head of ISIS, has -- is sending people out
7 of ISIS in the wave of refugees that have left Syria and
8 Iraq. What is the threat of someone -- individual or
9 individuals coming across our southern border?

10 Admiral Gortney: I think if someone can find a seam to
11 enter into our country, legally or illegally, they're going
12 to exploit that particular seam. And that's why we work
13 very closely with our mission and partners to the south
14 while we look into the drugs, we look to the left and right
15 to see, within those seams, if there's anything else that be
16 moving -- in this case, terrorists.

17 Chairman McCain: What more do we need to do in order
18 to secure our southern border? And have we made progress in
19 securing our southern border, or is it basically the status
20 quo?

21 Admiral Gortney: I think the efforts have been
22 effective, but not nearly as effective as we would like them
23 to be. We're working against a very adaptive enemy who will
24 exploit the seams. And as we make an advance in one area,
25 they're very quickly able to overcome that. And we're not

1 able to stay out in front of that, their OODA loop, so to
2 speak. And that's where we need to -- that's where we need
3 --

4 Chairman McCain: Well -- so, what do we need to do?
5 And isn't it true that more and more of those who are being
6 apprehended are what we call OTM, other than Mexican?

7 Admiral Gortney: That's correct. There's -- as I look
8 at it, it's the mass migration that are escaping the
9 conditions within Central America, and the cartels are
10 moving the people. And the other problem is the drugs. And
11 the one that is the most concerning to us is the heroin that
12 is being produced and shipped out of Mexico, and the
13 methamphetamines. Moved by the same cartels.

14 Chairman McCain: So, what do we need to do?

15 Admiral Gortney: We need to tackle both. They both
16 have different problem sets.

17 Chairman McCain: I mean, do we need more Border
18 Patrol? Do we need more towers? Do we need more -- in
19 other words, what more do we need to do to increase our
20 border security?

21 Admiral Gortney: The first thing, for the people, is
22 improving the conditions within Central America, a whole-of-
23 government approach, working with the countries down there
24 to improve the conditions so that people want to remain
25 within --

1 Chairman McCain: And that's a long-term project. What
2 about the --

3 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir.

4 Chairman McCain: What about the short term?

5 Admiral Gortney: Sir, both of them demand long-term
6 problems. This is a 30-year fight that we have to confront.
7 When it comes to the drugs, it's working with our mission
8 partners in those countries, as well as Mexico. It's
9 improving the technology along --

10 Chairman McCain: What about security on the border
11 itself? Is it -- we need more technology? We need more
12 towers? We need more Border Patrol? What do we need?

13 Admiral Gortney: I would say that the -- having been
14 on the Mexican-Guatemalan border and then the Arizona and
15 the Mexican border, the threat is a function of the -- what
16 we need is a combination of analyzing the threat, the
17 terrain, the technology, and the training of the people.
18 And so, efforts along all of those, both with our people and
19 then working with Mexico and with Guatemala and Belize is
20 exactly in order against all of those.

21 Chairman McCain: Senator Reed.

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

23 And let me begin with Admiral Haney. Admiral Haney, we
24 are in the process of modernizing the triad, for very
25 obvious and compelling reasons. With respect to the air

1 aspects, there is proposals for a new penetrating bomber,
2 but that bomber also needs ordnance to carry. And two items
3 which you could comment upon are the replacement for our
4 existing air-launched cruise missile and also the B61-12
5 gravity bomb. But, a related issue would be timing of --
6 improvements on these delivery systems might, in fact, be --
7 come along before the new penetrating bomber, but they would
8 be very, very useful on whatever platform it's applying. I
9 presume that, but you might confirm or refute.

10 Admiral Haney: Ranking Member Reed, the air leg
11 associated with our triad of platforms is very important, in
12 terms of complex deterrents that any adversary that would
13 want to escalate their way out of a failed conflict would
14 have to also deal with. And that's important in strategic
15 stability. So, as you've indicated here, and I will
16 articulate, it's very important that we move forward with
17 the replacement bomber, in that our B-52 fleet, the planes
18 flying today were off the assembly line in 1962. We'll
19 still be flying that plane into the 2040s. Even our B-2
20 fleet is about 25 years old. So, it's important that we're
21 able to have that capability -- stealth platform to deliver
22 both nuclear and conventional missions.

23 With regards to nuclear arsenals for that plane in
24 order to have both flexible deterrents as well as visible
25 deterrents, it's important that we replace the air-launch

1 cruise missile. It was built in the '70s for a 10-year
2 lifespan, well beyond that span today. And that's why it's
3 very important that we replace it with the long-range
4 standoff cruise missile program that's just now getting
5 underway in part of the President's budget for '17. So, we
6 already have a cruise missile, but it's well beyond its
7 lifespan, and we need to replace it.

8 We also have programs associated with the B61-12
9 nuclear bomb that replaces four variants of, again, aging
10 bombs. And this helps us reduce our stockpile and have a
11 more effective deterrent.

12 Senator Reed: Just a followup question. As you
13 develop this new air-launch cruise missile, it -- I presume,
14 and correct me if wrong, it could be launched from numerous
15 platforms, even existing platforms. Is that correct?

16 Admiral Haney: Absolutely. B-52, for example, which
17 launches our air-launch cruise missile, doesn't have stealth
18 characteristics. We'll use this new long-range standoff.

19 Senator Reed: Thank you.

20 Admiral Haney: You're welcome.

21 Senator Reed: Admiral Gortney, you have many
22 responsibilities in your -- as you've indicated in your
23 testimony and your response to the Chairman. One issue,
24 though, is missile defense -- national missile defense. Can
25 you give us, sort of, an update on the long-range

1 discrimination radar? How is it going? And also,
2 generally, our posture when it comes to missile defense.

3 Admiral Gortney: We're on track with long-range
4 discriminating radar and the necessary investments to keep
5 our ballistic missile defense architecture to make it the
6 very best we can and then to improve it. We want to thank
7 the Members of Congress for those investments. So, we're in
8 good shape there, sir. We're on path to have 44
9 interceptors in the ground by the end of '17; 40 in the
10 great State of Alaska and 4 in California.

11 Also, we thank you for the investments to help us get
12 on the correct side of the cost curve, because right now
13 we're on the wrong side of the cost curve, both in theater
14 ballistic missile defense and intercontinental ballistic
15 missile defense against rogue nations. And so, Admiral Jim
16 Syring, at MDA, and I asked for those investments and the
17 research and development to help us get on the correct side
18 of the cost curve. And they're in the budget, and we thank
19 you for that. And those that pay out, we'll be coming to
20 you and asking you to put those into production once we
21 understand what they do. And I'm confident in the
22 capability that we have today.

23 Senator Reed: Just a followup question. And this is
24 always a subject of constant evaluation and reevaluation,
25 but, at this juncture, your view would -- on the need for an

1 East Coast array of missiles, that need is not evident at
2 this moment?

3 Admiral Gortney: I do not see it, sir. If the threat
4 manifested itself from Iran today, I have the ability to
5 engage it today. And so, if I had one dollar to invest, I'd
6 put it to where we could engage in those capabilities that
7 get us on the correct side of the cost curve. And those
8 capabilities will work both for theater ballistic missile
9 defense for our servicemembers and their families overseas,
10 as well as ballistic missile defense for here in the
11 homeland.

12 Senator Reed: Thank you.

13 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir.

14 Senator Reed: My time is run out. But, Admiral Tidd,
15 I want to commend your efforts and also the -- your
16 testimony today. One of the chief issues that I think
17 emerges from your testimony is the need to build capacity in
18 our allies in the region, that we can't, by far, do it
19 alone. And that is a multi-agency effort, not just
20 SOUTHCOM, but SOUTHCOM plays a very critical role, because,
21 for many in Latin America and South America, you used to
22 represent not just Department of Defense, but the United
23 States in your command. A quick comment, because my time is
24 expired.

25 Admiral Tidd: Yes, sir. Thanks very much.

1 Where the Department is -- of Defense -- is able to
2 play a useful is, we have a regional and a subregional look.
3 The actual activities occur on a country-by-country basis,
4 but we're able to look across the entire region and, I
5 think, provide a very useful service to our interagency
6 partners.

7 Senator Reed: Thank you, sir.

8 Chairman McCain: Senator Inhofe.

9 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 And I -- in this morning's Air Force Times, Admiral
11 Haney, I noticed the -- it caught my eye because Senator
12 Rounds and I were just on Diego Garcia -- that the Air Force
13 is deploying three B-2s there. And you're quoted in the
14 article, announcing -- making this announcement in this
15 morning's Air Force Times. Any comments you want to make
16 about that deployment of those three B-2s in Diego Garcia?

17 Admiral Haney: Senator Inhofe, I would not describe it
18 as a deployment. We take our global --

19 Senator Inhofe: That's how it was characterized in the
20 article, though.

21 Admiral Haney: Well, I didn't get interviewed by --

22 Senator Inhofe: All right.

23 Admiral Haney: -- Air Force Times, so I would say they
24 probably mixed some of my earlier statements, et cetera.

25 We actually send out our bombers -- B-52s, B-2s --

1 number one, were we invited to participate in exercises with
2 our allies and partners. And we do that throughout the
3 globe. So, we do Pacific operations, as well.

4 Senator Inhofe: Yeah. Well, that's good.

5 I want to -- there's an area where I have sensed that
6 there is a disagreement between our military intelligence,
7 on one side, and the State Department, on the other side,
8 having to do with the Open Skies Treaty. Russia has
9 reportedly announced its intent to submit plans for aerial
10 surveillance flights, which I understand are permitted under
11 the Open Skies Treaty, over the United States using advanced
12 digital cameras. Several in the -- I think Clapper made
13 some comments, and certainly Lieutenant General Vincent
14 Stewart, Director of Defense Intelligence Agency, with --
15 concerned about this because of the advanced technology
16 that's out there. And, to quote him, he says, "The things
17 that you can see, the amount of data you can collect, the
18 things you can do with post-processing allows Russia, in my
19 opinion, to get incredible foundational intelligence on
20 critical infrastructure, bases, ports, all of our
21 facilities." And so, he was critical of this. What is your
22 thinking about this? Where do you fall down on this?

23 Admiral Haney: Senator Inhofe, I think, as with all
24 things, we have to take a balanced approach, but we have to
25 look at this very carefully. Clearly, we, back here

1 recently, did an Open Skies Treaty mission over Russia with
2 one of the 32 other signors of the treaty. So, it's a
3 mechanism by which we are able to have transparent
4 mechanisms with our allies and other partners in that group,
5 while at the same time we have to be careful as we look
6 through the technology advances using digital media versus
7 film. Sustaining film is problematic today. So, this is --
8 got to be in balance. Clearly, I'm concerned of any Russian
9 ability to gain intelligence on our critical infrastructure.

10 Senator Inhofe: Now, when we were going over Russia,
11 were we using the advanced digital equipment?

12 Admiral Haney: We were not, because we haven't gotten
13 that far yet.

14 Senator Inhofe: They're ahead of us, then. All right.

15 The -- when Senator Reed was talking about the -- all
16 three legs, you were concentrating on the air legs of the
17 triad. The -- Admiral Winnifeld recently made the statement
18 -- and I'll quote him -- he said, "Any remaining margin we
19 have for investing in our nuclear deterrent has been
20 steadily whittled away as we've pushed investments further
21 and further into the future." Do you think, Admiral Haney,
22 that Russia is actively modernizing their nuclear weapons
23 delivery system and we're just -- are they ahead of us?

24 Admiral Haney: Well, I would --

25 Senator Inhofe: And, if so, is this a concern?

1 Admiral Haney: Well, Russia's modernization program in
2 their nuclear deterrent forces is of concern. Period. Dot.
3 End. The piece when you look at what they've been
4 modernizing, it didn't just start. They've been doing this,
5 quite frankly, for some time, with a lot of crescendo of
6 activity over the last decade and a half.

7 Senator Inhofe: Yes, we've been talking about it for a
8 long period of time, that we have not been keeping up in our
9 program, as many people think we should. A lot of us, when
10 we're back in the -- our own States, we hear things that are
11 going on, and some things really catch the attention of the
12 American people. I brought up these two issues, because
13 these are two that do make a difference and the people are
14 aware of, and there are concerns out there.

15 Thank you.

16 Chairman McCain: Senator Nelson.

17 Senator Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Admiral Tidd, welcome to Florida. Welcome to Miami.

19 Admiral Tidd: Sir, it's a delightful place to live.

20 Senator Nelson: In your three Cs and three Gs, you
21 talked about this efficient network that moves things from
22 south to north, not only drugs, human trafficking, all kinds
23 of contraband. Do you have enough resources to do that in
24 the President's budget?

25 Admiral Tidd: Sir, the simple fact of the matter is,

1 we do not. I do not have the ships, I do not have the
2 aircraft to be able to execute the detection and monitoring
3 mission to the level that has been established for us to
4 achieve.

5 Senator Nelson: This is a unique role, where the Navy
6 in the Caribbean and the Pacific coordinates with the law
7 enforcement arm of the Coast Guard. They need assistance,
8 too, don't they?

9 Admiral Tidd: Sir, I would agree completely. It is
10 very much a team sport. The activities that are
11 orchestrated by our Joint Interagency Task Force South in
12 Key West Florida involve the efforts of all of the State --
13 excuse me -- all of the Federal law enforcement agencies as
14 well as the Department of Defense. Coast Guard plays a very
15 significant role.

16 Senator Nelson: We have seen some lessening of the
17 violence and the drug lords in Honduras. That used to be
18 the number-one murder capital in the world. Just this past
19 weekend, I met, on several occasions, with the President of
20 Costa Rica. They seem to be fairly stabilized. But, we're
21 getting more drugs coming into stable places in the past,
22 such as Panama. That being the Panama Canal, an expanded
23 canal, what do you think is the threat there?

24 Admiral Tidd: Senator, the adversary that we are
25 dealing with is very flexible, very agile, and it's like

1 squeezing a balloon; when we squeeze in one place, if we are
2 not able to apply pressure across the entire breadth of the
3 network, they will adapt and move to the area that they
4 think they can get in. And so, as we have been -- had some
5 success working with our Honduran partners, as they have
6 been able to get out and apply greater pressure in areas
7 that previously had been denied to them, we're seeing the --
8 that the drug traffickers are moving the landing points for
9 the -- where the drugs are coming ashore in Central America
10 to different countries.

11 Senator Nelson: Couldn't we get a lot more support
12 from Mexico, where all these drugs, basically, other than
13 the ones that are going the water route to Puerto Rico, some
14 to Haiti -- couldn't we get a lot more support from Mexico,
15 since they come there and then they go across the border?

16 Admiral Tidd: Senator, I would defer that specific
17 question to --

18 Senator Nelson: I know --

19 Admiral Tidd: -- to Admiral Gortney.

20 Senator Nelson: -- it's not in your AOR, but what do
21 you think?

22 Admiral Tidd: What I think is that we continue to work
23 very closely with the militaries of all of the countries of
24 Central America. And I know that NORTHCOM works closely
25 with the Mexican military to improve their capability and

1 capacity to get this problem. Our ability to share
2 information effectively plays a significant role.

3 Senator Nelson: Well, at least we got El Chapo. So,
4 that was a step in the right direction.

5 Tell me about Haiti. They've got this interim
6 government. Is it working until they can finally declare a
7 President?

8 Admiral Tidd: Sir, I think the situation in Haiti --
9 every morning that we wake up, we watch -- and to make sure
10 that they have not had significant crises that have occurred
11 there. They're going to have their hands full for a long
12 time to come.

13 The role played by the U.N. peacekeeping operation,
14 MINUSTAH, there has been absolutely critical in sustaining
15 that -- the stability that is there. We've got some key
16 partners in the nation, most notably Brazil that has been a
17 real backbone of that MINUSTAH operation. We would hope
18 that countries like that would continue to make those
19 contributions.

20 Senator Nelson: Basically, bottom line, until they
21 improve in their economic depravity, it's going to be a
22 nation whose government is always subject to a lot of
23 corruption.

24 Admiral Gortney, what do you think about Mexico in
25 helping us out?

1 Admiral Gortney: I think they're in a 30-year fight,
2 going after immense challenges. The number-one problem is
3 corruption. If you look at the root cause that you've got
4 to solve first -- and this is Admiral Soberon's words, not
5 mine -- is to go after the corruption within the country.
6 And we need to assist them across our whole-of-government
7 approach in this 30-year fight. They're great mission
8 partners. SEDENA and SEMAR are great mission partners, but
9 they have an immense challenge. And we do everything we can
10 to assist them with that.

11 Senator Nelson: Isn't it interesting that you can rely
12 on that elite unit at the federal level, but you get
13 anywhere below that, it's just -- you can't even say
14 anything about intel; otherwise, it gets to the drug lords.

15 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir. And you mentioned the --
16 recapture of El Chapo. And those Mexican marines were
17 trained by U.S. marines.

18 Senator Nelson: Well, that's very good.

19 And with that, I'll say, Mr. Chairman, the marines are
20 standing tall.

21 Chairman McCain: Senator Fischer.

22 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 Admiral Gortney, our adversaries are continuing to
24 invest in developing advanced long-range cruise missiles.
25 And that can hold the United States at risk. I think we

1 have really thin defenses against those. Can you talk a
2 little bit about the JLENS program and what role this plays
3 in defending the United States against a cruise missile
4 attack?

5 Admiral Gortney: Yes, ma'am. The three types of
6 missiles we worry about, the third one is the cruise missile
7 attack. The Russians have -- are employing these cruise
8 missiles in Syria today, both from bombers, ships, and
9 submarines. When there's no operational or tactical
10 requirement in the battlefield to do it, they're messaging
11 us that they have this capability, and those missiles can --
12 have made it either a conventional or a nuclear-tipped
13 warhead.

14 In order to defeat this threat -- I've been defending
15 against them since I was a lieutenant JG, and I've shot over
16 1300 of them. If you want to defeat this threat, you have
17 to be able to detect it. In order to do that, you need an
18 array -- a radar that is above the horizon. And that can
19 come in many forms. It can be the AWACs, it can be the E-2
20 Hawkeye for the Navy, or it can be JLENS. And what it does
21 for us here in the national capital region as we're
22 executing our test, is putting this array up. And it fills
23 a gap -- at the classified level I can't say in this forum
24 -- it fills a cap -- a capability gap that I do not have
25 today. And so, we look forward to restarting the JLENS

1 program after the very unfortunate mishap that we have. We
2 understand what happened. We've put in place the mitigation
3 efforts. And we look forward to completing it, because,
4 should it bear out, it fills a gap that I do not have today
5 against this particular threat.

6 Senator Fischer: Thank you, sir.

7 And, Admiral Haney, last week General Rand, who
8 commands Global Strike Command, he testified that the Huey
9 helicopters providing security for our ICBM fields, they
10 cannot meet the emergency response requirements. Can you
11 talk about the current capability gap that we have and the
12 need that we see to replace those helicopters?

13 Admiral Haney: Senator Fischer, the -- General Rand's
14 comments were spot on the mark there. These current
15 helicopters, these UH-1Ns, don't have the lift capability,
16 the speed capability to meet the requirements that have been
17 improved -- validated through a number of studies, as well
18 as Might Guardian exercises, and what have you. They don't
19 have the lift to get the amount of security forces to the
20 scene. When you look at these missile fields, they're vast,
21 and they cover large areas, as you well know. So, they --
22 in order to meet those kinds of requirements, we need a new
23 helicopter.

24 Senator Fischer: Would you say that need is urgent?

25 Admiral Haney: I would definitely say the need is

1 urgent.

2 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Admiral.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to run, to preside.

4 Chairman McCain: Senator Manchin.

5 Senator Manchin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 And thank you all for your service and for being here
7 today.

8 I think, Admiral Tidd, if I could, you know, you were
9 talking about the drugs, and this and that. So, if you were
10 going to rate -- and I've just heard a couple of statistics
11 -- but how the drugs are getting here, most predominantly --
12 by air, sea, over ground, or through tunnels?

13 Admiral Tidd: I would defer to Admiral Gortney to --

14 Senator Manchin: Okay.

15 Admiral Tidd: -- talk how they actually get across the
16 U.S. border into the United States. But, as they go through
17 the SOUTHCOM region, they go by air and by sea.

18 Senator Manchin: Okay.

19 Admiral Tidd: And then over land of Central America.

20 Senator Manchin: How do they get into the United
21 States border? Across it --

22 Admiral Gortney: Through all mechanisms, sir.

23 Everything that we talked about, that Admiral Tidd talked
24 about, through the tunnels --

25 Senator Manchin: I've heard that -- and, sir -- and,

1 Admiral, that's the -- I had not heard that tunnels were so
2 prevalent. I heard that tunnels are probably one of the
3 most pervasive ways that this stuff is getting in, and we're
4 not doing a whole lot about the tunnels.

5 Admiral Gortney: Well, sir, I've been in one of the
6 tunnels.

7 Senator Manchin: Okay.

8 Admiral Gortney: I've looked at the tunnel detection
9 capability that Custom and Border Patrol use, the technology
10 that they have applied to that, and then crawled through the
11 tunnels with them. It's a -- once again, it's a very
12 adaptive enemy that goes out there. And if they can find a
13 mechanism in order to --

14 Senator Manchin: Are we destroying the tunnels?

15 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir, we are, those that we find.
16 As they detect them, they then work the law enforcement
17 piece on each side to find out where the entry and exit
18 piece is, what is the network that is controlling that entry
19 and exit piece after that, and working both sides of the
20 borders on it. And then, once the -- once they understand
21 that, they'll go ahead and destroy and fill in the tunnel.

22 Senator Manchin: Do you think a wall is needed?

23 Admiral Gortney: Sir, we -- a wall will not solve the
24 immense problems that go out there. You need all of the
25 technology.

1 Senator Manchin: I know. Would it help? I'm just
2 saying -- because people believe -- of course, there's a lot
3 of rhetoric about a wall --

4 Admiral Gortney: Yeah.

5 Senator Manchin: -- these days in the news, but I'm --
6 sincerely, do you believe that it could help, or would help,
7 more --

8 Admiral Gortney: Well --

9 Senator Manchin: -- than not having a wall?

10 Admiral Gortney: The -- I have flown the border
11 between what we call our middle border, on the Arizona side,
12 and I've seen the technology that is applied there, be it
13 sensors, be it fencing. Every type of fencing that happens
14 to be out there, because the terrain demands different types
15 of fencing --

16 Senator Manchin: Sure.

17 Admiral Gortney: -- for it, and we need to put in
18 place all of that technology across our border as we try and
19 work with our mission partners south of the border, as well
20 as cut back significantly the demand signal here in our
21 country.

22 Senator Manchin: If I could follow up with you again,
23 Admiral, as -- yesterday, Lieutenant General Thomas
24 submitted in written testimony that ISIS-inspired lone
25 actors pose the most direct and immediate threat to U.S.

1 homeland. And, as we saw in San Bernardino and Dallas.
2 There are many folks in my State of West Virginia that have
3 a lot of concerns with our government when our government
4 considers accepting refugees from overseas. They're more
5 concerned about, Are we doing the proper vetting process? I
6 would ask, Should we accept Syrian refugees into this
7 country at this time? And are we able to do the proper
8 vetting, since we have such little facts about those people
9 coming?

10 Admiral Gortney: Homeland Security has a very robust
11 vetting process for everybody that comes into this country,
12 particularly focused on the Syrian refugee challenge that's
13 coming this way. I have confidence in the program, but no
14 program is perfect, sir. And when I look at people that are
15 trying to come to do nefarious activity in our country, the
16 ones that I am not -- I am most concerned are those that
17 enter the country legally, under a legal means, because then
18 they have freedom of maneuver to operate within the United
19 States. Those that try and enter illegally have hooks that
20 we may have opportunities to pick up. And then, if they're
21 maneuvering inside, they have -- do not have the freedom of
22 maneuver inside the country. And so, it is the vetting
23 process, a very robust vetting process that Homeland
24 Security has, that is absolutely critical --

25 Senator Manchin: But, you all recommend that we do not

1 reduce that vetting process whatsoever.

2 Admiral Gortney: No, I would not --

3 Senator Manchin: Thank you.

4 Admiral Gortney: -- at all.

5 Senator Manchin: And, Admiral Haney, if I could ask
6 you. In recent days, we have once again seen North Korea
7 threaten to conduct a preemptive nuclear strike and reduce
8 Seoul into a sea of fire and ashes. Now, I know we always
9 hear that rhetoric anytime we partner with South Korea, as
10 we're doing right now, to conduct military exercises, but it
11 seems to be a lot stronger this time. And it seems to be
12 growing stronger every year. So, do you feel there is a
13 linkage to North Korea's ratcheted rhetoric and their more
14 aggressive missile test?

15 Admiral Haney: Well, I won't, Senator, try to
16 rationale --

17 Senator Manchin: Right.

18 Admiral Haney: -- North Korean behavior and Kim Jung
19 Un's behavior. I will state that the nuclear test, the
20 fourth test they just did here, and the space launch that
21 they just did, further enhanced their understanding and
22 knowledge associated with this. North Korea has made many
23 claims -- miniaturization of nuclear warheads. They've
24 paraded around their KNO-8 intercontinental ballistic
25 missile. I think we have to take these problems seriously,

1 because it's clear to me they are working hard to --

2 Senator Manchin: Is it more aggressive than you've
3 seen in the past?

4 Admiral Haney: Absolutely.

5 Senator Manchin: So -- thank you.

6 Thank all of you.

7 Chairman McCain: Admiral, if I could just follow up.
8 Your greater concern is people who come into this country
9 legally, as opposed to coming across our border. Is that a
10 correct --

11 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir, because it's their ability
12 of freedom of maneuver to operate within our country.
13 Anytime that someone is -- comes through illegally, we have
14 the -- a better opportunity to detect them and pick them up.
15 And, as they're in the country, just as the San Bernardino
16 attack showed out, the woman involved entered the country
17 legally. And we did not have the sensors, the ability to
18 detect what she wanted to do. So, you've got to tackle both
19 of them as we go forward.

20 If you look at the Paris attacks, they entered the EU
21 legally. They operated -- they had freedom of maneuver to
22 operate within the EU on the continent, because of the
23 policies that they have in the EU -- operated and planned
24 the attack in a country that did not have the authorities
25 that Paris did, and then freely move into France to conduct

1 the attack. And so, disabling their -- this freedom of
2 maneuver is -- I think is absolutely critical, which goes
3 back to the vetting policy that was asked before, sir.

4 Chairman McCain: Senator Cotton.

5 Senator Cotton: Thank you.

6 Admiral Tidd, I want to talk about the potential for
7 migrant flows into the United States from Latin America, as
8 we saw during the migrant crisis in the summer of 2014.
9 Obviously, there are push factors involved, given the crime
10 and the violence in, say, Central America. But, there are
11 always pull factors involved, as well. This is one reason
12 why President Obama stated, in 2014, that parents in Central
13 America shouldn't send their children to the United States
14 through coyotes or human traffickers. Similarly, you see,
15 in Europe, after Chancellor Merkel said that Germany would
16 take all migrants and refugees, there was a significant
17 increase in the flows, not just from places like Syria and
18 Iraq, but from many other countries in Africa and Asia.

19 Therefore, I'm very troubled by what I heard last night
20 in the Democratic debate. It's easy to write off political
21 debates as theater, but we're the world's superpower.
22 There's only six people right now who are likely to be our
23 next President of the United States, our next Commander in
24 Chief. And last night, the two candidates in the Democratic
25 side said, essentially, that they would never send any

1 children back to their country of origin if they make it to
2 the United States. What kind of message did that send to
3 families in Central America and South America about the risk
4 they're willing to undertake to send their children to the
5 United States through human traffickers and through coyotes?

6 Admiral Tidd: Senator, I think one of the most
7 effective things that the Department of Homeland Security
8 was able to do to begin to curtail that movement of children
9 coming into the country back in 2014 was to try to change
10 the messages that were being communicated via social media
11 back to family members, that, "It's safe, it's easy to come
12 in. You won't be incarcerated." They put a hard push to
13 communicate that, if you come across the border, you will be
14 held until you can be processed for return back home. So, I
15 think all of the steps that can be taken to deal with those
16 pull factors would be critical.

17 Senator Cotton: I agree. I mean, I don't think it's
18 an especially moral policy what Chancellor Merkel has
19 proposed in Europe or what we heard last night. We're
20 essentially saying, to people who are poor and oftentimes in
21 countries racked by violence, that if you can survive, you
22 can stay here.

23 Admiral Tidd: The critical work that you identified to
24 try to change the push factors out of those countries, the
25 long-term sustained work that's being done by Department of

1 State, by USAID to try to provide economic opportunities so
2 that those -- the people will find that it is economically a
3 much better decision to remain home, and then the work
4 that's being done to try to improve security within those
5 countries so that it is not a -- it's a life-or-death
6 decision to remain home -- that's the key to the long-term
7 --

8 Senator Cotton: I agree, on the long-term solution,
9 the work that you and all the men and women of SOUTHCOM do
10 and have done for many years are critical to build that kind
11 of capacity in the countries that send the most migrants
12 here. But, I also think that statements by American
13 leaders, that essentially create a full employment
14 opportunity for human traffickers are very damaging, not
15 just for our country, but for the young children that might
16 be sent here.

17 I'd like to stay in your AO and turn to Guantanamo Bay.
18 I led a delegation of the freshmen on this committee and the
19 Intelligence Committee last year to see Guantanamo Bay. We
20 were very impressed by the operations. We were even more
21 impressed by the men and women you have serving there.
22 Could you explain to us a little bit about the stressful and
23 sometimes dangerous working conditions they face handling
24 these depraved terrorists?

25 Admiral Tidd: Senator, thanks for the opportunity. We

1 -- I've -- in the short 2 months that I've been in the --
2 this position, I've visited Guantanamo Bay twice to see for
3 myself, to be able to assess exactly the high degree of
4 professionalism and discipline that the men and women
5 execute that mission. As you observed, it is very
6 difficult, very challenging, oftentimes under enormous
7 pressure from both the expectations from outside, but then
8 also just the actions of the detainees there. There have
9 been a -- in the last 12 months, 100 assaults committed by
10 the detainees on our guard force, assaults in the form of
11 splashing, scratching, pushing, shoving, those sorts of
12 activities, and then threats of worse if they had the
13 ability to do that. The fact that our men and women never
14 respond in a negative way, that they continue to remain very
15 professional, I think is testimony to the fact that they are
16 supremely well trained, they are exceptionally well
17 qualified for the mission that we ask them to do. And all
18 of the American people can be very proud of the job that
19 they've done -- that they have done and continue to do.

20 Senator Cotton: Thank you.

21 My time is expired.

22 Chairman McCain: Senator Blumenthal.

23 Senator Blumenthal: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

24 Admiral Haney, you note in your testimony, and I'm
25 quoting, "Recapitalizing our sea-based strategic deterrent"

1 remains your top priority, end quote. Considering the gap
2 that we're facing in submarine capabilities, do you think
3 that we ought to consider building three submarines a year
4 -- two Virginia-class and one Ohio replacement?

5 Admiral Haney: Oh, Senator Blumenthal, I am
6 supportive, and as you correctly stated --

7 Senator Blumenthal: And I am, too. I am, too, and I
8 appreciate your support.

9 Admiral Haney: -- the building and the capability that
10 we need to have, in terms of the Ohio replacement, SSBN, is
11 a top priority. As I mentioned also, having conventional
12 capability across our joint military forces is also
13 important. And we've got to get that balance right. I'm
14 not -- to give you an acquisition strategy on the number per
15 year and what have you, there, I will say we need to have a
16 -- I depend upon the strong submarine force and all their
17 capabilities, but, in particular, to have that strategic
18 survivable capability underwater is very important to our
19 Nation as a whole.

20 Senator Blumenthal: I didn't ask you to commit to
21 doing it, but to consider doing it, which I think is really
22 important. And, privately, I think that the Navy has been
23 receptive to this idea of two Virginia-class submarines a
24 year, plus the ORP, at least for some period of time. In
25 order --

1 Admiral Haney: Well, I can I'd like to see five per
2 year, but, you know, we have to do things in reason. So,
3 from the spirit of what we need as a country as a whole,
4 we've got to get that balance right. And we do know, as I'm
5 thinking you're implying, correctly so, that our submarine
6 force does bring significant value to our Nation.

7 Senator Blumenthal: Admiral Tidd, some of the reports
8 that we've had indicate that we can actually see illicit
9 substances -- opioids, heroin -- transported across waters,
10 even across borders, but we lack the equipment and manpower
11 to intercept and interdict and stop them. Is that true?

12 Admiral Tidd: Senator, it is. First, what I'd like to
13 do is thank the exceptional efforts of the Congress to
14 provide additional resources as they became available for us
15 to be able to increase the resources that we do have. The
16 -- we've been able to apply those resources very quickly in
17 some new ways and to be able to take advantage of some
18 nontraditional capabilities to increase our ability to see
19 the movement and things that are going on.

20 It still only gives us glimpses. We're not able to
21 maintain a persistent view of activities going on within the
22 theater. As you rightly point out, our ability to interdict
23 is extremely limited. The number of surface ships largely
24 provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, but the U.S. Navy also
25 provides some limited capability, as well, but even that,

1 it's not enough for us to be able to deal with the -- what
2 we're able to see.

3 We try to mitigate that by increasing the capability of
4 our partner nations, and they've -- and the development that
5 we've been able to do in their intercept capability and
6 interdiction capability has made a significant improvement.
7 As it stands right now, about half of the interdictions that
8 occur, occur with the help of partner nations.

9 Senator Blumenthal: Well, my time is limited, but let
10 me just emphasize how important I think the American people
11 believe it is to interdict and intercept the flow of these
12 illicit substances. Clearly, the demand side needs to be
13 addressed. And, in fact, we are seeking to do so through
14 the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which is only
15 a step in the right direction, because it lacks the
16 resources to provide the kind of treatment and services and
17 even law enforcement support that we need to do. The demand
18 side is important, but equally so, the work that you're
19 doing is absolutely critical. And I recognize that the
20 dedicated men and women under your command are working as
21 hard and long as they can with the limited resources they
22 have.

23 And so, I'm hopeful that we can get from you a more
24 specific list of resources, whether it's equipment, ships,
25 aircraft, that you think are necessary. And I'm not asking

1 you to provide it now, but I would, for the record, ask that
2 you provide it to the committee.

3 Thank you, sir.

4 Admiral Tidd: Sure.

5 [The information referred to follows:]

6 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

2 And thank you all for your dedicated service to our
3 Nation.

4 Chairman McCain: Senator Ayotte.

5 Senator Ayotte: Thank you, Chairman.

6 I want to thank all of you for your service and
7 leadership for our country.

8 Admiral Gortney, in the 2016 NDAA, I was able to
9 include a very -- a bipartisan effort that was focused in
10 asking the Secretary of Defense to carry out research,
11 development, testing, and evaluation activities with Israel
12 on anti-tunnel capabilities to detect, map, and neutralize
13 Hamas and Hezbollah terrorist tunnels that, of course, are
14 used for those tunnels to come up and commit attacks in
15 Israel. But, we also know that this is a very important
16 issue, not only in protection of our friend and ally,
17 Israel, but also on our southern border, because we know
18 that tunnels on our southern border can be used to smuggle
19 drugs, like heroin and Fentanyl, which are devastating my
20 State, into the United States, and they also presumably
21 could be used by other bad actors, including terrorists.

22 So, Admiral Gortney, has there been collaboration with
23 Israel on terror tunnels that has benefited NORTHCOM's and
24 the Joint Task Force North's efforts to develop technology
25 to detect, map, and neutralize drug-smuggling tunnels on our

1 southern border?

2 Admiral Gortney: Absolutely, ma'am. It's very, very
3 helpful for us. You know, we don't have a monopoly on good
4 ideas in our country. And when we can partner with our
5 partners overseas that have a similar challenge, it's very,
6 very -- it's been very, very beneficial, both for us and for
7 our partners in the Custom and Border Patrol.

8 Senator Ayotte: Excellent. I'm glad to hear it. And
9 I look forward to continuing to focus on those efforts.

10 How much of this is an issue as we look at -- in New
11 Hampshire, we had a record number of drug overdose deaths
12 this year from heroin and Fentanyl -- 420. It's been
13 devastating. In fact, right now, on the Senate floor, we
14 have the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act, which is
15 focused, obviously, on the prevention, the treatment, and
16 support for our first responders so that they can help bring
17 people back from drug overdoses. But, thinking about the
18 interdiction piece, what's happening over our southern
19 border on this issue? And this is something I've raised
20 also with Secretary Johnson. Can you give us an update on
21 your interdiction efforts?

22 Admiral Gortney: Yes, ma'am. Our interdiction
23 efforts, we work both sides of our middle border. And north
24 of our border, we do the Department of Defense support with
25 our mission partners through JTF North. You know, just last

1 year, it was a \$10.7 million program that we were given for
2 JTF North, and they assisted in pulling -- taking \$436
3 million of drugs off the street with our mission partners.
4 We use the services in order to do that. In a 30-day
5 period, over one stretch of territory that Custom and Border
6 Patrol was asking us to take a look at, they were able to
7 interdict 1 pound of marijuana and only one trafficker. We
8 put United States Marine Corps ground sensor platoon who
9 were in their training in order to deploy, and, in that same
10 30 -- in another 30-day period over that same terrain, they
11 were able to pull up 1200 pounds of marijuana and 75
12 traffickers. So, being able to assist with them is
13 absolutely critical for that.

14 Senator Ayotte: What are you seeing on heroin and
15 Fentanyl?

16 Admiral Gortney: Heroin and Fentanyl are coming
17 through our normal passages, the legal entry control points
18 across our border. Heroin, predominantly through the San
19 Diego passage. Very, very small shipments, which is very,
20 very difficult for our partners to be able to detect with
21 the technology that they have today.

22 Senator Ayotte: What more could we do to assist you to
23 give you some more technological tools or personnel to try
24 to address this? Because what's happening in New Hampshire
25 and across the country is, the price of heroin and Fentanyl,

1 of course, have gone down dramatically, and you've got
2 people --

3 Admiral Gortney: Ten dollars a pop in any --

4 Senator Ayotte: Yeah. And so, they're going from
5 prescription drugs, unfortunately, to heroin, and people are
6 dying.

7 Admiral Gortney: That's correct. Everywhere, ma'am.
8 We've got to -- we have to tackle this from both sides of
9 the problem. Where our mission partners -- what do our
10 mission partners need in the capabilities to detect,
11 improvements with all of our whole-of-government approach
12 with Mexico and Central and South America. And I'm
13 responsible for the Mexican piece, of the mil-to-mil piece.
14 And then we have to work on the demand signal. And, sir, I
15 want to -- Senator Donnelly, with your anti-opiate bill that
16 goes to the floor today, absolutely critical. You know, we
17 look at this, the three of us look at this through not only
18 military officers that are tasked to defend the Nation and
19 what we can do in order to do that, but we look at it as
20 fathers and grandfathers, as well. We have to go after the
21 demand signal while we work the interdiction piece.

22 Senator Ayotte: Let me just thank Senator Donnelly,
23 because this is something that he's been a great leader on
24 that we've worked together, and appreciate his efforts on
25 this and focus on it, and others on this panel who have been

1 working on it.

2 I also wanted to ask, Admiral Gortney, in your prepared
3 statement, you said that you assess that Iran may be able to
4 deploy an operational ICBM by 2020 if the regime chooses to.

5 Well, we know, in the last several days -- first of all, we
6 had a ballistic missile test in October, one in November,
7 and, in the last 2 days, we've had several ballistic missile
8 tests from Iran. So, can you give us the detail on that
9 assessment? Obviously, they're testing this capacity --
10 where they stand on this development.

11 Admiral Gortney: Yeah. None of their tests violate
12 any of the agreements that are out there, but I think it's
13 indicative of where their minds are. I don't see a change
14 in their behavior. If they had the capability today, I have
15 the ability to engage it today. And we watch very closely.
16 And we thank the committee and all of Congress for the
17 investments that allow us to be able to outpace that
18 particular threat.

19 Reading their intentions, I don't see a change from the
20 Iranians' behavior.

21 Senator Ayotte: In other words, bad behavior.

22 Admiral Gortney: Yes, ma'am.

23 Senator Ayotte: Thank you.

24 Chairman McCain: Senator Donnelly.

25 Senator Donnelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 And I would like to thank Senator Ayotte. She's been a
2 great partner in this effort to try to stop the flow of
3 heroin. I know what a challenge it's been in New Hampshire
4 and in my State. And we've both worked in a real bipartisan
5 way to try to get this done. She's been a great partner.

6 The Chairman mentioned, at the beginning, about the
7 fact that this is an epidemic. I just want to tell you, a
8 little town in my State, Connorsville, Indiana, and it's,
9 you know, a little southeast of Indy. And we've lost young
10 person after young person after young person, older people,
11 too, to heroin deaths. Six dollars per is what it's taking,
12 in terms of each time they use heroin, it's 6 bucks. And
13 the extraordinary talent we're losing, the extraordinary
14 family damage it causes, it takes your breath away, as all
15 of you know. And, in some of the saddest cases, they are
16 vets. They're our family in the military who this has
17 happened to. And so, we know we have a demand problem. And
18 we're trying to get our hands around that and get it fixed.
19 But, as you look at this, how much is getting through that
20 -- you know, that -- whether it's the heroin or the Fentanyl
21 or whatever -- that you look, and you go -- of the
22 percentage coming through, how much are we stopping?

23 Admiral Gortney: I don't have the percentages in front
24 of me, and --

25 Senator Donnelly: I'm not looking for an exact number.

1 Admiral Gortney: Yeah. And I'm hesitant of using the
2 percentage of our confiscation as a metric of success,
3 because of the increase -- you know, if you're measuring
4 from 2 years ago or --

5 Senator Donnelly: Right.

6 Admiral Gortney: -- or that, it's -- I just don't
7 think it's a very good metric that we can either hang on our
8 hat on -- that we would not want to hang our hat on. We
9 have to do more. We have to do more throughout Central --
10 Mexico and Central and South America with those mission
11 partners, our whole-of-government approach with that, with
12 the eradication effort, which, you know, currently 570
13 hectometers -- hecta-acres, the Mexican -- SEDENA, the navy,
14 has eradicated of -- just in poppies last year. But, it's
15 still not enough. And so, once again, as Admiral Tidd
16 talked about, the balloon -- when we think about the
17 balloon, the pressure to stop the interdiction, we also have
18 to work the demand piece on top of it.

19 Senator Donnelly: Do we have intelligence services who
20 are working this to try to find out -- you know, as we
21 talked, Admiral, about it's this group and that group and
22 that group -- do we have intelligence agencies that are
23 working to try to find out when this is going out, where
24 it's going out, to try to help with that effort?

25 Admiral Gortney: Absolutely, sir. And we're working

1 and passing that information with our mission partners, as
2 well as developing their capability to determine that on
3 their own.

4 Senator Donnelly: Well, if you could both put
5 together, in effect, almost -- I don't know if this is the
6 right term -- a wish list saying, "Look, if we had this, we
7 could stop this much more. If we had this, we could prevent
8 this portion." If you could provide that to us, I'd be
9 very, very grateful.

10 Admiral Gortney: We'll take that for a task, sir.

11 Senator Donnelly: Thank you.

12 [The information referred to follows:]

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1 Senator Donnelly: Admiral Haney, when you look at
2 hypersonics, there's a wealth of open-source reporting on
3 efforts by Russia, and particularly China, to develop
4 hypersonic weapons that could pose a serious challenge to
5 our missile defenses. Within DOD, our most advanced
6 hypersonic effort is CPGS, and I was wondering what your
7 thoughts are on the value of CPGS to STRATCOM and the
8 Nation.

9 Admiral Haney: I feel that the Conventional Prompt
10 Global Strike is a very important --

11 Senator Donnelly: I apologize, I use --

12 Admiral Haney: -- program --

13 Senator Donnelly: -- I use military-speak.

14 Admiral Haney: -- is also a very important approach
15 that we have to continue to pursue, one, to understand that
16 technology, but, as you've stated, since other nations are
17 also pursuing it, our ability to counter it is also very
18 important.

19 Senator Donnelly: Admiral Gortney, I want to get your
20 perspective on our missile defense priorities this year.
21 You know I work with Senator Sessions and a number of our
22 wonderful colleagues here in regards to this area. We have
23 a strong commitment to the success of our GMD system. And I
24 was wondering if you could let me know if our current GMD
25 architecture with interceptors in Alaska and California

1 provide cover for the entire continental United States,
2 including the East Coast, against the threats.

3 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir, I am able to deal with
4 rogue nations from any direction at this particular time
5 with what we have. And we appreciate the investments in
6 making that which we've got, as best as we got, the
7 improvement in sensor and, again, like we talked, the
8 necessary R&D investments to get us on the correct side of
9 the cost curve and continue to outpace the threat.

10 Senator Donnelly: Well, I want to thank all of you for
11 your service. As I mentioned, we have a lot of threats
12 overseas, but every week, there are stories about young men
13 and women who are dying from heroin, from opioids. Our EMTs
14 are overwhelmed and using Narcan to try to bring people back
15 in anti-overdose situations. And so, we not only want to
16 protect our country from our enemies overseas, but to keep
17 our people safe. And you're right on the front line. And
18 we appreciate your hard work on this. And don't ever think,
19 for a minute, that we don't realize what a challenge it is
20 and that you don't have our full support.

21 Thank you.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 Chairman McCain: Senator Sullivan.

24 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 And I wanted to thank you, gentlemen, for your service.

1 I also want to follow up on the line of questioning
2 that Senator Donnelly was just talking about, in terms of
3 missile defense. And he and Senator Sessions -- actually,
4 everybody on this committee has been a real strong supporter
5 of that. And having both the two COCOM Commanders in front
6 of us who are tasked with that, I'd like to dig into some
7 details.

8 Admiral Haney and Admiral Gortney, can North Korea
9 range any part of the United States right now, in terms of
10 their missile capability? And that's either the mainland or
11 Alaska or Hawaii or any American territories in the Pacific.

12 Admiral Gortney: Sir, as the Commander accountable of
13 holding the trigger to defend the Nation against that
14 particular threat, I assess that they have the ability to
15 put an ICBM in space and range the continental United States
16 and Canada. The --

17 Senator Sullivan: So, clearly, then, Hawaii and Alaska
18 are in range.

19 Admiral Gortney: Absolutely. Yes, sir.

20 Senator Sullivan: And would -- do we anticipate that
21 will have a -- you say ICBM, but nuclear capability ICBM now
22 --

23 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir.

24 Senator Sullivan: -- or soon?

25 Admiral Gortney: I assess, as the commander there,

1 that it's the prudent decision on my part to assume that he
2 has the capability to nuclearize -- miniaturize and
3 nuclearize -- miniaturize a nuclear weapon and put it on an
4 ICBM. And I have the ability --

5 Senator Sullivan: Today.

6 Admiral Gortney: Today.

7 Senator Sullivan: And range the continental United
8 States.

9 Admiral Gortney: And range all of the States of the
10 United States and Canada. And we have the ability to engage
11 that threat. Intel community gives it a very low
12 probability of success, but I don't -- do not believe the
13 American people want to base my readiness assessment on a
14 low probability.

15 Senator Sullivan: I think you're very correct on that.
16 How about Iran? Same question.

17 Admiral Gortney: Iran, we do not assess they have the
18 ability to do it today. Should they have the ability to do
19 it today, I have the ability to engage it today.

20 Senator Sullivan: And when do you think they'll have
21 the ability?

22 Admiral Gortney: It's a decision on their part, sir,
23 and it's a decision if they want to nuclearize, whether they
24 want to develop -- complete the development of an ICBM and
25 then the reentry vehicle. And so, we track very carefully

1 all three of those pieces.

2 Senator Sullivan: Do you think they're cooperating
3 with North Korea on some of this right now to --

4 Admiral Gortney: Absolutely. Absolutely.

5 Senator Sullivan: So, you anticipate that that threat
6 will continue to grow and probably they'll be able to reach
7 Hawaii, Alaska, the East Coast, continental U.S. within --

8 Admiral Gortney: The --

9 Senator Sullivan: -- 5 years?

10 Admiral Gortney: Well --

11 Senator Sullivan: If they continue on their current
12 path.

13 Admiral Gortney: We look at it in a one, two, and
14 three, a decision to nuclearize, a decision to put it on a
15 warhead, and a decision to be able to actually put the
16 reentry vehicle all together. When they make that decision,
17 it's a one-two-three decision on their part. And we track
18 -- and we look very closely -- we have the intel community
19 looking very closely at each one of those pieces.

20 Senator Sullivan: So, I've been supportive of the
21 Department of Defense, Obama administration's missile
22 defense budget. And you probably saw, this committee's been
23 very supportive of that. I've lately heard concerns that
24 maybe in this year's budget there's not enough. Can you --
25 either of -- Admiral Haney or Admiral Gortney, can you talk

1 about what you think, in terms of -- given these threats,
2 which are quite significant, the role of Fort Greeley, the
3 role of our GBIs. Do we think we have enough right now?
4 And, importantly, do we have enough -- particularly on the
5 radar and ground-base interceptor element right now, but do
6 we have enough to deal with the threat that certainly seems
7 to be increasing? So, does 41 do it, or should we
8 anticipate having more? Because it doesn't look like the
9 Iranians or North Koreans are going to be standing down
10 their missile capability anytime soon.

11 Admiral Gortney: It'll be 44 interceptors by the end
12 of '17.

13 Senator Sullivan: 44.

14 Admiral Gortney: 44 in Fort Greeley in the great State
15 of Alaska, and the necessary sensors are going all in place
16 of Alaska because of the strategic importance of Alaska.
17 It's not going to be enough, because it's not going to be
18 able to outpace the threat in the number of rate counts, the
19 number that can be shot at us as --

20 Senator Sullivan: Right.

21 Admiral Gortney: -- we project into the future, which
22 is why the investments that you all have supported in our
23 research and development are so important, to get us on the
24 correct side of the cost curve. Because, on our current
25 path, using the current technologies and a one interceptor

1 versus one warhead in midcourse is a failing proposition --

2 Senator Sullivan: Yeah.

3 Admiral Gortney: -- because they can produce more than
4 we can ever possibly afford to put in the ground.

5 Senator Sullivan: So, do we -- do you anticipate, in 5
6 to 10 years, as the threat grows, as the rogue-nation
7 missile capability increases, as the number of missiles they
8 have increases, as their ability to nuclearize payloads --
9 miniaturize the nuclear payloads increases, are we going to
10 need more ground-base interceptors to keep up with that
11 threat?

12 Admiral Gortney: We're going to need more capability
13 to engage the threat throughout its flight, keep them on the
14 ground, kill them on the rails, kill them in boost phase,
15 and then get more warheads in space in midcourse. We have
16 to be able to engage it right now throughout the flight of
17 the profile, not just in midcourse with a -- one rocket
18 against a very -- one very expensive rocket against another
19 rocket.

20 Senator Sullivan: And in your professional military
21 opinion, do we have enough -- is the current budget on these
22 issues, given the threat, which you've just laid out is
23 quite significant, including North Korea being able to hit
24 the continental United States -- does the current budget, in
25 your professional military opinion, have enough resources

1 dedicated to missile defense to keep us safe now and,
2 importantly, to keep up with this growing threat?

3 Admiral Gortney: Working very closely with Admiral
4 Syring, who's in charge of developing this at the Missile
5 Defense Agency. Last year's budget, we think, was adequate
6 for us to improve what we have and invest in those
7 technologies and see if those technologies will bear out to
8 get us on the correct side of other cost curve and engage
9 throughout the flight of these missiles.

10 Senator Sullivan: This year's budget?

11 Admiral Gortney: This year's budget, yes, sir.

12 But, should -- should those technologies come forward,
13 the budget's not enough to put those capabilities into
14 production and to deliver those capabilities. So, once we
15 prove, say, the laser technology that can hit their --
16 multi-object kill vehicle technology that's out there --
17 should those technologies bear out -- and they are very,
18 very promising -- then we're going to be needing an increase
19 in the budget to put those capabilities in place.

20 Senator Sullivan: Thank you.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 Senator Reed [presiding]: On behalf of Chairman
23 McCain, Senator King.

24 Senator King: Thank you, Senator Reed.

25 We've been talking a lot -- I think the fact that

1 you've -- practically every Senator has asked questions
2 about drugs is an indication of how serious this problem is
3 in all of our States. And we've talked about the border.
4 We've talked about maritime asset ships, intelligence. But,
5 these drugs -- you mentioned Colombia, Mexico -- are grown
6 in great big fields. What effort is being made with these
7 other countries to put a stop to that? I mean, if somebody
8 in Iowa was growing 100 acres of poppies and turning it into
9 heroin, I think we'd do something about it. Is there any
10 effort made, in terms of our relationship with these so-
11 called partner countries, to control the production of this
12 stuff?

13 Admiral Tidd?

14 Admiral Tidd: I'll start on that one. Senator, yes,
15 Colombia has made some very significant efforts. I think
16 you're familiar with their aerial eradication program. That
17 was --

18 Senator King: But, haven't they backed off --

19 Admiral Tidd: -- making progress --

20 Senator King: -- recently?

21 Admiral Tidd: That is correct. And, as they have
22 negotiated a -- the peace accord, one of the conditions of
23 that peace accord included stopping the aerial eradication
24 program and now going in for manual eradication. One of the
25 challenges with manual eradication, they have to be able to

1 put their military forces into and control the territory
2 that right now has been denied territory to them. So,
3 that's going to be one of the reasons they're going to be
4 facing some very stiff fights even as the peace accord, if
5 signed, comes into effect, because they will be going up
6 against narcotraffickers who control that land, as well as
7 the actual growers, the peasants themselves. This is their
8 source of livelihood, and they are going to be giving up
9 that source of livelihood. So, it'll be a --

10 Senator King: It may be a source of livelihood, but
11 it's a source of death up here.

12 Admiral Tidd: Absolutely.

13 Senator King: And I don't understand calling somebody
14 an ally who's -- and having them produce these death-dealing
15 substances.

16 Same question about Mexico, Admiral Gortney.

17 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir. The -- in the crop
18 eradication, just SEDENA alone, their navy and marine corps,
19 about 270,000 hecta-acres and 500- -- of marijuana -- and
20 570,000 hecta-acres of poppy. And it's not nearly enough.
21 As a result, they've just purchased more helicopters, a
22 little bit cheaper than --

23 Senator King: "They" being the Mexicans?

24 Admiral Gortney: Mexicans -- SEDENA and SEMAR -- to
25 increase that poppy eradication effort, as well as the other

1 internal security challenges that they're confronting as
2 they're working their way against the cartels.

3 Senator King: Changing the subject. Admiral Gortney,
4 your -- have jurisdiction over the Arctic, or at least a
5 significant part of it. The administration proposed, this
6 year -- and I support the proposal -- for the beginning, a
7 downpayment, if you will, on a new icebreaker. That's good.
8 The problem is, that icebreaker will really replace what we
9 have; it doesn't increase our capacity. Isn't it true that
10 we really need more icebreaker capacity as the Arctic begins
11 to open up for trade and development and transport?

12 Admiral Gortney: Well, speaking for my closest mission
13 partner, other maritime partner, which is the United States
14 Coast Guard, I would agree with them that they do need more
15 icebreaker, more capacity and capability out there.

16 Senator King: Yeah. I don't want to look a gift horse
17 in the mouth. We've got to get this new one started. But,
18 it's really -- that really is replacing the --

19 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir.

20 Senator King: -- the Polar Star, not giving us any new
21 capacity. Okay.

22 Admiral Haney, deterrence has been a strategic basis of
23 our nuclear strategy since 1945 or thereabouts, but
24 deterrence rests on a theory of a semblance of rationality
25 on the other side. Does deterrence work with North Korea?

1 Are they concerned about the possibility of being
2 obliterated if they attack?

3 Admiral Haney: Senator King, I think -- I can't tell
4 you exactly what Kim Jung Un, the leader of North Korea,
5 thinks today, this very minute, but he has to know that he
6 faces a very credible response across our joint military
7 forces if he decides to do the unthinkable.

8 Senator King: So, that -- the deterrence, the fact
9 that that would -- there would be a -- assured destruction
10 is a fact that's known in North Korea.

11 Admiral Haney: Again, I have not had a opportunity to
12 talk to the leaders of North Korea, but I am convinced they
13 look at our whole joint military force. That's why we see
14 reactions to some of our exercises and what have you. So, I
15 think they have a keen appreciation to the fact of what we
16 bring as a complete force, not just the nuclear capability I
17 lead.

18 Senator King: As they say, it would behoove us to let
19 there be no misunderstanding. And, of course, the other
20 side of this question is deterrence against nonstate actors,
21 which is even more of a difficult -- from a theoretical
22 point of view, particularly people who don't care about
23 dying. And where do you strike back? Where do you -- where
24 is the retaliation? I think that's a -- that's a second
25 level of theoretical problem with the theory of deterrence

1 as applied to current threats that we face.

2 Admiral Haney: And, Senator, as you have articulated,
3 deterrence is complex, and it requires a deep understanding
4 of the adversary, an understanding of what feeds the
5 adversary and, consequently, has to be tailored for each
6 specific adversary. And that requires a lot of critical
7 thinking and overall comprehensive approaches in multiple
8 domains as we see adversaries even -- including violent
9 extremist organizations, use cyberspace, for example, in
10 order to recruit and in order to finance their mechanisms.
11 Those kind of things have to become more costly for them to
12 pursue, and it is still -- I would argue that deterrence is
13 complex, but the fundamentals still apply.

14 Senator King: Thank you.

15 I'm out of time. For the record, could Admiral Gortney
16 and Admiral Tidd give us something in writing on why we
17 should not join NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM and if there's a
18 Goldwater-Nichols II -- not now, because I am out of time,
19 but perhaps a written statement? Because I know that's a
20 question that's going to come up before the committee.

21 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir. Be happy to do that.

22 Admiral Tidd: Yes, sir.

23 Senator King: Thank you.

24 [The information referred to follows:]

25 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

1 Senator Reed: On behalf of Chairman McCain, Senator
2 Ernst.

3 Senator Ernst: Thank you, Senator Reed.

4 And I'm disappointed that our Chairman stepped out. We
5 have some wonderful naval officers here in front of us
6 today. Thank you so much.

7 But, Senator Reed, I would have you notice that the
8 senior enlisted advisor to Admiral Tidd is an Army command
9 sergeant major from Iowa.

10 Thank you so much for being with us today, Sergeant
11 Major. And thank you, gentlemen, for your great service to
12 our Nation.

13 Admiral Tidd, we had a wonderful conversation the other
14 day, and we did talk, during our conversation, about
15 SOUTHCOM's limited Active Duty capabilities due to the
16 prioritization from DOD in other areas of operation. But, I
17 am very proud of the job that our citizen soldiers do in
18 that area. Our National Guard has done a lot of work in the
19 SOUTHCOM AOR to support U.S. security and to build our
20 partner capabilities in Central and South America. So,
21 whether, as we discussed, it's serving with honor and
22 integrity at Guantanamo Bay or working to end the flow of
23 narcotics into the country or partnering through state
24 partnership programs with many of our allies, our Guard has
25 been vital to SOUTHCOM and to our regional security.

1 So, sir, if you could please describe some of the
2 ongoing efforts by the Guard in SOUTHCOM, please.

3 Admiral Tidd: Absolutely, Senator. And I think it
4 goes without saying, we would not be able to execute the
5 lion's share of our missions in the absence of contributions
6 by the National Guard, whether in the form of units rotating
7 through Guantanamo Bay, as has been so effectively
8 accomplished, to state partnership programs that provide a
9 sustained continuity of contact with countries over the
10 years, building their partner capacity, enabling them to do
11 the sorts of jobs, and also going to the Army's recently
12 established regionally aligned force prospect that the
13 lion's share of the regionally aligned force to the SOUTHCOM
14 region comes out of the National Guard. So, it is -- it's
15 absolutely critical to our ability to execute our mission.

16 Senator Ernst: Okay, thank you. I appreciate it so
17 much.

18 And we also briefly discussed the activities of Russia,
19 Iran, and China, and Central and South America. So, could
20 you just tell us, in this open forum, what activities you've
21 seen in that area? That came as a surprise to me.

22 Admiral Tidd: Thank you, Senator.

23 The -- as we look at the transregional nature of our
24 activities, if you are interested in what Russia is engaged
25 in, you don't just look at eastern Europe. If you're

1 interested in what China is engaged in, you don't just look
2 at the South China Sea. Iran, the same story, you don't
3 just look at the Middle East. Russia, who -- which,
4 arguably, has virtually no strategic interests of note in
5 the southern region, is engaged in a direct competition to
6 displace the United States for influence within the region.
7 They are going back in and redeveloping the historical
8 contacts that they had with a number of countries throughout
9 the region, developing weapon sales at extremely low rates
10 -- low costs. And what gives us great concern is, they are
11 engaging in a concerted effort to convince partners that the
12 United States is not a reliable ally, that we are
13 withdrawing from the region.

14 And so, essentially, any steps that plays into that
15 narrative that makes it look like the United States does not
16 provide the forces or is shrinking down the presence of the
17 United States or consolidating to get at -- slightly, at
18 Senator King's point that consolidating combatant commanders
19 simply plays into that false narrative that the United
20 States is not interested in the region.

21 In China, it's largely an economic competition.
22 They're looking for markets and resources. And Iran is
23 essentially establishing cultural centers and other sorts of
24 activities, but, we think, at a higher level of
25 classification, we can talk to some of the other activities

1 they're engaged in.

2 Senator Ernst: But, bottom line up front, you do
3 believe this is something we need to keep an eye on.

4 Admiral Tidd: They -- if you are concerned about those
5 countries on a global scale, you cannot afford not to be
6 watching what they are engaged in, in the SOUTHCOM region.

7 Senator Ernst: Thank you very much.

8 Thank you, gentlemen.

9 I'll yield back my time.

10 Chairman McCain [presiding]: Senator Heinrich.

11 Senator Heinrich: Thank you, Chairman.

12 Admiral Gortney, we've dramatically increased resources
13 for Border Patrol in recent years, and we need to continue
14 that push. I think the Chairman pressed you hard on that
15 issue. But, we've often neglected the equally critical role
16 that our Customs and Border Protection officers play in
17 protecting the overall integrity of that border. And your
18 comments really got to that when you mentioned the
19 incredible problem of manufactured heroin in small
20 quantities that are actually moving through our ports of
21 entry. Should we be resourcing those ports of entry as
22 seriously as we resource the border overall?

23 And for some of our colleagues who don't come from
24 border States, it's just important to remember that we have
25 Border Patrol agents, the guys in the green uniforms, who

1 are out there all along the border, from east to west, and
2 then we have these officers, whose job it is to sit at the
3 ports of entry and make sure that we stop any illegal
4 activity, being it moving narcotics, cash, other contraband,
5 back and forth across that border.

6 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir. We need to invest for all
7 of them. When I was at the port of entry there in San
8 Diego, I was extremely impressed with the dedication of the
9 patriots that are doing that. A very, very difficult task.
10 Their motivation, their training, their professionalism,
11 confronting an immense challenge. And anything we can do to
12 increase their capacity and their capability, this Nation
13 needs to invest in.

14 Senator Heinrich: Thank you for your comments on that.

15 And I want to follow up with Admiral Tidd and go back
16 to 2014, when your predecessor, General Kelly, said that he
17 was able to see 75 percent of the cocaine trafficking
18 heading towards the United States, but that they had to,
19 quote, "simply sit and watch it go by," unquote, because of
20 the lack of resources. Now, I know some of that has
21 changed, but we should all find this unacceptable,
22 especially considering that the drug cartels are making on
23 order of \$85 billion a year in annual profits, which is
24 literally what is fueling the violence, the corruption in
25 Central America, and driving the refugee crisis that we see.

1 So, Admiral Tidd, how many interdiction assets do you
2 have at your disposal? And what are your requirements?

3 Admiral Tidd: On a given day, on average, we tend to
4 have between five and six surface ships -- those are largely
5 Coast Guard cutters; one to two U.S. Navy platforms. The
6 established requirement in order to interdict at the
7 established target level of 40 percent is up to 21 surface
8 platforms. So, it is -- it's a question of resources.

9 Senator Heinrich: Right.

10 Admiral Tidd: And allocation of resources and
11 priorities across all of the threats the country faces is --
12 I don't question that. I understand it. I was involved in
13 it. But, it is simply a matter of resources.

14 Senator Heinrich: And I want to thank you for your
15 work on this front. I asked that question specifically to
16 shine a light on how wide a gap there is between how we have
17 resourced your men and women who do that work, and where we
18 would like that to be, which is why I asked you specifically
19 what the requirement is. We're nowhere close. We've gotten
20 better. We need to keep a focus on that and not let that
21 slip.

22 Let me ask you, too, What percentage of your ISR
23 requirements are being met today?

24 Admiral Tidd: Overall, approximately 11 percent of the
25 requirement.

1 Senator Heinrich: I think that -- that's a pretty
2 sobering number for all of us, as well, Mr. Chair.

3 My time is almost done. I want to switch to Admiral
4 Haney and just ask you a broad question about why you
5 believe the combination of LRSO and LRSB is so important.
6 And my hope is you can also explain the strategic importance
7 of nuclear modernization efforts and the tools that they
8 will provide the combatant commanders like yourself.

9 Admiral Haney: Well, to your first question, it is
10 very important for our Nation to have the adequate strategic
11 deterrence and assurance mechanisms and methodologies and
12 capabilities. From the air leg of our triad, it's very
13 important that our platforms are appropriately armed in
14 order to be credible. And that includes B-52 aircraft, B-
15 2s, which we will be flying both of those for some time to
16 come, as well as the long-range strike bomber, stealth
17 aircraft. Even while we have stealth aircraft, it's
18 important that we have standoff capability. As we watch our
19 adversaries work to have better anti-access aerial denial
20 kinds of capabilities, we must have standoff in order to
21 manage strategic stability as we should. As a result, I see
22 the long-range strike -- long-range standoff option being
23 critical to all of those platforms, all three of them.

24 Senator Heinrich: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

25 Chairman McCain: Senator Tillis.

1 Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Gentlemen, I apologize for not being in the hearing.
3 I've got a competing Judiciary hearing, and I've got to run
4 for a vote. So, Admiral Haney and Admiral Gortney, thank
5 you for being here.

6 Admiral Tidd, I want to focus a little bit more on your
7 command in -- at a couple of things. One, I think the 11
8 percent coverage for a very critical area of other region is
9 important. And I'd like for you to talk -- I know a lot of
10 times we talk about SOUTHCOM, we talk about the work we're
11 doing in Colombia and down in Latin America, drug
12 interdiction, but you and I have had discussions. One thing
13 I'd like for you to expand on, and it relates to a question
14 that Senator Ernst asked, and maybe even focus a little bit
15 on Iran's activity in Hezbollah and a number of other things
16 that we're seeing there that are potentially systematically
17 over time going to change the environment in your sphere of
18 influence. Can you talk a little bit about that?

19 Admiral Tidd: With -- specifically with regard to
20 Iran, there has been a longstanding presence of Hezbollah,
21 one of other principal surrogates of Iran in the region.
22 Their activities have largely been involved in logistics
23 support, providing funds back to Lebanon, to Hezbollah
24 itself, but it also is available as a potential to conduct
25 other activities. It's a force in being, obviously, and

1 they watch very closely what the -- we watch very closely
2 what they are doing, where they are.

3 The -- what makes it particularly noteworthy is, there
4 are not large implantations within Central and South America
5 of Muslim communities. They tend to be very small. And so,
6 this interest on the part of Iran is in developing
7 partnerships, relationships, in order to escape the
8 diplomatic isolation that they found themselves in over the
9 last decade -- couple of decades.

10 The greater concern that we're beginning to see now is
11 on the part of Islamist extremist groups. There is now a
12 general recognition throughout the region in meetings with
13 senior security chiefs from across the Caribbean, in
14 particular, but also Central American countries. They
15 recognize the risk of radicalization -- self-radicalization
16 occurring within their countries. There have already been a
17 number of fighters that have gone over to Iraq and Syria to
18 fight. We have seen indications -- there have been a number
19 of them that have been killed. I think we all saw the video
20 of the 14-year-old from Trinidad-Tobago that was videotaped
21 engaged in an act of terrorism, executing a Syrian
22 combatant. So, that is there, and the countries are worried
23 about the return flow of those foreign fighters coming back.

24 Senator Tillis: Thank you.

25 And I don't want you to comment, because it relates to

1 policy, but, you know, you could make a logical argument
2 that, as Iran's economy improves, as money returns back to
3 Iran as a result of this -- the Iran agreement that I
4 opposed, that we could even see more shifting of resources.
5 It could accelerate the pace of what they're doing in your
6 area of responsibility. I think we need to make sure that
7 we're paying attention to it. It's not one that you
8 normally think about when you talk about the -- think about
9 the Iran threat.

10 I want to, in my remaining time, have you talk about
11 Guantanamo Bay, and not with respect to the detainees. But,
12 there's also discussions out there about, you know, maybe we
13 don't need Guantanamo Bay or our presence there at all.
14 Could you give me some sense of what you think the strategic
15 significance of that land mass is with respect to your area
16 of responsibility and our ability to respond in that part of
17 the world?

18 Admiral Tidd: Senator, the first time I visited
19 Guantanamo Bay was in 1979. We have significant strategic
20 interests at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay that will
21 continue long past whenever detention operations end. It is
22 a critical point to support Coast Guard operations and the
23 detection and monitoring mission across the Caribbean Basin.
24 It is absolutely critical to supporting any sort of a
25 migrant crisis that might occur. And, in fact, as I know

1 you're aware, there is a very small MILCON request in to do
2 some basic level construction. If we were to have a migrant
3 crisis, we would need to be able to rapidly build up the
4 facilities to deal with up to 10,000 migrants in a 72-hour
5 period, and as many as 45,000 beyond that. Without that
6 MILCON, we -- it -- we -- right now, we are completely
7 incapable of meeting that timeline, should we have to do it,
8 and we would need that, to be able to have a fighting chance
9 of being able to do it so that we would not have -- bring
10 that large number of migrants into the United States. So,
11 it's a -- it is a small downpayment that we think is
12 probably a prudent investment to be able to do that.

13 Guantanamo Bay will remain critical long past the
14 detention operations.

15 Senator Tillis: And I think that we just need to
16 underscore that. If you talk about our ability to complete
17 missions, the humanitarian missions alone, in addition to
18 other potential uses, that it would be irresponsible for us
19 to consider any dialogue around not having that continue to
20 be an important asset for us in that part of the country.

21 Gentlemen, thank you all for your time. I will --
22 because my colleague here almost never misses a hearing to
23 talk about the four-two-five, I will say that I still share
24 his opinion that that's a very important capability that we
25 have in Alaska. I'm glad that General Milley seems to have

1 taken that position, and I look forward to us coming to the
2 resolution that I think my colleague from Alaska hopes we
3 get to.

4 Thank you all.

5 Thank you, Senator.

6 Senator Reed [presiding]: Thank you.

7 On behalf of Chairman McCain, Senator Hirono.

8 Senator Hirono: Last, but not least. Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman.

10 And thank all of you for your testimony and being here
11 today.

12 You've been asked a lot of questions, particularly,
13 Admiral Gortney, on our missile defense system. And so, I'm
14 probably going to want to chat with you further, or perhaps
15 for the record, on whether or not we are -- in terms of our
16 need to increase our capability to stop the missiles
17 throughout the flight of the missile, whether we're putting
18 our resources in the right proportions with regard to
19 stopping these missiles. So, that -- I just wanted to
20 mention that to you as a followup later.

21 [The information referred to follows:]

22 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Hirono: Admiral Haney, cyber has become a
2 significant part of the DOD establishment. And the Army and
3 the Air Force have laid out requirements and started
4 establishing cyber-protection teams and units around the
5 country, with many of them in the National Guard units. I
6 wanted to ask, How is this process working? And what is
7 your forecast for when future units will be established to
8 meet these requirements? And I'd note that, in Hawaii, we
9 have everything that is going on in the Asia-Pacific region
10 and where -- the home of PACOM, NSA-Hawaii, much of our
11 defense infrastructure in the Pacific. So, I would
12 certainly like to have you keep Hawaii in mind as you move
13 forward with these cyber-protection units. Can you talk a
14 little bit about how things are going?

15 Admiral Haney: Senator Hirono, the -- this initiative
16 of using Guard units to also augment our Active Duty units,
17 I think is critical for our future. This was a start.
18 Clearly, National Guard gets a vote, in terms of how we
19 continue to progress in this regard. As you know, the
20 threats to our Nation and our international community of
21 nations is pretty high regarding how actors, both nonstate
22 and state actors, are applying malfeasance, in terms of
23 working against us in the cyber domain. Critical to our
24 critical infrastructure, critical to how we fight as a
25 military, and what have you. So, quite frankly, we continue

1 to grow. I'm proud of the cyber-protection teams I, as the
2 combatant commander, have gotten to work with. And I know,
3 as I've talked to other combatant commands, including the
4 two to my left, we appreciate the work that they are able to
5 do. We're still growing these teams. We don't have them
6 all at the right level yet. So, more to follow.

7 Senator Hirono: And, of course, once you develop the
8 teams, we must be ever-flexible, because they -- what
9 happens in the cyber arena is constantly changing. So, in
10 terms of the timeframe for these future units to at least be
11 put in place, what is your timeframe? Are we talking about
12 2 more years? A year?

13 Admiral Haney: I'd have to take that question for the
14 record, Senator. I don't have that. I know there's work
15 going. We've just gotten started. And, in terms of how we
16 will continue to build for the future, more to follow.

17 [The information referred to follows:]

18 [COMMITTEE INSERT]

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1 Senator Hirono: Thank you very much.

2 Admiral Tidd, regional epidemics like the Zika virus
3 are concerning and threatening the well-being of our
4 citizens. And one case of the Zika virus was reported this
5 year, so far, in Hawaii, and four were also reported in 2015
6 and 2014. Can you describe the role that SOUTHCOM has in
7 dealing with epidemics such as these?

8 Admiral Tidd: Yes, Senator. The -- as a result of the
9 initial Ebola outbreak, a large interagency network was put
10 together, and SOUTHCOM was a key participant in that. And
11 that was reenergized with the outbreak of Zika that we're
12 seeing.

13 We remain postured to be able to respond to requests
14 for assistance from our partner nations in SOUTHCOM, but we
15 have put out specific guidance to the men and women, part of
16 our command, who are operating down in that region. Those --
17 the policies that affect them, the protective measures, are
18 largely the -- exactly the same protective measures that
19 have been in place to protect them from exposure to dengue
20 fever, to the Chikungunya, and other mosquito-borne
21 illnesses. And so, we continue to emphasize that.

22 To date, we've had only two of our military personnel
23 -- two males -- who have been diagnosed and confirmed to
24 have had Zika. They've recovered and returned to duty.
25 We've had one family member -- a pregnant female family

1 member who has taken advantage of a policy to return to the
2 United States. The family was -- had been scheduled to
3 return already, and it was a slightly accelerated return on
4 her part.

5 But, we're working with the countries, primarily in
6 training in the mosquito eradication programs. Their
7 militaries obviously are very heavily engaged in those
8 activities. And so, that's where we stand right now. We
9 have a Navy medical unit down in Peru that has been doing a
10 lot of work in the experimental development of vaccines and
11 that type of work, and also in the detection.

12 Senator Hirono: Thank you very much. And especially
13 for places such as Hawaii, with so much tourist traffic from
14 areas that have had these outbreaks, it is really important.
15 So, thank you very much for your efforts.

16 Admiral Tidd: Senator.

17 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Senator Reed: On behalf of Chairman McCain, Senator
19 Graham, please.

20 Senator Graham: Thank you all.

21 Admiral -- I can say that to everybody. The Navy's
22 doing well with these commands. Have any of you served in
23 Iraq or Afghanistan?

24 [A show of two hands.]

25 Senator Graham: Admiral Gortney and Admiral Tidd.

1 While there, did you serve with American Muslims in uniform?

2 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir, I did.

3 Admiral Tidd: Yes, sir.

4 Senator Graham: What is your view of the service of
5 those who are Muslim in the U.S. military?

6 Admiral Gortney: They're patriots who serve their
7 Nation.

8 Admiral Tidd: Concur.

9 Senator Graham: Do you agree that we're in a war
10 between radical Islam and the world at large?

11 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir. And it's a generational
12 war. And --

13 Senator Graham: And that the biggest victims of
14 radical Islam are people within the faith who will not bend
15 to their will: other Muslims.

16 Admiral Gortney: I'd have to say they're a threat to
17 both inside and outside the faith.

18 Senator Graham: But, when you add up the numbers of
19 people killed, there's more Muslims than anybody else.

20 Admiral Gortney: That's correct.

21 Senator Graham: Do you believe it's in our national
22 security interest to help those in the faith who would fight
23 back against radical Islam?

24 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir, I would.

25 Admiral Tidd: Yes, sir.

1 Senator Graham: Thank you.

2 So, I just want to be on the record, here, that, to
3 those 3500, plus or minus, American Muslims serving in
4 uniform, I appreciate your service, that of your family, and
5 I respect your faith.

6 Admiral Gortney, in the next decade, if nothing changes
7 in North Korea and potentially Iran, are we going to face
8 more threats from a missile launch against the United States
9 by a rogue nation, or less?

10 Admiral Gortney: A greater threat, sir.

11 Senator Graham: Okay. If we go back to sequestration,
12 do we compromise your ability to deal with that threat?

13 Admiral Gortney: I believe it would, sir.

14 Senator Graham: Admiral Tidd, over the next decade, do
15 you see more instability in the region in Southern Command,
16 or less?

17 Admiral Tidd: I see no less.

18 Senator Graham: Okay.

19 Admiral Tidd: I see no less.

20 Senator Graham: How many ships are you supposed to
21 have?

22 Admiral Tidd: Senator, if I were to accomplish the
23 goal of 40 percent interdiction, I would require 21 ships.

24 Senator Graham: How many do you have?

25 Admiral Tidd: On average, about six to seven.

1 Senator Graham: So, to get to where you need to go,
2 you need more ships.

3 Admiral Tidd: Correct.

4 Senator Graham: How many Navy ships do you have
5 available to you?

6 Admiral Tidd: On average, one to two.

7 Senator Graham: And the rest are Coast Guard.

8 Admiral Tidd: They are, yes, sir.

9 Senator Graham: So, in Southern Command, the United
10 States Navy is able to generate two ships?

11 Admiral Tidd: In -- because of the demand for surface
12 platforms in other theaters that are a higher priority, yes,
13 sir, that's correct.

14 Senator Graham: So, if we sent you more ships, it
15 wouldn't be a waste of money, would it?

16 Admiral Tidd: Senator, it would come at the expense of
17 other higher-priority theaters.

18 Senator Graham: But, if we had a larger budget, it
19 would make sense to build more Navy ships, at least from
20 your command's point of view?

21 Admiral Tidd: Sir, I would never turn down additional
22 ships.

23 Senator Graham: And when you say you need 17 -- what
24 number did you say?

25 Admiral Tidd: 21.

1 Senator Graham: 21. I'm sure somebody just didn't
2 make that up. That was --

3 Admiral Tidd: No, sir, there is a fairly lengthy study
4 that went in to derive that requirement.

5 Senator Graham: And that 40 percent interdiction is
6 drugs and other contraband coming to the country?

7 Admiral Tidd: That's correct.

8 Senator Graham: So, if we've got a drug problem here,
9 we're not doing much to stop it, because we're certainly
10 under-resourcing you. Would you agree with that?

11 Admiral Tidd: I would.

12 Senator Graham: So, it's one thing to build a wall,
13 which makes sense to me. It -- but, it also seems like we
14 should build up the Navy to interdict the flow of drugs and
15 other contraband into our country.

16 So, if we go back to sequestration, the chance of you
17 getting more ships goes down, not up. Is that correct?

18 Admiral Tidd: Senator, we're still suffering from the
19 hangover from the last sequestration. Ships that had
20 delayed maintenance, aircraft that had delayed maintenance.
21 Those ships are not available now to be able to operate in
22 our theater. Any future sequestration would be
23 catastrophic.

24 Senator Graham: Admiral Haney, in your lane, what's
25 the effect of going back to sequestration from your point of

1 view?

2 Admiral Haney: My point of view, going back to
3 sequestration would be crippling, in that it would put
4 significant risk of these programs that we need for our
5 joint military force, as a whole, and particularly these
6 long-term programs that are associated with my mission
7 space.

8 Senator Graham: Thank you all for your service.

9 Senator Reed: Thank you, Senator Graham.

10 On behalf of Chairman McCain, thank you, gentlemen, for
11 your testimony and for your service.

12 And the hearing is adjourned.

13 [Whereupon, at 12:03 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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