

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF GENERAL JOHN E.
HYTEN, USAF, FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF GENERAL AND
TO BE COMMANDER, UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Washington, D.C.

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7 U.S. Senate

8 Committee on Armed Services

9 Washington, D.C.

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11 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:31 a.m. in
12 Room SH-216, Hart Senate Office Building, Hon. John McCain,
13 chairman of the committee, presiding.

14 Committee Members Present: Senators McCain
15 [presiding], Inhofe, Wicker, Ayotte, Fischer, Ernst, Tillis,
16 Sullivan, Reed, Nelson, McCaskill, Manchin, Shaheen,
17 Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, King, and
18 Heinrich.

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

3 Chairman McCain: Good morning. The Senate Armed
4 Services Committee meets this morning to consider the
5 nomination of General John E. Hyten to be Commander of the
6 United States Strategic Command.

7 We congratulate you on your nomination. We thank you
8 for your decades of distinguished service to our Nation and
9 for your willingness to serve once again.

10 Of course, we know today would not be possible without
11 the support and sacrifice of your family and friends, some
12 of whom are with us this morning. As is your tradition, we
13 hope you'll take the opportunity to introduce your family
14 joining you today.

15 General Hyten, threats to the United States and our
16 allies have increased significantly in recent years. We
17 confront national security challenges not just in every
18 region of the world, but threatens in every domain,
19 including nuclear, cyber, and space. This new strategic
20 challenge has major implications for STRATCOM.

21 Many leading scholars and strategists have warned, for
22 years, that we have entered a, quote, "second nuclear age."
23 This is not something the United States has chosen; and,
24 indeed, there are still those deride nuclear weapons as
25 relics of the Cold War only to be discussed in the context

1 of reducing and eventually eliminating them. But, the
2 reality is that, from the Middle East and Southeast Asia to
3 Europe and East Asia, there are nations that increasingly
4 believe nuclear weapons are essential to their survival.
5 Others are enhancing the role of nuclear weapons in their
6 military doctrine and actively considering their use on the
7 battlefield.

8 Pakistan has rapidly expanded its nuclear arsenal and
9 reportedly developed new tactical nuclear weapons. Not to
10 be outdone, India continues to modernize its nuclear triad.
11 Even under the best of circumstances, the Iran nuclear deal
12 gives Iran a free hand to develop nuclear weapons in a
13 decade. North Korea's fifth nuclear test earlier this month
14 is the latest remind that its corpulent boy dictator remains
15 intent on developing the capability to strike our homeland
16 with nuclear weapons. And then there is China, which
17 continues to modernize its nuclear forces while placing a
18 new emphasis on mobile missiles and submarines.

19 Perhaps the most pressing challenge you would face if
20 confirmed, General Hyten, is Russia. Russia's aggression in
21 Ukraine and destabilizing actions in Syria take place under
22 a nuclear shadow. Russia is threatening our NATO allies
23 with nuclear strikes, modernizing its strategic nuclear
24 forces, developing a new nuclear ground-launch cruise
25 missile capable of ranging most of Europe, and has fired

1 air- and sea-launch cruise missiles against targets in
2 Syria, missiles that could be armed with nuclear warheads
3 and flown against European and U.S. targets.

4 We have to face the world as it is, not as we wish it
5 to be. That's why, no matter what President Obama may have
6 hoped for when he came to office, the United States cannot
7 seek to reduce the role of nuclear weapons on our national
8 security strategy. Providing a modern, credible deterrent
9 is more vital than ever. But, Strategic Command faces
10 significant near- and long-term challenges to that goal. In
11 the next two decades, U.S. nuclear submarines, ICBMs, air-
12 launch cruise missiles, heavy bombers, and nuclear-capable
13 tactical fighters will have to be withdrawn from operational
14 service, having been extended well beyond their original
15 service lives. Modernization programs are in place to
16 replace these systems, but there's no slack left in the
17 schedule, and a considerable bill to pay.

18 According to official figures, the Department of
19 Defense plans to devote about \$234 billion over the next 10
20 years to operate and modernize our nuclear forces. This
21 amounts to just 3 to 4 percent of the entire budget each
22 year, but any investment of this size must be subject to the
23 most rigorous oversight from this committee. Today's
24 Congress supports the modernization of the U.S. nuclear
25 deterrent, but I'm concerned that future reductions in

1 funding could delay or harm the development of these
2 replacement systems, increasing strategic risk at a time
3 when Russia and other countries continue to modernize their
4 nuclear capabilities.

5 Just as the nuclear threat continues to change, so,
6 too, have threats in space. Indeed, America's superiority
7 in space is increasingly at risk. As the Director of
8 National Intelligence told the committee earlier this year,
9 quote, "Threats to our use of military, civil, and
10 commercial space systems will increase in the next few years
11 as Russia and China progress in developing counterspace
12 weapon systems to deny, degrade, or disrupt U.S. space
13 systems."

14 Director Clapper stated that Russia and China seek to
15 exploit our dependence on space to achieve an -- asymmetric
16 effects. They are investing significant resources in
17 developing a full range of capabilities, including anti-
18 satellite missiles, co-orbital weapons jamming, and cyber
19 capabilities.

20 Fortunately, in recent years, the Defense Department
21 experienced a, quote, "counterspace awakening." After years
22 of prodding from this committee to enhance its focus, I'm
23 pleased with the Department's efforts to respond to Russian
24 and Chinese threats in space. One of your top priorities,
25 General Hyten, would be to put Strategic Command on a war

1 footing for space, because if our adversaries choose to
2 extend war into space, we must be capable of defending
3 ourselves there.

4 Finally, beyond space and nuclear forces, the third
5 component of Strategic Command, at present, is cyber. This
6 committee has been extremely focused on the whole
7 complicated issue of cyber, and I think many of us agree
8 with your assessment from your advance policy questions,
9 General Hyten, that the growing importance of cyber warrants
10 the elevation of U.S. Cyber Command to a unified combatant
11 command. We would be interested in your views on timing and
12 the importance of continued coordination between a future
13 unified Cyber Command and Strategic Command.

14 I congratulate you once again on your nomination.
15 Senator Reed.

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

3 Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
4 I want to join you in welcoming General Hyten.

5 Thank you very much, General, for your extraordinary
6 service to the Nation. Shortly, you'll introduce your
7 family. They are a big part of your success, so I would
8 like to welcome Laura, your children, Katie and Chris; and
9 know your brother, Scott, wanted to be here, so pass on my
10 regards to Scott. They have sacrificed and supported you
11 throughout the -- your career, and we all appreciate that.

12 General Hyten, you have an impressive record of service
13 to our Nation and are well qualified for this nomination.
14 The Commander of U.S. Strategic Command serves as the
15 principal military officer who advises the President, the
16 Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
17 of Staff on our nuclear deterrent, our space and cyber
18 capabilities, and our global missile defense requirements.
19 As is often said, our nuclear deterrent must be safe,
20 secure, and effective. There is one additional facet that
21 you must be ready to ensure, and that is, it must be ready.
22 You will be responsible for articulating and managing the
23 readiness of our nuclear triad and its command-and-control
24 protocols to deter threats that are existential to our
25 Nation.

1 Integral to readiness is the upcoming modernization of
2 our triad, which must be executed in a cost-effective and
3 timely fashion. And, once confirmed, I'll want to hear your
4 thoughts on this issue in much more detail.

5 Strategic Command also deploys our space assets and
6 mitigates threats to them. Given your background, General
7 Hyten, you are superbly qualified for this task, but there
8 are other areas you will also have to lead that include
9 missile defense, electronic warfare, cyber warfare, ISR, and
10 long-range precision strike. A daunting responsibility is
11 to integrate the capabilities and systems supporting these
12 complicated missions so that they mutually reinforce each
13 other and define and fix gaps that exist between them. I
14 look forward to hearing your views on these issues and
15 working with you in the future.

16 And I must apologize. There's a Banking Committee
17 hearing that is going on in a few moments, and I will -- my
18 departure will be simply to go there, nothing else.

19 Thank you.

20 Chairman McCain: General Hyten, it's -- we have to ask
21 standard questions of all military nominees. And if you'd
22 just respond, I'll go through this rather quickly.

23 In order to exercise its legislative and oversight
24 responsibilities, it's important that this committee and
25 other appropriate committees of the Congress are able to

1 receive testimony, briefings, and other communications of
2 information. Have you adhered to applicable laws and
3 regulations governing conflicts of interest?

4 General Hyten: I have, sir.

5 Chairman McCain: Do you agree, when asked, to give
6 your personal views, even if those views differ from the
7 administration in power?

8 General Hyten: I do, sir.

9 Chairman McCain: Have you assumed any duties or
10 undertaken any actions which would appear to presume the
11 outcome of the confirmation process?

12 General Hyten: No, sir.

13 Chairman McCain: Will you ensure your staff complies
14 with deadlines established for requested communications,
15 including questions for the record in hearings?

16 General Hyten: Yes, sir.

17 Chairman McCain: Will you cooperate in providing
18 witnesses and briefers in response to congressional
19 requests?

20 General Hyten: Yes, sir.

21 Chairman McCain: Will those witnesses be protected
22 from reprisal for their testimony or briefings?

23 General Hyten: Yes, sir, they will.

24 Chairman McCain: Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear
25 and testify, upon request, before this committee?

1 General Hyten: I do, sir.

2 Chairman McCain: Do you agree to provide documents,
3 including copies of electronic forms of communication, in a
4 timely manner when requested by a duly-constituted
5 committee, or to consult with the committee regarding the
6 basis for any good-faith delay or denial in providing such
7 documents?

8 General Hyten: I do, sir.

9 Chairman McCain: Thank you, General. Welcome.

10 General Hyten: Thank you, sir.

11 Chairman McCain: Please proceed.

12 General Hyten: Thank you, sir.

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1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL JOHN E. HYTEN, USAF, NOMINEE FOR
2 REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF GENERAL AND TO BE COMMANDER,
3 UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

4 General Hyten: Mr. Chairman, Senator Reed,
5 distinguished members of the committee, thanks for the
6 opportunity to come before you today. It really is an honor
7 to be nominated by the President to lead U.S. Strategic
8 Command.

9 Mr. Chairman, thank you most for allowing me the
10 opportunity to introduce my family. My family is truly
11 special to me. They are, as Senator Reed said, the reason
12 that I'm here. So, starting with the most significant of
13 them all, sitting behind me, over my left shoulder, is my
14 partner in life, my wife of 29 years, Laura. Not only is
15 she amazingly beautiful, but she's quite simply the finest
16 person I've ever known.

17 Chairman McCain: Welcome.

18 General Hyten: If confirmed, this would be our 15th
19 move in the United States Air Force. Everyplace we go, she
20 works diligently to support our airmen and their families.
21 If I'm confirmed and we get the opportunity to go back to
22 Nebraska, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines of U.S.
23 Strategic Command will be very lucky, as will the people of
24 Omaha and the surrounding communities, because of Laura.

25 And, in spite of the deployments and the four

1 separations, and in spite of the challenges of a military
2 life, we -- well, mostly she -- also managed to raise two
3 incredible children, who are with us here today.

4 Sitting left of their mom, first is our daughter,
5 Katie, who flew down from Boston late last night. She's a
6 graduate of Pepperdine University, magna cum laude, and,
7 more recently, graduated from the Fletcher School at Tufts
8 University with a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy. She
9 currently works for a nonprofit firm in Cambridge in
10 conflict resolution and mediation.

11 Chairman McCain: Well, at least you didn't go to
12 Harvard.

13 [Laughter.]

14 General Hyten: I tried, sir, but she --

15 [Laughter.]

16 General Hyten: -- she didn't -- she did not like --
17 she went to the West Coast, and she never wanted to go to
18 Boston.

19 Chairman McCain: She's smarter than her father.

20 [Laughter.]

21 General Hyten: Yes, sir. There's no doubt about that.

22 Senator Reed: You're in trouble now, General.

23 [Laughter.]

24 General Hyten: Senator, I've been in trouble a long
25 time.

1 [Laughter.]

2 General Hyten: Next is our --

3 Senator Reed: Twenty-seven years.

4 [Laughter.]

5 General Hyten: Yes, sir.

6 Next is our son, Chris, who flew in from Colorado early
7 this morning. He just arrived at 3:00 o'clock this morning.
8 He has his degree from Texas Lutheran University in physics
9 and math, but he's also a college All American in golf.
10 He's currently living his dream as a golf professional in
11 Colorado. He does pretty much live a dream life, there's no
12 doubt.

13 [Laughter.]

14 General Hyten: Each of them have grown into fine
15 citizens, and their mother and I are very proud of them.

16 And then, finally, one minor disappointment. Senator
17 Reed mentioned my little brother, Scott, from my home town
18 of Huntsville, Alabama. He had hoped to be here, but he was
19 delayed en route. He wanted to represent all our family and
20 friends, especially the family and friends that we have in
21 Alabama; specifically, my parents, Sherwin and Barbara,
22 still living in Huntsville; my sister, Catherine, who now
23 lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. My parents and my sister
24 could not travel today, but I know they're watching, along
25 with Laura's mom and family in California.

1 So, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, to the
2 committee, for allowing me to introduce these very, very
3 special people.

4 Chairman McCain: Thank you.

5 General Hyten: And now, on to the business of the day.

6 First of all, I, again, need to thank the President and
7 the Secretary of Defense for nominating me for this
8 position. I also want to thank the Chairman of the Joint
9 Chiefs of Staff, General Dunford, for expressing his
10 confidence in my ability to serve as a combatant commander.

11 If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with
12 this committee, closely with the Congress, to address the
13 strategic challenges that face our Nation. I truly believe
14 that the significant problems that we face can only be
15 worked through open, honest, and timely communications. And
16 you can expect that from me.

17 First and foremost in today's complex, volatile
18 security environment, we must never lose sight of the
19 fundamental advantage of our -- that our strategic forces
20 provide. Our Nation's nuclear deterrent force must always
21 remain safe, secure, effective, ready, and reliable. As our
22 potential adversaries upgrade their own capabilities, it's
23 essential that we move forward to update and modernize the
24 three elements of the nuclear triad and also ensure our
25 plans are fully integrated with the other combatant

1 commands.

2 We also face significant challenges in space and
3 cyberspace.

4 In space, threats continue to grow, as Senator McCain
5 described, as potential adversaries attempt to counter what
6 has become a critical advantage for our Nation and our
7 allies. We must not only be ready to respond, but we must
8 move to build a more resilient national security space
9 enterprise.

10 In cyberspace, intensive and extensive cooperation
11 across the whole of government and with our allies,
12 partners, and friends is required to prepare for, defend
13 against, and respond to cyberattacks. It's also essential
14 we work to fully integrate cyber with the other combatant
15 commands, as well.

16 U.S. Strategic Command has many other significant
17 global responsibilities: missile defense, intelligence,
18 surveillance, and reconnaissance, joint electronic warfare,
19 to name a few. And, if confirmed, I pledge to focus my best
20 efforts ensuring STRATCOM, working in sync with the entire
21 joint force, can provide the Department and the Nation
22 comprehensive strategic deterrence, assurance, and
23 escalation-control options from a multidomain perspective in
24 support of U.S. national interests.

25 Throughout a 35-year Air Force career that's well

1 beyond anything I ever expected, I've gained invaluable
2 operational and command experience that aligns with U.S.
3 Strategic Command's many diverse missions. I have a deep
4 knowledge in many of those missions, lesser knowledge in a
5 few, but I promise, if confirmed, to learn and understand
6 all the STRATCOM missions and to lead, every day, to the
7 very best of my abilities.

8 And, if confirmed, I also hope to live up to the
9 expectations of the men and women of U.S. Strategic Command
10 as well as the leaders who came before me; in particular, my
11 current boss, Admiral Cecil Haney. He has been a truly
12 remarkable leader and commander. He's been a great boss.
13 He's taught me a lot. And it's very important to me that I
14 publicly thank him for what he has done. It's quite
15 humbling to be even considered for a position with such an
16 amazing legacy in history.

17 So, Mr. Chairman, let me close my remarks with a quote
18 from a great American who reminds me frequently what is
19 really important. That would be our son, Christopher. A
20 few years ago, he said, and he said it loud enough for a lot
21 of people to hear, "Dad, I've been watching you ever since
22 you made General, and I've noticed, you don't do any real
23 work anymore."

24 [Laughter.]

25 General Hyten: "You just have people." You know what?

1 I have to be honest, it upset me quite a bit when he said
2 it, because I feel like I have a pretty difficult job, I
3 work pretty hard, I have to deal with some really difficult
4 decisions in today's crazy world. But, the more I thought
5 about it, the truer it is. The real work is done by our
6 people, the sons and daughters of this great Nation, the
7 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who stand the watch
8 every night, the amazing warriors who deploy into harm's way
9 every day. They are the true heroes. If confirmed, I'll
10 simply be lucky enough to have the opportunity to lead,
11 serve, and work with them a little bit longer.

12 Mr. Chairman, Senator Reed, members of the committee,
13 thank you again. I look forward to your questions.

14 [The prepared statement of General Hyten follows:]
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1 Chairman McCain: Thank you very much, General.

2 Yesterday, you and I had, in a classified setting, a
3 conversation that I've been thinking about ever since. And
4 I know there are a lot of things that you can't say in an
5 open hearing, but, is it correct to assume that our
6 adversaries, specifically the Russians, but also the
7 Chinese, are attempting to, or have achieved, an ability to
8 cripple our operations in space?

9 General Hyten: Senator, I believe that they are
10 building those capabilities today. We have an amazing force
11 structure in space, and both the Chinese and the Russians,
12 in particular, have been watching those capabilities be
13 employed on the battlefield for the last 20 years. And, in
14 response to that, they're building counterspace capabilities
15 to deny us those capabilities in conflict.

16 Chairman McCain: So, they are developing capabilities
17 specifically designed to cripple our capabilities in space.

18 General Hyten: Yes, sir, they are.

19 Chairman McCain: Which is certainly not something the
20 United States of America is doing.

21 General Hyten: We are not going down that path,
22 Senator.

23 Chairman McCain: So, again, I understand that this is
24 an open hearing, but shouldn't we be really concerned about,
25 especially in the last few years, the increase in

1 capabilities that both Russia and China have displayed, have
2 demonstrated, that, if used in a certain way, could
3 literally cripple a lot of our activities in space? And I'd
4 -- I'm very aware that there is certainly sensitivity to
5 some of your answers, but I'm not sure that the American
6 people, and even members of this committee, are as aware as
7 they should be of this emerging challenge.

8 General Hyten: Senator, it is an emerging challenge.
9 I believe, as you said in your opening statement, in the
10 last few years, the United States, the Department of Defense
11 has aggressively moved out to develop responses to the
12 threats that we see coming from China and Russia. I believe
13 it's essential that we go faster in our responses.

14 We've worked with the National Reconnaissance Office
15 and all our joint space forces and developed what we call a
16 Space Enterprise Vision that looks out at the future and
17 says, "This is the kind of capability we need to operate in
18 a world where conflict extends into space." I think it's a
19 good vision. The vision will always change. We'll continue
20 to share that information with your committee, sir, and
21 we'll continue to work with the Congress to make sure we can
22 build those capabilities that we need to respond.

23 Chairman McCain: Well, I'm not one who enjoys these
24 classified briefings, but I'm seriously considering, when we
25 come back, having a classified briefing in our committee,

1 because the information is deeply disturbing. And I say,
2 with some immodesty, I keep up with what's going on in the
3 world, but I was not aware of the significance and the depth
4 of the challenge, until our conversation yesterday. And do
5 you think that we have a cohesive strategy to counter this
6 challenge, or do we need to do a lot more?

7 General Hyten: Senator, I think we have a cohesive
8 strategy of what that end state looks like for the United
9 States that will allow us to continue, as we can today, to
10 defeat any adversary that would want to threaten us in any
11 domain, as well as space. I do have some concerns of our
12 ability to move fast enough to build those capabilities that
13 we need to respond to the specific threats I shared with you
14 yesterday, sir.

15 Chairman McCain: In other words, what they're
16 developing in a relatively short period of time -- months
17 and a few years -- is now taking us immeasurably longer
18 time.

19 General Hyten: We are moving much slower in certain
20 areas than our adversaries. We need our industry and our
21 acquisition process to move faster, sir.

22 Chairman McCain: The Russians modernized each leg of
23 their strategic triad. By 2020, 70 percent of their nuclear
24 forces will be replaced with new systems. Russians violated
25 the INF Treaty by developing a nuclear ground-launch cruise

1 missile, expanded their deployment of air- and sea-launch
2 cruise missiles that are not limited by the New START Treaty
3 and which can target the U.S. Concert with their invasion
4 of Crimea, they threaten our allies with nuclear attacks
5 while exercising their nuclear forces near allied territory,
6 and are developing an underwater nuclear drone designed to
7 cause maximum damage to the United States coastal targets.

8 What does this suggest about the role of nuclear
9 weapons in Russia's national security strategy? And what
10 should the U.S. -- and STRATCOM, in particular -- do in
11 response?

12 General Hyten: Senator, I think there's two elements
13 in the response to that question. The first element is, if
14 you look at what Russia has been doing over the last number
15 of years, I think it's in direct response to what we've been
16 doing as a Nation over the last 20 years. They are
17 modernizing the capabilities they see. They've watched the
18 amazing conventional force that we have developed, that can
19 serious -- significantly dominate any battlefield on the
20 world today, and I believe that they're concerned about
21 their ability to respond in a conventional arena.

22 Therefore, I think it's logical, from their perspective, to
23 make sure that they continue to modernize all their forces,
24 including their nuclear forces, in all areas.

25 And I think the second piece of the answer to the

1 question is, they're -- they've also watched the power of
2 our alliances, our -- the power of our partnerships. And
3 they're challenging the status quo across Europe, in Crimea,
4 in a number of areas, pushing and creating tension within
5 our partnerships and alliances, which is another significant
6 advantage that the United States has built over the last 20
7 years, sir.

8 Chairman McCain: I thank you, General.

9 Senator Reed.

10 General Hyten: Thank you, Senator.

11 Senator Reed: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

12 And I'd like to ask just a very few questions, maybe
13 one, before I must leave.

14 General Hyten, Strategic Command is responsible for
15 synchronizing our electronic warfare efforts. And years
16 ago, those were jamming, radar, and now cyber is a big part
17 of this domain. Can you give us your thoughts on the
18 interaction between electronic warfare, the traditional, as
19 I suggested, cyber, and also the role of Cyber Command?
20 Just your thoughts.

21 General Hyten: Yes, sir.

22 So, I look at the problem in the following construct.
23 I see cyber as a domain. Cyber is a place where we conduct
24 missions. One of those missions we conduct in the
25 cyberdomain is electronic warfare. Electronic warfare is,

1 basically, trying to control the electromagnetic spectrum to
2 your advantage. We have some significant capabilities in
3 the electromagnetic spectrum, but those capabilities have
4 also had less focus than they probably should have over the
5 last number of years.

6 I look at it in my own service, where the electronic
7 warfare missions in the United States Air Force have not had
8 as significant a priority as many of the other areas as
9 we've gone, especially, the last 15 years of conflict in the
10 Middle East.

11 If I'm confirmed as Commander U.S. STRATCOM, I can
12 pledge to you that I'll continue to look across the entire
13 Department of Defense, all our capabilities, to make sure
14 that we understand electromagnetic warfare, the role in
15 cyberspace, and how we control the electromagnetic spectrum.

16 Senator Reed: Thank you very much, General. I look
17 forward to working with you. And again, I apologize for my
18 departure.

19 General Hyten: Thank you, Senator.

20 Chairman McCain: If I might take a minute of your
21 time.

22 North Korea. Are they developing capability to strike
23 the United States of America?

24 General Hyten: From my perspective, Senator, I believe
25 that they are developing that capability. I think Kim Jong

1 UN has made it clear that's the development. In the news
2 this morning, there was a news of a -- a test of a new, very
3 large rocket engine, a rocket engine that he said would be
4 capable of going to the geosynchronous orbit in space. If
5 it has that capability, it has the ability to reach the
6 United States.

7 So, I'm very concerned about that. I haven't seen the
8 intelligence report. I'm just commenting on what I saw on
9 the news this morning, Senator.

10 Chairman McCain: Senator Inhofe.

11 Senator Inhofe: General, I think there's going to be a
12 lot of redundancy in the questions that are going to be
13 asked up here. Everyone's concerned. We've had -- we've
14 had people come in and testify to us as to the fact that
15 we're not keeping up, where we should; we're not advancing
16 far enough ahead. James Clapper, for -- several years ago,
17 talked about what we're looking at. Admiral Haney testified
18 before this committee, talking about -- we're not meeting
19 the critical investment timelines to ensure that our aging
20 platforms and weapons can maintain their superiority. We
21 heard from Admiral Winnifield. That was actually last year
22 before the House committee, when he talked about -- any
23 remaining margin we have for investing our nuclear deterrent
24 has been steadily whittled away. So, we hear this all the
25 time. And then, when we have our nonpublic meetings, we

1 hear a lot worse things. The Chairman referred to that.

2 So, I just look at this, and I know that we're
3 concerned when we talk about China and Russia. But, I
4 personally get more concerned on something that you -- that
5 the Chairman just touched on, that's North Korea and Iran.
6 I mean, these people, they want to kill everyone in this
7 room. There's -- in the case of North Korea, it's run by a
8 guy who's mentally deranged. And this is really scary. I
9 mean, you're getting into a -- the toughest job in the
10 United States of America right now. And I'm very much
11 concerned about it. We know that Russia and China are
12 actively modernizing their nuclear weapons and delivery
13 systems. North Korea continues to develop its submarine,
14 land, and launched ballistic missiles, and conducted its
15 fifth and largest nuke test just 2 weeks ago, on the 9th of
16 September.

17 So, I think it would probably be a good thing for you
18 to give us as much of a detailed assessment in this setting
19 as you can on North Korea and Iran.

20 General Hyten: So, I -- the way I look at the threats
21 across the world, Senator Inhofe, is, I think that Russia is
22 the most dangerous threat, China is a close second, but the
23 most likely threats and the most concerning are North Korea
24 --

25 Senator Inhofe: Yeah.

1 General Hyten: -- and then Iran, because North Korea
2 is very unpredictable. It's hard to tell exactly what
3 they're going to do.

4 But, I do want to caveat the unpredictability of North
5 Korea a little bit, because if you look at what they're
6 doing with their missile programs as well as the nuclear
7 testing programs, and you compare it to where we are today,
8 it looks very "beginning." But, if you look at it, when you
9 think back to where we were when we started flying missiles
10 and we started building those capabilities, we had failure
11 after failure after failure, and we ended up getting there.
12 So, what concerns me most is, they will get there.

13 Senator Inhofe: Yeah.

14 General Hyten: They're going to get there. And then,
15 once they have those capabilities, what are they going to do
16 with them? That's my biggest concern. And if I'm concerned
17 as Commander of STRATCOM, that will be at the top of my
18 list, to figure out how we best respond to that threat --

19 Senator Inhofe: Well, I'm -- and I'm glad that's your
20 biggest concern, because it's mine, too.

21 Back when this administration first went in, I was
22 critical when they cut the -- this is '09 budget -- they cut
23 the missile defense by \$1.4 billion, and then delayed the --
24 our -- and then later terminated the third missile defense
25 site, in the Czech Republic and Poland. I can remember

1 being over there and talking to the President of the Czech
2 Republic, which I have, just, a lot of respect for, and he
3 made the statement to me, he said, "You know, if we do what
4 we're talking about doing here in Poland and the Czech
5 Republic, where it's going to enrage the Russians to the
6 point, they're going to -- and so, we're taking a risk. Are
7 you sure that you're not going to pull the rug out from
8 under us if we start?" And, obviously, we pulled the rug
9 out from under them.

10 Now, I've talked to a lot of people that -- in private,
11 they'll talk about that that wasn't a good idea. And I'm not
12 even going to bring that up now. I'm just saying that I
13 didn't like the way we were headed, back there at the
14 beginning of this administration. Then we went from 44 of
15 the sites, from Alaska down to California, down to 30, and I
16 think now we're -- and aren't we going back up now to the --

17 General Hyten: Forty-four.

18 Senator Inhofe: -- to the 44? Where we started. Was
19 that a necessary drop and then increase? I won't ask you
20 the question, but I think it was.

21 So, I just would -- would just say that it's a tough
22 job you've got. I'm very much concerned about it. And I'm
23 hoping that we'll have an opportunity, members of this
24 committee and other members who really care in the United
25 States Senate, to hear from you on the versions, so we -- so

1 we'll know exactly where we are. The Chairman mentioned
2 that, and I wanted to reemphasize the importance of that,
3 that that be shared with all of us.

4 General Hyten: And, Senator, I'll just say that if the
5 Chairman asks, if any of the Senators ask, you'll have my
6 top attention, and you'll have a rapid response and my
7 honest opinion --

8 Senator Inhofe: That's great.

9 General Hyten: -- all the time.

10 Senator Inhofe: Thank you.

11 General Hyten: Yes, sir.

12 Chairman McCain: Senator Heinrich.

13 Senator Heinrich: General Hyten, first off,
14 congratulations on your nomination. It's an incredibly
15 important post, and I want to thank you for your continued
16 service and also your thoughtfulness in your answers to our
17 questions.

18 I want to start with the nuclear deterrent. And,
19 obviously, last year DOD spent about 15.4 billion on nuclear
20 weapons modernization. At the same time, the NNSA spent
21 about 8 and a half billion to service the stockpile and
22 support our nuclear labs. And, in total, that's roughly
23 about 24 billion, or about 4 percent of the base defense
24 budget. So, another way of looking at that is, we invest
25 about 4 cents out of every defense dollar in our nuclear

1 deterrent, which has effectively served as an insurance
2 policy and prevented another world war for over 70 years.

3 So, I want to just get your perspective on how you
4 intend to pursue the continued modernization of the nuclear
5 arsenal and infrastructure, and ask: In your opinion, what
6 will be your biggest challenges to maintain that stockpile
7 as safe, secure, and reliable, as well as ready, as Senator
8 Reed mentioned?

9 General Hyten: So, Senator, I think it's essential
10 that we always maintain a fully ready nuclear deterrent
11 capability. There should be no doubt that the Nation needs
12 that capability as the backstop for everything that we do as
13 a military.

14 If I'm confirmed, one of the duties that I would have
15 as Commander of STRATCOM is as a member of the Nuclear
16 Weapons Council chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense
17 for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. The NNSA is
18 also on that committee, as well as the Vice Chairman, Under
19 Secretary for Policy. Through that committee, we will look
20 at the nuclear weapon stockpile and make sure that it is
21 always safe, secure, and reliable.

22 In the last year, I've got to visit the three big
23 National Labs -- Livermore, Los Alamos, Sandia.

24 Senator Heinrich: Right.

25 General Hyten: And I go there for space reasons in my

1 current position. But, when I'm there, just because I'm
2 curious, intellectually, I ask about the nuclear stockpile,
3 and they explain how they're certifying the nuclear
4 stockpile every year. If I'm confirmed, it'll become much
5 more important to me, and I'll look at it a lot deeper.

6 Senator Heinrich: Right.

7 Sort of a related question. Obviously, a number of the
8 members have brought up how much the nuclear landscape has
9 changed in recent years, the proliferation we've seen over
10 the course of the last couple of decades. As that nuclear
11 landscape changes, how should that generally inform or
12 potentially change our nuclear posture in the world?

13 General Hyten: So, I think it's important that we --
14 as we look at the international situation concerning nuclear
15 weapons, that we don't get too focused on just the strategic
16 nuclear weapons. We need to take a hard look at the
17 tactical nuclear weapons. I think the Chairman mentioned
18 the tactical nuclear weapons in his statement. We need to
19 look at the nonstrategic nuclear weapons, and look at it as
20 a total. Because I think it's -- a nuclear weapon is
21 significant. It doesn't matter how it's employed --
22 tactical, nonstrategic, strategic -- that's a significant
23 event in the history of the world, and we should look at
24 them together, Senator.

25 Senator Heinrich: Okay. Thank you.

1 General Hyten: Thank you.

2 Senator Heinrich: In your written response to the
3 committee, you state that the operationally responsive space
4 program has been a successful pathfinder to responsiveness,
5 and that, in quoting you, "We must infuse this thinking
6 across our entire enterprise and into the broader space
7 industry," end quote. I agree with that estimation. I'd
8 love to ask you to expand a little bit on how you would
9 pursue that goal. And, as emerging commercial capabilities
10 for the small-launch market become operational, how would
11 you intend to leverage those kinds of services to enhance
12 the DOD's access to space, as well?

13 General Hyten: So, in many ways, it goes back to the
14 Chairman's comment in his opening statement and my response
15 about the need to go fast. The need to go fast is so
16 important in today's world. And many of our traditional
17 processes are very slow. In many ways, I don't like the
18 term "operationally responsive space," because I think we're
19 operationally responsive in everything that we do. But, the
20 thing about operationally responsive space, or ORS, is, it
21 goes fast, and it goes much faster than other processes.
22 Those are the processes that we need to transition into the
23 broader space community.

24 And then if you look at the commercial sector, the
25 commercial sector has been on the verge of something special

1 for a long time, but I think they're about there, both on
2 the launch side as well as the satellite side. I think, in
3 the not too distant future, we'll have, perhaps, ubiquitous
4 communications, ubiquitous imagery. If that is the case --
5 and that's in the commercial side -- we, as a Nation, need
6 to be able to take advantage of that. Because the most
7 important thing for us, in many cases, is persistence. And
8 we may be able to achieve a lot of that persistence, even
9 though we don't get as high a resolution, from those
10 commercial capabilities.

11 Senator Heinrich: Thank you. And I couldn't agree
12 more. I look forward to, if you're confirmed, working with
13 you on that, because I think that really encapsulates much
14 of what we have to do now, in terms of reacting quickly.

15 The last issue I'll bring up real quickly is trusted
16 supply of strategic -- trust microelectronics. Obviously,
17 NSA requires a trusted supply of strategic radiation-
18 hardened microsystems for our nuclear stockpile. Those are
19 produced ask Sandia. I think you visited last year. Our
20 military weapon systems and platforms, however, do not have
21 a trusted supply of microelectronics for the future. And I
22 know this is an issue that the Secretary is aware of. What
23 are your thoughts on maintaining a trusted microelectronics
24 -- or, microsystems capability in government to meet the
25 specific requirements of both the military and the Nation's

1 nuclear stockpile? And do you see opportunities there to
2 partner with the private sector to achieve that goal?

3 General Hyten: So, I think anytime you're talking
4 about part supplies, you have to be partner with the private
5 sector. That's -- they're going to generate the supplies,
6 one way or the other. I am concerned about the depth of our
7 industry, in terms of how many suppliers we have, how are
8 they certified, how are the parts controlled. We have very
9 significant concerns in space.

10 As the Commander of Strategic Command, I'll be a
11 demanding customer of the services that support U.S.
12 Strategic Command, if I'm confirmed, to make sure that we
13 continue to look at that problem across the board. But,
14 Senator, I agree, that's a concern we need to monitor.

15 Senator Heinrich: Thank you, General.

16 Chairman McCain: Senator Fischer.

17 Senator Fischer: Welcome, General. It's nice to see
18 you and your family here today. I appreciate the visit that
19 we had in my office earlier last week, and your candor and
20 the information that you provided.

21 In 2011, the President committed to modernize the triad
22 of strategic nuclear delivery systems, including the air-
23 launch cruise missile. And, to its credit in recent years,
24 the Department has generally proposed budgets supporting
25 nuclear modernization. And senior leaders, such as the

1 Secretary, have referred to that deterrent as the bedrock of
2 our national security. I believe that that has correctly
3 stressed the importance that we follow through with these
4 plans.

5 Do you agree that we must modernize all three legs of
6 the triad, including the air-launch cruise missile? Or do
7 you think these plans should -- need to be reconsidered?

8 General Hyten: Ma'am, I agree we have to modernize all
9 three elements of the nuclear triad. I can't state my
10 support any stronger. And I'll continue to -- if I'm
11 confirmed, to state that in all forums.

12 Senator Fischer: Thank you. Some observers have
13 argued that a penetrating bomber armed with nuclear gravity
14 bombs obviates the need for a standoff weapon, such as a
15 cruise missile. Do you think that those weapon systems are
16 duplicative?

17 General Hyten: Well, if I'm confirmed as Commander of
18 STRATCOM, I'll look into it a lot more depth; but, from my
19 35 years in the military, I believe you need the flexibility
20 that a -- that an air-launch cruise missile with a long-
21 range strike option can provide you. There's always a
22 challenge to a bomber. And it doesn't matter how stealthy
23 that bomber is, it doesn't matter how capable that bomber
24 is. I believe a long-range strike option, I -- advanced
25 cruise missiles -- gives the President of the United States

1 flexibility in the air arm that is essential as part of the
2 triad. And I would recommend strongly that we pursue that
3 option.

4 Senator Fischer: When we were in my office, I told you
5 that, when I was visiting with General Kehler, a previous
6 Commander at STRATCOM, that he gave such a really great
7 definition and explanation of why we need a triad, and the
8 importance of each leg of that triad. You've just touched
9 on that. Would you like to expand on it?

10 General Hyten: So, I -- after we -- General Kehler
11 used to be my boss, so, after we talked, I contacted General
12 Kehler, saying, "Hey, Senator Fischer said you had something
13 brilliant about the triad."

14 Senator Fischer: Did he remember?

15 General Hyten: He said, "Well, I'm sure it was
16 brilliant, but I don't remember what it was."

17 [Laughter.]

18 General Hyten: But -- no, he did send me a couple of
19 speeches. And, basically, the fundamental piece of his
20 words, I think, that are very powerful, is that each element
21 provides such a significant different attribute that is so
22 important to the security of our Nation in the triad. The
23 bombers are the most flexible. The submarines are the most
24 survivable. And the ICBMs are the most ready and
25 responsive. And each of those is essential to the security

1 of our Nation. That's why the triad is so important.

2 Senator Fischer: Thank you.

3 Admiral Haney testified before this committee, earlier
4 this year, that the 2017 budget supported his mission
5 requirements, but he also said, quote, "There is no margin
6 to absorb risk." Do you agree with that assessment?

7 General Hyten: I agree with that assessment on the Air
8 Force side, certainly, Senator, but let me just say that I'm
9 not as fully versed on the Navy programs as on the Air Force
10 programs. As a four-star general in the Air Force, I sit in
11 the corporate process. So, I'm very concerned about the
12 just-in-time nature of our strategic modernization program
13 on the Air Force side. If I'm confirmed, I'll certainly
14 look hard on the Navy side. But, I've talked with the Navy
15 leadership, I've talked to many people in the business the
16 last week, and they're all concerned on the Navy side, as
17 well.

18 Senator Fischer: Okay, thank you.

19 Your predecessor and other senior commanders have also
20 stated that further reduction in our nuclear forces should
21 come only as a result of bilateral, negotiated, and
22 verifiable agreements. Do you agree with that position?

23 General Hyten: Yes, ma'am, I do.

24 Senator Fischer: And can you discuss the relationship
25 between modernization and nuclear reductions? It seems to

1 me that the more modern and responsive our nuclear
2 enterprise is, the less need there would be to retain those
3 legacy systems. But yet, on the other hand, failure to
4 modernize could give us no other option than that we retain
5 significant stockpiles. So, what is your view on that?

6 General Hyten: I think if you -- there's been five
7 terms that various Senators, including the Chairman, have
8 talked about today, and that is "safe, secure, effective,
9 ready, reliable." And if you look at those five terms,
10 that's -- describes what we have to do in order to modernize
11 our capabilities to make sure that those five terms are
12 always there. What you can't have is one element drop off.
13 You can't have the weapons readiness drop off. The weapons
14 have to be ready, the delivery platforms have to be ready,
15 they have to be safe and secure all the way. I think the
16 United States and any nation that has nuclear weapons is
17 responsible for making sure they're all safe and secure and
18 they're always under political control. I think that
19 applies to any nation. And that's one of the reasons we
20 need to modernize, so we can make sure that that is always
21 the case.

22 Senator Fischer: Thank you, General. My -- thank you
23 for your service and your willingness to continue to serve
24 in a very important position as Commander of STRATCOM.

25 Thank you.

1 General Hyten: Thank you, Senator.

2 Chairman McCain: Senator Blumenthal.

3 Senator Blumenthal: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

4 Thank you for being here, and thank you for your long
5 and distinguished service, along with your family's. I am
6 here as a father of two sons who also went to Harvard and
7 also became military officers, neither in the Air Force, and
8 one is out now, one is still in the military. So, it's a
9 rather unusual career choice for Harvard graduates, I know,
10 and I congratulate you on making your choice and serving our
11 country with such dedication and ability. So, thank you.

12 I want to ask about one of the legs of the nuclear
13 triad, the Ohio replacement program. And you have
14 mentioned, very correctly, the survivability of our
15 submarine force as a means of delivering and defending our
16 Nation, delivering a profoundly important deterrent. Let me
17 ask you, Are you committed, and will you commit, to fully
18 supporting the Ohio replacement program?

19 General Hyten: Yes, sir, I will.

20 Senator Blumenthal: And will you commit to being an
21 advocate of it? Because I think it will take advocates in a
22 time of increasingly threatened fiscal resources and a very
23 expensive commitment that is necessary to being an advocate
24 of it.

25 General Hyten: I will advocate for all of the elements

1 of the nuclear triad, all three.

2 Senator Blumenthal: And maybe you can describe for
3 Americans why the Ohio replacement program is so
4 fundamentally important to our nuclear defense.

5 General Hyten: Well, again, from my background, I'm
6 not as deeply versed in the Navy's nuclear capability as I
7 am the Air Force's. Nonetheless, I've looked at that
8 recently, to some level, and I'll share my thoughts with
9 you, Senator.

10 My concern is, is that we'll reach a point in the not-
11 too-distant future where the existing Navy submarines will
12 not be able to effectively and safely conduct their
13 operations because of the age of both the reactor and the
14 ship. And we never -- we can never reach that point.
15 That's why the Ohio-class replacement program is so
16 essential, because, by the time we reach that point, it is
17 essential that we have a new submarine to replace it.

18 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you.

19 I want to shift to the cybersecurity area, which is
20 related to our capabilities in space, is it not?

21 General Hyten: Yes.

22 Senator Blumenthal: There was a column, recently,
23 written by David Ignatius, entitled "The Cold War Is Over,
24 The Cyber War Has Begun." I think it reflects a growing
25 sense that one of the great challenges, if not the biggest,

1 ahead in the immediate future is our increasing
2 confrontation with other powers, notably the Chinese and the
3 Russians, most recently -- and dramatically, the Russians,
4 in recent hacking -- over their capabilities in cyber and
5 their apparent willingness to use them against us. Do you
6 have any thoughts about how we can work to improve our
7 response to cyber attacks with a coordinated reaction from
8 our entire government? How can domestic agencies best work
9 with the Department of Defense to shore up our security
10 system, both in space and here?

11 And I might add that the Chairman and I recently, in a
12 hearing, confronted a number of our security leaders --
13 Admiral Rogers among them -- with this kind of question. And
14 I left, frankly, somewhat worried about the ability of this
15 country to respond.

16 General Hyten: So, much of that question is best
17 discussed in a classified forum, but I'll share my top-level
18 thoughts with you, Senator.

19 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you.

20 General Hyten: So, from a big-picture perspective, if
21 you look at space and cyber -- and, in my current job, we
22 have space and cyber in the same command, in the United
23 States Air Force -- and a lot of the effects we create are
24 exactly the same. It's to provide information -- pathways
25 for information, deny adversaries information in times of

1 conflict. That's what we do in space. That's what we do in
2 cyber. But, the difference is, the cost of entry into
3 cyberspace is very low. That's the attractiveness for
4 potential adversaries, because the cost of access is so low.
5 So, to respond to it -- you hit the most important thing --
6 it has to be a whole-of-government response all the way
7 through.

8 From a military perspective, I would like to get to the
9 point in cyberspace where we treat it just as a domain where
10 we conduct operations. We tend to contaminate that
11 discussion with a lot of legal implications, which are
12 extremely important, that usually are worked through either
13 the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, a number of
14 elements. That's why it has to be a whole-of-government
15 response.

16 But, from a military perspective, I think it's
17 essential that we look at cyberspace as a place where bad
18 actors are. We need to be able to identify them, and, if
19 they are threatening the United States, we need to be able
20 to eliminate that actor from cyberspace. It's the same as
21 any other domain.

22 It's going to be a very complicated process, though,
23 because it is important. As an American citizen, my privacy
24 is just as important as -- to me as I think it is to every
25 other citizen. But, nonetheless, we have to figure out how

1 to treat cyberspace as an operation domain. I think you're
2 right to be worried, because we're, in many cases, not fully
3 embracing the military aspects of it.

4 Senator Blumenthal: Thank you very much. Thank you,
5 again, for your service. I welcome that answer. I'd like
6 to pursue it in another setting.

7 And my time is expired, but this is an important topic.
8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Chairman McCain: Senator Tillis.

10 Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 General, welcome.

12 In your opening comments you made, you quoted your son,
13 who I think you said graduated with a degree in physics. My
14 son graduated with a degree in physics and said almost
15 exactly the same thing about me: I just have people now.
16 But, I welcome you and congratulate your family on being
17 here today.

18 I've got maybe some ground-level questions to ask. One
19 is on the current status of the GPS OCX project. It's about
20 5 years -- looks it's, right now, 61 months, 5 years or so
21 past due. Could you talk a little bit about your position
22 on the significance and the importance of that project?

23 General Hyten: So, I was quoted in the press, Senator,
24 of calling that program a disaster. I think any program
25 that's 5 years late and a billion dollars over budget meets

1 the definition of "disaster." It's horrible. And it's
2 embarrassing to me that we find ourselves in that kind of
3 position in today's day and age. We should not have that
4 kind of program. But, we do.

5 The concern I have is, the legacy program we have right
6 now has significant information assurance vulnerabilities.
7 Basically, we're plugging those holes as fast as we can, and
8 the best way to do that is with people. And, as you were
9 talking about, people are our most valuable resource. And
10 we have to divert a lot of people to secure that critical
11 capability for the United States and the world.

12 The OCX program would fix those problems. And so, I
13 have told the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition,
14 Technology, and Logistics that if he thinks that program
15 will succeed, I will support it, because we need that
16 capability desperately. If he thinks it will fail, I'll
17 support the termination of that program. It's up to him.
18 Right now, he believes that program will succeed, and
19 they're doing 3-month deep dives into that program to make
20 sure that it's -- will. But, we're going to watch it very
21 closely all the way through.

22 Senator Tillis: Well, I think that the people involved
23 in it, to the extent that the people who were involved in
24 what is now a billion-dollar overrun and 5-year delay, that
25 we need to make sure we have other sets of eyes looking at

1 that to make sure that the decision to move forward or to
2 cancel the project is one that has independent, objective
3 input.

4 I have a question about the current arsenal. And this
5 discussion came up in last year's NDAA. We have some
6 weapons that I understand are reaching a point to where they
7 wouldn't be used, and that they need to be decommissioned.
8 There are others that, if we decommission them, some think
9 that we would be unilaterally disarming. Could you talk a
10 little bit about that issue and where you are on it?

11 General Hyten: I'm not as deeply versed in that area
12 as I would be if I'm confirmed and I become the Commander of
13 Strategic Command. I can guarantee, if I'm confirmed, I'm
14 going to get into that in a significant depth. But, looking
15 at a number of the capabilities that we have, we have issues
16 on the weapons delivery platforms, whether that's the
17 submarine we were just talking about, whether it's the ICBM,
18 whether it's the bomber, whether it's the long-range strike
19 capability with the new cruise missile. We have issues with
20 our nuclear weapons that we have to continue to look at and
21 figure out how to modernize. If I'm confirmed, I'll work
22 closely with the National Labs and the National Nuclear
23 Security Administration to make sure that we watch those
24 capabilities closely.

25 And then we have some -- I have some concerns on our

1 nuclear command-and-control capabilities aging out, as well.
2 And I think we need to watch closely those capabilities and
3 make sure we modernize those capabilities along with the
4 rest of the enterprise.

5 Senator Tillis: Thank you.

6 I have a question about unity of command. I think you
7 lean more towards unity of effort. So, I'd like to have you
8 talk a little bit about why you do that, in the context of,
9 maybe, something along the lines of one of our satellites
10 get damaged by an adversary. Who's in charge in reacting to
11 that threat? That would be one way -- that would be one
12 part of the context I'd like you to answer the question.
13 The other one, I think you were part of a war game, Shriver
14 15. And I'd be kind of curious to see if there were any
15 challenges exposed concerning that coordination in command,
16 in the context of unity of effort versus unity of command.

17 General Hyten: So, Senator, it -- I'm probably one of
18 the biggest believers in unity of command in the world. And
19 we -- when we started down this project to figure out how we
20 command and control space capabilities, I have to admit that
21 I was a very vocal opponent to the unity-of-effort
22 construct. I honestly didn't think it would work.

23 But, you know, we all have a process, we all have
24 bosses, and we decided we would pursue the unity-of-effort
25 construct in real experimentation, with the intelligence

1 community, the National Reconnaissance Office, and see if it
2 would work. And, to my surprise, it actually did work. And
3 it worked effectively, because the Director of the NRO and
4 the Director of National Intelligence made sure that, if we
5 had to make a decision quickly, that decision process would
6 work very effectively through an operational center, and the
7 Commander of Strategic Command would be the one to explain
8 it to the President of the United States if we had to go
9 down that path. So, we ended up in a very good place. I
10 have to admit, I was a little surprised as we went through
11 that.

12 Senator Tillis: Thank you.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 Chairman McCain: Senator King.

15 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 General, I'd like to put a finer point on your son
17 Chris's observation. I worked here 40 years ago as a staff
18 member and was once called upon to set up a hearing, and
19 called the Office of Management and Budget for a witness
20 from the administration. The fellow said, "We're going to
21 send you the Deputy Under Secretary of Such and Such," and I
22 said, "Well, I don't really understand these titles. Can
23 you tell me who this guy is?" And his answer, if I ever
24 write a book about Washington, will be the title. He said,
25 "He's at the highest level where they still know anything."

1 I think the bad news is, you and I are now above that level.

2 [Laughter.]

3 Senator King: Deterrence has been a theory and a
4 doctrine that has served this Nation well for 70 years.
5 It's really, I think, been a huge -- hugely successful
6 theoretical construct. But, the problem is, it seems to me,
7 in the modern day, is it rests upon a premise of rationality
8 on both sides. Does deterrent work -- deterrence -- the
9 theory of deterrence work against a madman or a suicidal
10 fanatic? Do we need to be thinking about Deterrence 2.0
11 because of that potential lack of rationality on the other
12 side that wouldn't be concerned about the destruction of
13 their country? Or perhaps they're possessing nuclear
14 weapons and don't have a country to destroy.

15 General Hyten: So, Senator, I think we need to look at
16 Deterrence 2.0, 3.0, 4.0. And the deterrence in the 21st
17 century, I think, is fundamentally different than it was in
18 the 20th century. I think deterrence in the 21st century
19 involves all elements of national power. And just not our
20 nuclear deterrent. It involves space, it involves cyber, it
21 involves our conventional forces, it involves offense and
22 defense on the strategic side of the house. I think you
23 have to look at the integrated defensive capabilities if
24 you're talking about responding to North Korea or Iran, and
25 that defensive capability becomes an essential element of

1 our deterrent posture.

2 Senator King: And -- but, we also have to think about
3 who the -- who we're deterring and what works, what would be
4 the -- I mean, again, the -- deterrence is an idea that --
5 mutually assured destruction, but you have tailor it to the
6 other side.

7 General Hyten: And you do. And I think, if you look
8 at North Korea, for example, the unpredictability is the
9 hardest thing to deter. How do you deter somebody or
10 something that is unpredictable? That's very difficult.
11 That's why you have to have a defensive mechanism that will
12 assure that, if they wanted to attack the United States, it
13 will fail and then leave the President all the response
14 options with the rest of the capabilities that we have in
15 order to respond to it.

16 Senator King: And they have to know that.

17 General Hyten: And they have to know that. So, we
18 have to make sure that is -- that it's readily transparent
19 to all the world and all our adversaries.

20 Senator King: That we have both the means and the
21 will.

22 General Hyten: To defend ourselves and to respond if
23 we need to.

24 Senator King: A few months ago, a group of us went on
25 the NAOC, National Airborne Operation Center. And the thing

1 that struck me as we went through a nuclear attack scenario
2 simulation was that, in that situation, (a) there's a very
3 limited amount of time for decisionmaking, and (2) only one
4 person makes the decision: the President. I had never --
5 there's no check and balance, there's no Congress, there's
6 no required consultation. Is that correct?

7 General Hyten: That is correct, sir. That's the
8 Constitution.

9 Senator King: And it is -- that's a sole -- the
10 responsibility of that person, who will be making that
11 decision in a matter of minutes. I think the exercise we
12 were in, there was 28 minutes. If it was a missile coming
13 from offshore, it would be 5 or 10 minutes. Is that
14 correct?

15 General Hyten: And -- yes, sir -- and, like I said, I
16 love the Constitution. I swore an oath to defend the
17 Constitution every day. And Article II, Section 2 of the
18 Constitution is one of the reasons I'm here, is because the
19 advice-and-consent clause in the Constitution requires me to
20 appear before the Senate to be confirmed before I move on,
21 but it also establishes the President of the United States
22 as the Commander in Chief, the sole Commander in Chief of
23 our Armed Forces.

24 Senator King: And there's no advice and consent on
25 that decision that could hold in the hands of the President

1 the future of civilization.

2 General Hyten: And there are two elements -- two big
3 elements in that clause in the Constitution, one to
4 establish the President as Commander in Chief, and the other
5 is advice and consent of the Senate.

6 Senator King: But, advice and consent doesn't apply in
7 this situation.

8 General Hyten: The Commander in Chief is the Commander
9 in Chief.

10 Chairman McCain: There's also provisions in the
11 Constitution for navies and armed forces, et cetera, and the
12 role of the United States Congress. We are three coequal
13 branches of government. Okay? Executive, legislative, and
14 judicial. And the President proposes and the Congress
15 disposes. So, I understand your point about the Commander
16 in Chief. This administration has done more to ignore the
17 Congress of the United States than any administration that I
18 have been associated with.

19 Senator King: Going back to the NAOC, command --
20 controlling the communication, are you satisfied -- when
21 we're talking about modernization, the focus is almost
22 always on the triad. It seems to me that's an area that
23 also needs modernization and strong consideration.

24 General Hyten: Yes, sir, it does. And the big
25 challenge as we look at modernizing the nuclear command-and-

1 control capabilities of the United States will be the
2 cyberthreat, which will be much different than it was when
3 we created the current nuclear command-and-control
4 environment.

5 Senator King: My time's just about over. This is a
6 one-word question. Should Cyber Command be elevated to a
7 separate combatant command?

8 General Hyten: Yes, I believe it's time to elevate
9 Cyber Command to a separate combatant command.

10 Senator King: Thank you. Thank you, General.

11 Mr. Chairman.

12 Chairman McCain: Senator Ayotte.

13 Senator Ayotte: Thank you, Chairman.

14 I want to thank you, General, and thank your family,
15 for your service to our country.

16 I wanted to follow up on one of your -- the answers to
17 your advance policy questions. And you were asked, What are
18 the most serious strategic threats facing the United States
19 today? And among your answers, you mentioned the
20 increasingly provocative and destabilizing behavior by
21 potential adversaries like Iran. What I wanted to ask you
22 is, Why do you believe that there is significant concern
23 about the adversary of Iran? And also wanted to hear your
24 opinion about the impact of their pursuit of their ballistic
25 missile program, which they have done quite aggressively,

1 even post-JCPOA.

2 General Hyten: Yes, Senator. So, I think you answered
3 -- you provided part of the answer when you started talking
4 about the ballistic missile program. But, I think there's
5 three elements that concern me about Iran in the last year.
6 Element number one is, they continue to be the foremost
7 state sponsor of terrorism in the world. That should be
8 enough to cause the Nation concern. Second is their
9 continuing pursuit of new ballistic missile program and
10 testing ballistic missiles over the last couple of years.
11 And then, third, a statement, after one of the tests early
12 in March this year, by a member of the Iranian military that
13 said, "We're building this capability to threaten Israel."
14 So, you put those three statements together, and you look at
15 the technology they're pursuing, that's why I -- I'm
16 concerned about Iran.

17 Senator Ayotte: And their ballistic missile program,
18 from what I hear from your testimony, you believe this is a
19 real threat to Israel. Is that true?

20 General Hyten: They stated that it's a threat to
21 Israel.

22 Senator Ayotte: And what about, though, also, even our
23 forward-deployed troops in the European area and also our
24 European allies? I assume it represents a threat to us, as
25 well.

1 General Hyten: It does.

2 Senator Ayotte: And would you agree with what DNI
3 Clapper has said, when he's repeatedly testified, that
4 Tehran would choose ballistic missiles as its preferred
5 method of delivering nuclear weapons?

6 General Hyten: I agree with that.

7 Senator Ayotte: And so, I think we also need to focus
8 on making our own homeland, when it comes to their testing
9 and development of ballistic missiles. Would you agree with
10 that?

11 General Hyten: I think that has to be part of our
12 missile -- I believe that's the missile defense architecture
13 in the Pacific, and it needs to be in the Atlantic, as well.

14 Senator Ayotte: And when we look at their even most --
15 I mean, they've been, even post-JCPOA agreement, testing
16 ballistic missiles on multiple occasions. Do you believe
17 that their activities are inconsistent with the U.N.
18 Security Resolution 2231, which calls upon Iran not to
19 undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles
20 designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons,
21 including launches, using such ballistic missile technology?

22 General Hyten: That's more a policy question, but,
23 from a military perspective, I find that kind of behavior
24 extremely destabilizing and threatening.

25 Senator Ayotte: So, how are we going to address their

1 testing issue? What do you see your role in your Command
2 and ways that we should be more aggressively pushing back on
3 Iran on something of deep concern to us and our allies?

4 General Hyten: Well, again, Senator, I think a lot of
5 that question is for the political realm. My job is to, if
6 I'm confirmed as Commander of STRATCOM, will be to provide
7 military advice to the President, military advice, if asked
8 by this Congress.

9 I think you're asking for my military advice. My
10 military advice is that we always have to make sure that our
11 capabilities to respond to an Iranian threat are visible,
12 powerful, and ensure -- and to the deterrent discussion we
13 had a while ago -- that no adversary that would want to take
14 us on will -- at least they will think twice and reconsider
15 their actions before they do that. That's the job of the
16 Commander, U.S. Strategic Command. And, if confirmed, I'll
17 take that very seriously.

18 Senator Ayotte: Thank you, General.

19 And in the political realm, I would hope -- I've
20 introduced legislation to impose real sanctions on Iran for
21 their ballistic missile program. And I've been very
22 disappointed that the administration is, from my
23 perspective, pretty much ignoring their testing of ballistic
24 missiles.

25 I wanted to follow up with you of -- would love to have

1 you come, if confirmed, to visit New Hampshire, because we
2 have the 23rd Space Operations Squadron at New Boston Air
3 Force Station. And New Boston operates the largest Air
4 Force satellite-control network remote tracking station, and
5 they provide STRATCOM with very important satellite command-
6 and-control capability. So, I wanted to extend that
7 invitation, and I hope you'll take me up on it.

8 General Hyten: Thank you, ma'am. I've been to New
9 Boston many times. It's one of the most beautiful bases in
10 our country. It's a hidden treasure. But, they do
11 incredibly important mission for the Nation, as well. My
12 wife has been up to New Boston, as well. There's pretty
13 amazing airmen that do some awesome work up there.

14 Senator Ayotte: Well, we're glad you're very familiar
15 with New Boston. And they're going to be an important asset
16 to you in this new position.

17 Thank you.

18 General Hyten: Thank you.

19 Chairman McCain: Senator Donnelly.

20 Senator Donnelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 I want to thank your family, General. Thank you, to
22 all of you.

23 General, STRATCOM recently provided a requirements
24 letter to the DOD leadership related to hypersonic weapon
25 systems, and specifically conventional prompt strike. Are

1 you familiar with that?

2 General Hyten: I'm familiar with the broad topic.

3 Senator Donnelly: And I know some of this information
4 is sensitive, but, to what degree it is possible, What are
5 your thoughts on the importance of making progress on
6 conventional prompt strike?

7 General Hyten: I think that, from my position today as
8 Air Force Space Command, I think that that has a role to
9 play in the future. And, if I'm confirmed as Strategic
10 Command, I think that I'll need to work with all the
11 combatant commanders to make sure we get the requirements
12 right. Because I see a significant role for conventional
13 prompt global strike, in terms of our ability to hold any
14 target on the planet at risk at any time without having to
15 move into the nuclear realm. I think there is a powerful
16 requirement there. But, it's just not a STRATCOM
17 requirement, it is a requirement that I think all combatant
18 commanders will have to be involved with developing to make
19 sure we get it right before we start going down that path.

20 Senator Donnelly: The sooner CPS transitions from a
21 DOD risk-reduction project to a Navy program of record, I
22 think the sooner that system will reach its initial
23 operational capability. What is your view on the ideal
24 timing for CPS, from STRATCOM's standpoint?

25 General Hyten: I think -- from the Commander STRATCOM

1 perspective, I think "yesterday" would be a good answer. I
2 don't think there's -- if we had a capability to provide
3 prompt global strike, just think how it would fundamentally
4 change the equation, to go back to Senator King's question
5 about what deterrence is, because now you have a
6 conventional capability that can deter, as well as a nuclear
7 capability that can deter. So, from a Commander STRATCOM
8 perspective, I would like to see that answer being
9 "yesterday."

10 Senator Donnelly: The Air Force, General, I think, has
11 a -- has an historic opportunity to leverage research and
12 development, common parts, and lessons learned from the
13 Navy's recent Trident modernization program to reduce risk,
14 enhance savings, and field an extremely capable follow-on to
15 Minuteman III. There's been some difficult back-and-forth
16 on how best to leverage commonality across the two services.
17 But, when I go back to my home State of Indiana, Naval
18 Surface Warfare Center Crane, our Navy and Air Force
19 personnel are working very closely on this. And we're doing
20 incredible work for the Air Force, particularly in the area
21 of radiation-hardened electronic parts.

22 So, I know collaboration between Navy and Air Force is
23 happening on a daily basis at the staff level. If
24 confirmed, will you work to maximize commonality in
25 collaboration across the Air Force and Navy strategic

1 missile programs to reduce cost and risk?

2 General Hyten: So, if confirmed, I will advocate for
3 that. The Commander of STRATCOM is not in the direct
4 acquisition realm. That would be the service chiefs, for
5 the most part. But, I'm a huge believer -- as we build
6 things for the future, in particular -- to make sure we can
7 leverage commonality across those capabilities. I'm not a
8 big believer in trying to go back and insert commonality in
9 retrofitting, because almost always that costs us an
10 enormous amount of money. But, every time we modernize,
11 whether it's a component, subcomponent, or the entire weapon
12 system, we should look at commonality as much as possible.

13 Senator Donnelly: Do you have any idea, at this point,
14 where you see the greatest potential for commonality and
15 collaboration?

16 General Hyten: I think the greatest potential will be
17 in the missile technology of the future, especially the
18 microelectronic side of the missile technology that will go
19 into the future ground-based strategic deterrent element
20 that the Air Force is pursuing now to leverage capabilities
21 from Navy missile programs.

22 Senator Donnelly: Let me ask you this. I think we're
23 coming on a bow wave of cost in nuclear modernization in
24 around 2025 to '35, which is a ways off, but I also think we
25 have an obligation to try to help, at this point.

1 Last year, Admiral Haney said the nuclear enterprise
2 currently represents 3 percent of DOD's budget, and the
3 figure could go to 6 percent in out years under current
4 plans. How do you see the defense budget flexing to
5 accommodate the things we need to do and how to prepare the
6 next administration for success in this effort?

7 General Hyten: Well, Senator, I think the nuclear
8 triad is affordable as we go forward in the future, but it
9 should not be looked at as a blank check. I actually -- I
10 don't like when I see the numbers that show up in the paper
11 of a trillion dollars or \$85 billion or \$500 billion. I
12 don't like to see those numbers, because they tend to be
13 self-fulfilling prophecies. If it's going to -- if we say
14 it's going to cost that much, it's -- ends up costing that
15 much. We need to define our requirements specifically,
16 figure out what we need to build. And then, I think, within
17 the defense budget, because it is the backbone of what we
18 do, it is everything that our Defense Department is based
19 on, and we have to modernize the triad, and I think there --
20 the money will be there to do that, but we still need to do
21 it smartly.

22 Senator Donnelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 Chairman McCain: Senator Wicker.

24 Senator Wicker: General, thank you for the effort you
25 made in very thoroughly answering some advance questions,

1 which I've had a chance to review. On page 24 of your
2 answers with regard to electronic warfare and spectrum
3 operations, you say, among other things, Russia and China
4 have each committed significant resources to both electronic
5 warfare capabilities and dedicated military operators. And
6 then you talk about their "layered advantage" that each of
7 these countries has attained. Would you explain what their
8 "layered advantage" is and enlighten the committee a little
9 bit with regard to the -- China and Russia in this regard?

10 General Hyten: Well, Senator, if you look at what
11 China and Russia have been looking at, themselves, for the
12 last 20 years, they've been looking at the United States
13 develop an incredibly powerful conventional military that,
14 without a doubt, can dominate any battlefield in the world.
15 And so, they have taken those lessons and started building
16 capabilities to respond to that. One of those lessons is in
17 the electromagnetic spectrum. They see us dominating the
18 electromagnetic spectrum. They see us using GPS, satellite
19 communications. They see us, basically, conducting
20 Information Age warfare, where, in the not-too-distant past,
21 it was Industrial Age warfare. So, they're developing
22 layers of capabilities, in the electromagnetic spectrum, in
23 cyber, in space, to try to gain a strategic advantage in
24 those areas.

25 Our job is to make sure they never get an advantage in

1 those areas. But, it's clear that that's what they're
2 trying to do, from my perspective, Senator.

3 Senator Wicker: Well, you further say, "With our
4 increasing spectrum dependence, assuring access to, and
5 freedom of, maneuver within the electromagnetic spectrum can
6 no longer be guaranteed, this is an area where we must
7 improve." So, what suggestions will you have for us in that
8 regard?

9 General Hyten: So, I will continue to advocate, if
10 confirmed, for improved capabilities in each of the domains
11 I just described: space, cyber, as well as the
12 electromagnetic spectrum. I think we have to build
13 resilient capabilities in those areas to be able to fight
14 through and respond to threats.

15 It's no different than a threat to an airplane, a
16 threat to a ground system, a threat to a ship. The Navy has
17 a layered approach in how they respond to a threat to the
18 fleet. We need a layered approach in how we respond to
19 threats in space, threats in cyber, or threats in the
20 electromagnetic spectrum.

21 Senator Wicker: And that resilience needs redundancy.
22 Is that correct?

23 General Hyten: It can be achieved through redundancy,
24 through disaggregation of capabilities, through
25 proliferation of capabilities. It can be achieved through

1 defensive systems that can defend you against, such as anti-
2 jam capabilities, to allow you fight through a jamming
3 scenario, which is an electromagnetic spectrum operation.

4 Senator Wicker: Sir, I read a novel a while back --
5 it's -- actually was -- I think it was published in 2009 --
6 entitled "One Second After," by William Forstchen. And I
7 wonder how fanciful that is. I don't know if you've read
8 that novel, but the concept is that there's an
9 electromagnetic pulse which basically shuts down our entire
10 GPS grid and our electric grid and renders this country
11 pretty much defenseless. How big of a layered approach
12 would Russia or China have to have to accomplish that? And
13 is this just fanciful science fiction that could never
14 happen, or is it something we need to be prepared for?

15 General Hyten: So, I haven't read that book, Senator,
16 but the --

17 Senator Wicker: But, I've described it.

18 General Hyten: Yes, sir, you did, very well. So, the
19 concern is an electromagnetic pulse that goes off in space.
20 That's the concern. It is the most dangerous threat that a
21 space officer, which I am right now, is concerned about,
22 because it is the most threatening and the most damaging.
23 But, if a nation in the world does that, they've now reached
24 a very significant threshold, and the response of the United
25 States could be broad and varied and more likely not a

1 response in kind, but a response in another domain.

2 Senator Wicker: It would be more damaging than a
3 nuclear bomb, would it not?

4 General Hyten: It is a nuclear bomb, basically. It is
5 a nuclear bomb in space. That's what creates the
6 electromagnetic pulse.

7 Senator Wicker: Who has the capability of doing such a
8 thing now if they were mad enough to do it?

9 General Hyten: Anybody with a nuclear weapons
10 capability and a launch capability into space.

11 Senator Wicker: And how prepared are we to respond --
12 to prevent -- not to respond in a mutually-assured-
13 destruction manner, but to defend against such a thing?

14 General Hyten: So, our nuclear command-and-control
15 architecture, including the space elements of missile
16 warning and satellite communications, is very well
17 positioned to respond and operate through that scenario.
18 We've built that into our scenario. The rest of our
19 infrastructure is not as well prepared to respond.

20 Now, the good news about GPS, for example, is, it is a
21 global architecture, and we can go, in another forum, into
22 the details, but there would be a slight degradation of a
23 single -- if a single electromagnetic pulse went off, it
24 would potentially take out certain elements of the GPS
25 constellation, but it heals itself as it comes over. So, I

1 don't want to get into too much technical detail, but it's
2 fairly resilient, because of numbers. Our missile warning
3 and protect at SATCOM are very resilient because of the
4 defensive mechanisms we've built on them. Together, they
5 will allow the United States to continue to fly and fight.
6 But, the concern is, What does it do to our civilian
7 infrastructure?

8 Senator Wicker: Thank you, sir.

9 General Hyten: Thank you, sir.

10 Chairman McCain: Senator Manchin.

11 Senator Manchin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 And congratulations, General. And I would just say
13 that your upcoming new position, if you're as successful as
14 you've been in selecting your wife and raising two fine
15 children, you're going to do great.

16 General Hyten: Thank you, sir.

17 Senator Manchin: With that being said, sir, I'm -- the
18 whole procurement system -- B-52 came in in -- we put it in
19 operation -- we built it in '52 -- it developed in '52 and
20 came into operation in 1955. We built 744. Still in
21 operation. Okay? We did total upgrades for 1.1 billion
22 over that period of time, maybe a little bit more. Then we
23 come along and someone makes a decision we need an F-35.
24 We're on track to spend 1.5 trillion. And we had the F-15,
25 F-16, and F-18. How come all of a sudden -- who makes that

1 decision? We're trying to get rid of the A-10 Warthog,
2 which has ground support. The other ones do what they do.
3 But, all of a sudden we spend 1.5 trillion. And it makes
4 you think if President Eisenhower's same view would be
5 aware, be very concerned about the industrial. As you know,
6 his comments, as far as on what we do in procurement in
7 defense.

8 How do you -- how do we explain that? And why is the
9 15 and 16 and 18 not able to be upgraded in continued
10 service?

11 General Hyten: So, Senator, that's -- it's really not
12 a question for me, it's a question for the Commander of Air
13 Combat Command or -- but, as an Air Force officer, I do have
14 some opinions. And so, I'll be --

15 Senator Manchin: I'd love to hear them.

16 General Hyten: -- I'll be glad to share those opinions
17 with you.

18 The F-15, the F-16, the F-18 are fourth-generation
19 aircraft. Going up against a modern 21st-century threat,
20 they cannot penetrate many of the threat scenarios that we
21 are going to have to be able to penetrate.

22 Senator Manchin: What generation is a 52 -- B-52?

23 General Hyten: B-52 is at least a third-generation
24 weapon system. And, oh, by the way --

25 Senator Manchin: Still the most efficient and most

1 cost-effective.

2 General Hyten: It is. And it is because of the cruise
3 missile that it carries, as well, because it can't
4 penetrate, either. But, we're going to need to penetrate
5 with fighters, and we need a fifth-generation fighter. We
6 need the F-22 and the F-35 to penetrate those threat
7 environments. We have to have it for our airmen to be able
8 to fight and win in any conflict in the future. One of the
9 reasons we need a B-21 is because the B-52 cannot penetrate.
10 We will need a penetrating capability out of a bomber.
11 We'll need penetrating capabilities in fighters. We need to
12 be able to handle any threat scenario.

13 As for the cost, it should not have cost that much. I
14 think any American who looks at the cost and is proud of
15 that cost has not seen the big picture. It cost too much.
16 But, that capability is critical. And it will be awesome on
17 the battlefield. It'll create an advantage for the United
18 States for decades to come.

19 Senator Manchin: I have a question that's being asked
20 by West Virginians every day. Does the President of the
21 United States have the absolute ability and the power to
22 call for a nuclear strike without any input from Congress,
23 legislators, any input from generals whatsoever to negate
24 that? He or she alone can call for that strike.

25 General Hyten: My job as a military officer is to

1 follow orders of the Commander in Chief.

2 Senator Manchin: So, there's no checks and balances.
3 You don't check with someone else to make sure. But, if you
4 get that order from the President, then it's a go order.

5 General Hyten: The President of the United States will
6 ask me for my military advice. I will give it as strongly
7 and powerfully as I can, if I'm confirmed as Commander of
8 Strategic Command; but he is the Commander in Chief, or she
9 is the Commander in Chief, and their orders will be
10 followed.

11 Senator Manchin: So, that person, whoever the
12 President may be, has the ability -- sole ability to call
13 for a nuclear strike.

14 General Hyten: They are the Commander in Chief.

15 Senator Manchin: Also, I'm very supportive of the
16 National Guard, as you might know, in the versatile role in
17 supporting national security. I would like to know how you
18 see that -- your assessment of the National Guard's
19 performance in space, missile defense, and cyber operations,
20 how they could be more effective.

21 General Hyten: So, spectacular, but, in many ways,
22 we've just scratched the surface. If you think about many
23 of the missions that we do in space and cyberspace, they're
24 stateside missions. It's perfect for the Guard and Reserve.
25 Some of our most impressive cyber units are Guard units,

1 because they can leverage the civilian workforce and the
2 civilian population. The Guard and Reserve are stepping up
3 into the space mission area in new and exciting ways. I
4 just met with the head of the Air National Guard and the
5 head of the Air Force Reserve, and we're looking at new ways
6 to expand both space and cyber in Space Command.

7 As the -- if I'm confirmed as the Commander of
8 Strategic Command, it is a total-force problem in everything
9 that we do, and we'll leverage the total force in every way
10 possible.

11 Senator Manchin: Thank you, General.

12 Now, the only thing I would say on that, Do you think
13 that we're exercising every option and opportunity we have
14 to enhance that with the Guard, or there's more needs to be
15 done?

16 General Hyten: I think there's always more needs to be
17 done. I'm not sure exactly what that is right now, because
18 we meet with them frequently, but I just look at the
19 potential that's out there, and realize that I think there's
20 even more that can be done, but we're doing a tremendous
21 amount.

22 Senator Manchin: Thank you, General.

23 General Hyten: Yes, sir.

24 Chairman McCain: I think, General, you ought to read
25 the Constitution. Nuclear strike, depending on the

1 circumstances, would require a declaration of war. Only the
2 Congress can declare a declaration -- approve of a
3 declaration of war.

4 General Hyten: Yes, sir.

5 Chairman McCain: Senator Shaheen.

6 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 And, General, congratulations, and thank you for being
8 willing to take on this task. And thank you, to your
9 family, for being here, and for all of the service they've
10 also provided.

11 There was discussion earlier about North Korea and the
12 erratic behavior of North Korea's leader. And we saw, as
13 you pointed out, just this morning, that they tested a new
14 rocket engine to launch satellites. It's the latest in a
15 succession of nuclear weapons tests and ballistic missile
16 launches as they steadily increase their nuclear stockpile.
17 So, can you discuss what you see as STRATCOM's mission and
18 operations to, as we look at what we can do to deter what's
19 happening in North Korea, if anything?

20 General Hyten: I think we have two roles, if I'm
21 confirmed as Strategic Command Commander, that we have to
22 play. Role number one is the strategic deterrence and
23 assurance mission for our allies. And I kind of lump those
24 both together. The ability to deter our adversaries and
25 assure our allies that they are defended by the capabilities

1 of the United States, I think is extremely important.

2 The second piece of that puzzle is to make sure we
3 provide the right kind of ready forces that can allow the
4 United States, in concert with the other joint combatant
5 commanders, to respond to those capabilities across the
6 board.

7 Senator Shaheen: Senator Inhofe earlier talked about
8 the missile defense system in Eastern Europe as being one of
9 the actions that might have contributed to Russia's
10 aggressive behavior. Do we see that the THAAD missile
11 system in South Korea has the potential to produce that kind
12 of a response from North Korea and from China, for that
13 matter?

14 General Hyten: I'm not sure, ma'am, if I can properly
15 assess how China or North Korea would look at that, but,
16 from my military perspective, the THAAD missile battery does
17 not change the strategic deterrence equation, because it
18 provides a point defense capability against a close-in
19 threat, it doesn't impact the ability of a strategic force
20 to effectively operate.

21 Senator Shaheen: And do you think that's clear to
22 China and North Korea?

23 General Hyten: I think we've done everything in our
24 power to make it clear. How they perceive what we've said
25 and what they believe, I don't -- I don't think I can

1 comment on that, ma'am.

2 Senator Shaheen: There was a very interesting segment
3 of 60 Minutes on Sunday night. I don't know if you saw it,
4 or not. But, it was talking about the nuclear deterrent.
5 And one of the people they interviewed was former Secretary
6 of Defense William Perry, who -- they were asking him if
7 there had been -- ever been a close call, in terms of
8 someone launching a nuclear weapon from the United States.
9 And he pointed to an incident in 1977, where someone had put
10 in a training tape that was misinterpreted.

11 As you look at -- and the reason I think that is so --
12 has so much resonance right now is because I think this
13 campaign for President probably has had more discussion of
14 nuclear weapons and who should control nuclear weapons than
15 any campaign I remember since 1984. So, as you look at the
16 current nuclear command-and-control structure and
17 architecture, are there any concerns that you have about the
18 potential for something unforeseen to happen, for somebody
19 to make the wrong call and a weapon to be launched
20 inadvertently?

21 General Hyten: I believe that our nuclear command-and-
22 control architecture is the most resilient, robust command-
23 and-control architecture that can be created by man. I
24 think there are multiple checks and balances through the
25 system to -- that you have men and women in the loop that

1 can respond to those kind of anomalies and make sure that,
2 if it is an anomaly, that they can report that up.
3 Nonetheless, if you heard what I said, it was created by
4 man. If it's created by man, there's no way to create
5 perfection, but that's why we put so many checks and
6 balances in the system, all the way up, to make sure that,
7 if we do have to give a recommendation to the President of
8 the United States, that recommendation is clear and then
9 based on solid data.

10 Senator Shaheen: One of the concerns that I've heard
11 from folks in the foreign policy arena is that, unlike
12 during the Cuban missile crisis, since much of the other
13 periods of our history, we don't have the same kind of
14 communication channels between us -- our military leaders
15 and the military leaders in Russia. I don't know if -- they
16 didn't suggest that China was in that category, as well, but
17 certainly said that that was true of the United States and
18 Russia. Do you share that concern?

19 General Hyten: I don't have enough information to
20 really comment on it, except to say that I'm a big believer
21 in military-to-military relationships. And I think that if
22 we have military-to-military relationships with allies,
23 friends, and potential adversaries, we're in a better
24 posture to defuse a situation if something should happen.

25 So, if I'm confirmed as the Commander of STRATCOM, I'll

1 find out the details of what relationships there are right
2 now, and then I'll advocate for improving those
3 relationships in the future.

4 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Chairman McCain: Senator Sullivan.

7 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 And, General, congratulations on your nomination. I
9 think you're highly qualified. I want to also -- as we
10 talked about, I appreciate your example at all -- our alma
11 mater, and what you did there, and what you stand for.
12 Sometimes -- I think sometimes our universities in this
13 country need to see and respect the military and ROTC. And
14 I think you're a great example of that.

15 I want to just continue on. I know the discussion has
16 been a lot about missile defense. And I want to kind of
17 continue on what Senator Shaheen was talking about, and
18 Senator Inhofe.

19 Do you believe that it's part of our job, both your
20 job, if you're confirmed as a combatant commander, and the
21 Senate's job, to anticipate threats to our Nation and then
22 be able to address them?

23 General Hyten: Sir, I think it's the responsibility of
24 any public servant to look at that, always. My primary job
25 is a -- if I'm confirmed as a combatant commander, will be

1 to be ready -- make sure our forces are ready to respond
2 today, but I'll have a secondary job, is to advocate for
3 capabilities to respond to future threats in the future.
4 And, if confirmed, I'll take both of those jobs very
5 seriously.

6 Senator Sullivan: So, it's my sense that -- you know,
7 we talk a lot about North Korea here, and the threat. And
8 it's definitely a growing threat. But, I think that the
9 American people probably continue, in general, to see that
10 -- maybe most Members of Congress -- as a regional threat
11 -- to Japan, to Korea, to the region. Today's Wall -- there
12 was a Wall Street Journal piece today that, "North Korea
13 Successfully Tested a High-Powered Engine for Launching
14 Satellites and Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles." Do you
15 believe that, in 2 to 3 years, the leader of North Korea is
16 going to have the ability to range the continental United
17 States with nuclear weapons? You think that's just a matter
18 of time, maybe not 2 to 3, maybe --

19 General Hyten: I --

20 Senator Sullivan: -- 3 to 4. But, don't you think the
21 American people soon, maybe within your tenure, if you're
22 confirmed, are going to wake up to the fact that this is not
23 a regional threat, this is a direct threat that a crazy
24 dictator from North Korea has the capability to range our
25 country with intercontinental ballistic nuclear weapons? Do

1 you think that's going to happen within 5 years?

2 General Hyten: Sir, I -- I can't put a date on it.

3 I've talked extensively to the intelligence community over

4 the last couple of weeks. I don't have a confident date.

5 But, what I can say and what concerns me --

6 Senator Sullivan: But, you think it's going to happen.

7 General Hyten: It's a matter of if, not when.

8 Senator Sullivan: Right.

9 General Hyten: It will happen. And we --

10 Senator Sullivan: So, shouldn't we start preparing for
11 that now?

12 General Hyten: We need to start preparing for that --

13 Senator Sullivan: So, when that happens, the American
14 people aren't going to wake up and go, "Oh, my gosh,
15 nobody's even thought about this"?

16 General Hyten: I think we are thinking about that, and
17 we have to be prepared for it.

18 Senator Sullivan: Let me ask -- I think that we --
19 we're not doing enough, in terms of missile defense, to
20 prepare for this inevitability. Can you give me your sense
21 right now, with 40 ground-based missile interceptors in
22 Alaska, a couple in California, a new LRDR radar system
23 being deployed -- do you think -- do you think we're doing
24 enough, in terms of missile defense, to be able to
25 anticipate a threat that we know is coming, the --

1 literally, a dictator who has no stability in his mind,
2 being able to range our country with nuclear weapons? Are
3 we doing enough?

4 General Hyten: I'm a big believer in missile defense.
5 I think we're doing a lot, but I think we need to do more.
6 I think that the number of interceptors we have, we have to
7 constantly look at that ability of that force to respond to
8 the size of the threat that would be in North Korea in the
9 future. I think the force is sized correctly today. I have
10 some concerns about the size of that force in the future.
11 We need to always be able to monitor that. If I'm confirmed
12 to Strategic Command, I'll pledge to you to take a hard look
13 at that, along with the Commander of Pacific Command, to
14 make sure we understand what that response option is, sir.

15 Senator Sullivan: Well, General, I'd like to work with
16 you on that issue, because I think it's a critical issue for
17 the defense of our Nation. I think a lot of Senators are
18 very interested in it. And, to be honest, I don't think
19 we're doing enough to be ready for a threat that we know is
20 coming. And if that -- you know, if we're not in that
21 position, to tell the American people, "Hey, we knew this
22 was coming, and we took decisive action to create a strong
23 missile defense," I think that -- that's not what we should
24 be doing, any of us.

25 Can you just describe, in terms of the technical

1 aspects, how important the LRDR -- you know, we all -- often
2 talk about ground-based missile interceptors, but the radar
3 systems, themselves, that we're now trying to deploy?

4 General Hyten: So, the sensor elements are extremely
5 important. Number one, you can't target a weapon without
6 the sensor, so you need the sensor to be able to do that.
7 That starts with the old red -- infrared capabilities that
8 we have in orbit today hands off to radars today. The
9 radars we have are old. They need to be modernized. One of
10 the most critical radars that we're building now is the
11 long-range discrimination radar at Clear, in Alaska, to be
12 able to respond to that threat. That's a critical element of
13 any future architecture, especially in that part of the
14 world. And then, we also need to look at a space-based
15 element. We need to be able to broadly use the global
16 nature of space to be able to add a global tracking
17 capability, because it not only allows us to track, but
18 allows us to operate weapon systems more efficiently than
19 just firing many at one time.

20 Senator Sullivan: Thank you.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 General, I think you're highly qualified. I look
23 forward to voting in favor of your nomination --
24 confirmation.

25 Chairman McCain: Senator McCaskill.

1 Senator McCaskill: Thank you, General. Thank you for
2 your service. Thank you, to your family.

3 I want to start with a little bit about the B-2. In
4 August of this year, we deployed the B-2 from Whiteman to
5 Guam, at least the second time this year that we have
6 deployed these aircraft to the U.S. Pacific Command area of
7 responsibility. In March 2013, two B-2 Spirit bombers
8 conducted a long-range precision strike by flying more than
9 6500 miles to the Korean Peninsula and returning to the
10 continental U.S. in a single continuous mission. I know
11 that you understand how important missions like this are to
12 demonstrating our commitment and our capabilities, and what
13 an important role they have in deterrence, particularly as
14 we look at the actions of North Korea.

15 They continue -- our adversaries continue to develop
16 advanced systems, which it eventually could hold even our
17 homeland at risk. I know there's been a lot of discussion
18 regarding the affordability of maintaining -- upgrading
19 nuclear triad. There are some improvements to the
20 communication systems of the B-2 Spirit which will extend
21 the viability of this flexible dual-use platform. And what
22 would be the consequences of a delay in completing the
23 communication upgrades to the B-2?

24 General Hyten: Senator, I think we have to look at the
25 communication upgrades of the B-2 in concert with the entire

1 bomber force. Right now, it's probably the most important
2 element of our bomber capability. And so, that capability
3 is extremely important to maintain the viability now and
4 into the future. But, I think the best answer that we owe
5 to this committee and to the Congress is an answer that
6 looks across the entire bomber force. I think that's a
7 question that the Air Force should answer. But, as the
8 Commander of Strategic Command, what I will advocate for is
9 an effective bomber force to handle all the threats that we
10 have in the future. And then it's the Air Force's job to
11 say, "Well, then we have to upgrade the B-2 or we can wait
12 til the B-21." Right now, I think the B-21 is a little bit
13 too far off to respond to that. But, I think the answer has
14 to be across the entire bomber force.

15 Senator McCaskill: Yeah. I want to make sure we don't
16 make the same mistake with the B-21 that we made with the
17 35. And that was, we started pulling back on the F/A-18s
18 and the Hornets because of the anticipation of a system that
19 clearly was way over budget and way out of time. And as a
20 result, we have vulnerabilities on our aircraft carriers
21 that we shouldn't have. And we're continuing to scramble to
22 make sure that we don't have those. So, I want to make sure
23 that I make that point.

24 In addition, I'm really proud of the 131st Bomb Wing at
25 Whiteman of the Missouri National Guard was the first

1 National Guard unit to be certified to conduct a nuclear
2 mission. This is -- took a tremendous amount of work at
3 Whiteman and a tremendous amount of commitment on the part
4 of the Active Air Force at that base along with the Missouri
5 National Guard. Do you -- can I get your commitment today
6 to continue this integration and continue to allow the Guard
7 to play this important role, going forward?

8 General Hyten: So, Senator, I'm a huge fan of the
9 total force. The Guard and the Reserve provide a huge
10 capability to our forces worldwide. So, I pledge to
11 constantly advocate for full integration of the Guard into
12 all our military forces across the board. If I'm confirmed
13 at STRATCOM, it'll be inside STRATCOM.

14 Senator McCaskill: And I also want to talk about
15 missile defense as it relates to North Korea. The first
16 ballistic missile defense test against an ICBM missile range
17 target will be conducted in this fall. First time this has
18 happened since 1984. A second ground-based interceptor was
19 scheduled for FY-2017, but, due to budgetary constraints, it
20 will have to slip to FY-20-- it was scheduled for 2017,
21 it's going to have to slip to 2018. A GAO report found that
22 the agency charged with developing this system, the Missile
23 Defense Agency, delayed or removed 40 percent of its planned
24 flight tests and reprioritized the testing plan because of
25 the fiscal constraints that we have placed upon the

1 military.

2 Could you address briefly -- If we don't stop playing
3 games with what we need to invest in our military as it
4 relates to OCO and, you know, spending money off budget,
5 what is going to be the result, in terms of our capability,
6 in terms of ballistic missile defense, particularly in light
7 of what North Korea is up to?

8 General Hyten: Senator, I think we desperately need a
9 missile defense capability. It's got to be robust, tested.
10 Our adversaries -- North Korea, in this case -- have to be
11 concerned that it will work if they operate against it; if
12 it's not, it's not there. Therefore, just like in every
13 other element of our Defense Department, I think we need
14 stable funding, close working relationships with the entire
15 Congress, especially this committee, to make sure we
16 understand exactly where we're going.

17 I'm concerned, though, if we go back -- and I know you
18 had a hearing last week on readiness -- that if we go back
19 into a Budget Control Act level, that many of those
20 decisions that we'll make will be bad decisions for the
21 security of the United States.

22 Senator McCaskill: Thank you very much, General.
23 Congratulations.

24 General Hyten: Thank you, Senator.

25 Chairman McCain: Senator Nelson.

1 Senator Nelson: General, you are an outstanding choice
2 for STRATCOM. You have been an outstanding -- and have done
3 an outstanding job as the head of Air Force Space Command, a
4 subject that I understand a little bit about. And I just
5 want to say that for the record. We thank you. And I look
6 forward to you being our combatant commander.

7 Would you characterize your thoughts on the need for
8 modernization of our nuclear arsenal as well as our nuclear
9 command and control?

10 General Hyten: Senator, I think it's -- I think all
11 three elements of the triad are essential to the security of
12 the Nation. I think it is the foundation of what we built
13 our entire defense posture on. Each of those elements of
14 the triad are aging out at a similar time. In order for us
15 to have an effective triad in the future, we're going to
16 have to modernize each element. We're going to have to
17 modernize the capabilities for ICBM, which will be the
18 ground-based strategic deterrent. We need an Ohio-class
19 replacement program on the sea leg of the triad. And we
20 need the new bomber. And I also believe we need a -- an
21 advanced cruise missile, the long-range strike option.

22 I think each of those has to be pursued. I think they
23 have to be pursued in an integrated manner. And then we
24 have to pursue the nuclear command-and-control piece on top
25 of that. The nuclear command and control, I think, is the

1 most important piece of the puzzle. And, as we continue to
2 focus on the delivery platforms, which are essential, we
3 just can't take our eyes off the nuclear command-and-control
4 capability, because, without those, we can't effectively
5 execute a nuclear deterrent option.

6 Senator Nelson: And specifically, do you have any
7 thoughts on the modernization of -- I said "the nuclear
8 arsenal," meaning the nuclear weapons.

9 General Hyten: So, I think, as we look at the nuclear
10 weapons, we have to consider the environment that we're
11 going to operate in. We have to consider how many nuclear
12 weapons that we need. I think we need to take a whole
13 approach to looking at the existing nuclear stockpile as
14 well as what we need in the future nuclear stockpile.

15 Ideally, if I'm confirmed as Commander of STRATCOM, I'd
16 like to have some flexibility across platforms with those
17 nuclear weapons. It's really a conversation meant for a
18 different classification forum. But, at this
19 classification, I'll just say that, if I'm confirmed, I'll
20 work closely with the National Labs as well as the other
21 element of the nuclear weapons environment to make sure that
22 we have a solid plan going into the future, especially given
23 the test environment that we're in.

24 Senator Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 General Hyten: Thank you, Senator.

1 Chairman McCain: General, thank you. I just had one
2 more issue. As I mentioned in my opening remarks having to
3 do with your assessment from your advance policy questions
4 that the growing importance of cyber warrants the elevation
5 of U.S. Cyber Command to a unified combatant command, is it
6 also your professional military judgment that maintaining
7 the dual-hat relationship where the Commander of Cyber
8 Command is also the Director of NSA is in our best national
9 security interest?

10 General Hyten: I -- that is my belief, sir. I
11 strongly believe that right now. There may be a day in the
12 future where that is not the case, but today is not that
13 case.

14 Chairman McCain: I thank you. That discussion
15 continues.

16 And I was going to talk with Senator Reed and other
17 members of the committee, but I think we may ask you to come
18 back, perhaps maybe not this week, but later on, to brief us
19 on the information that you provided me with yesterday.
20 It's quite -- "disturbing" isn't the word -- compelling, I
21 think is a better one.

22 Jack?

23 Senator Reed: No, sir.

24 Again, General, thank you for your service. I look
25 forward to voting for your confirmation, and doing it

1 expeditiously so that you can get out there and lead.

2 Thank you.

3 Chairman McCain: Thank you.

4 The hearing is adjourned.

5 [Whereupon, at 11:19 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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