

Senate Armed Services on EUCOM and TRANSCOM for FY24 NDAA

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Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

[OFF MIC]

... USEUCOM have never been clearer. For more than a year Russia has waged a brutal, unprovoked war on Ukraine, inflicting terrible suffering on the people of Ukraine and threatening European stability. Ukrainians have fought with incredible courage and skills to repel Russia's vicious assault, defending the same values and freedoms that we cherish.

Ukraine has achieved some very notable successes. But there is hard finding ahead and more to be done. Throughout this conflict, the NATO alliance and shown remarkable unity and resolve. A formidable coalition of our allies is joined together to provide military and humanitarian support to Ukraine and impose severe costs on Russia's economy is Putin thought his war would drive a wedge between NATO and members and within the international community, he was badly mistaken.

NATO Unity has never been stronger, and many European nations are taking steps to invest greater proportions of their budgets and institutional energies to improve their military capabilities. Indeed, in a triumphant moment for NATO, Finland recently joined the Alliance. This was an utter rejection of Russia's strategic goals. And I know the Finns will contribute significantly to the alliance, and I hope we will soon Welcome to Sweden as well.

President Biden deserves great credit for marshaling these efforts. His administration continues to provide critical military equipment and training to Ukraine, including combat vehicles like Abram tanks, strikers, and Bradley's as well as weapons like hi mas how it is Patriot air defense systems and various types of ammunition. This equipment in concert with contributions and training from across the Alliance has provided an important mix of capabilities to bolster Ukrainian effectiveness on the battlefield. Let there be no doubt the United States will continue to help Ukraine succeed on the battlefield.

America's assistance to Ukraine is also an investment in our own national security interest. Beyond repelling Putin, we know China is watching closely And we must succeed. General goalie, the NATO alliance has made important progress and its ability to generate and maintain the collective force posture operations and investments necessary to deter Russian aggression against its members. And the United States has played a key role in those efforts.

At the same time, the security environment in Europe has experienced a Teutonic shift. I would like to know your views and plans for US military activities and investments in the UCOM area of responsibility in light of these changes, general than almost trends calm is also playing a crucial role in our support to Ukraine. American troops continue to operate Ford logistics centers to receive identify and transport the majority of security aid attended for Ukraine and across and from the international community. This has been an enormous task executed with the press of skill on little notice.

I would appreciate an update on these efforts and any lessons learned that you may have to share. Keeping an eye to the future in the patient threat of China an important reality of we are learning is that any potential adversary is going to attack our logistics support system. This idea of contested logistics will include obvious reservoir for bases, as well as the aircraft and shift that we supply those bases. But it could also include cyber tactic and information technology systems that support our deployments, both government and commercial, and possible kinetic attacks against ports and airfields supporting our deployments.

I am concerned that our thinking about logistics during conflict has too often defaulted to our uncontested military dominance since World War Two, we have always own the sea and air lines of kin vacation and have only had to worry about logistics efficiency, not effectiveness. General van although I would like to know what steps transcom is taking to

prepare for such threats to our logistics, and how the military services can alter their acquisition programs to take these concerns into account. Thank you again to our witnesses and I look forward to your testimony. As a reminder for my colleagues at the conclusion of the open session of this hearing, we will recess for the joint session of Congress.

We will then reconvene for the closed session at 12:30pm. In room sec 217. We are committed to allowing all of our colleagues ask questions. So if the assembly time arise will continue in the open session until everyone has an opportunity to do so.

And in lieu of Senator Wicker's. Arrival shortly General Cavoli, I will let you begin.

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Chairman Reid, to Ranking Member Wicker, of course as well, distinguished members of the Committee. It's a privilege to testify before you today and in many cases to see you again. On behalf of the men, women and the families of us Yukon, first of all, I thank you for your steadfast support to their mission, to their safety and to their well being. I'd also like to recognize and thank my command senior enlisted leader CSM Rob Abernathy sitting behind me here who accompanied me here today he is representing our noncommissioned officers, our enlisted soldiers in our families who remain America's asymmetric advantage against any adversary.

So thank you, Rob, for being here. I'm very pleased to appear today beside my good friend and colleague, Jackie van OST, whose US transportation command is unlike anything else on the globe, and who works miracles every day. Thank you, Jackie, to your whole command. So this is as the Chairman noted numbers an unprecedented time in Europe Atlantic area.

14 months ago, Russia's illegal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine dramatically shifted perceptions of European stability and our broader global security. Galvanized European governments resolved. Last year's NATO Summit in Madrid was a turning point for the Alliance nations committed to a new strategic concept that put collective territorial defense at the top of the Alliance task list for the first time in 35 years. And for the first time since the Cold War set into motion, a series of efforts that will profoundly change the military structure and activities of NATO.

We have been creating new plans, that is Allied Command operations has been creating new plans for the general defense of the Alliance. And these will drive higher levels of readiness and more targeted National Defense investments, especially on the part of our allies. Nations agreed to accelerate defense spending increases to establish enhanced force posture on the Eastern Flank of NATO to turn unprecedented numbers of troops and weapons over to NATO command and control and critically to Bring two new members into the Alliance. Happy to note as the Chairman did that Finland has already joined, and we hope soon to see you Sweden as a member as well.

Over time, these efforts inside the alliance will lead to significantly increased European military capabilities and will continue to deter aggression against the alliances that deterrent posture has allowed us to work intensively in the past year or so to assist Ukraine in the past year, thanks to your support. US donations of arms, ammunition equipment, vehicles and supplies have enabled Ukraine to halt Russia's invasion. We have not been alone in this effort. The DoD and US EUCOM lead an international effort represented by the 50 Plus member UDC G uniform, Ukraine donors contact group, we have an effort together to identify transport and deliver equipment and ammunition to Ukraine along with the training to use that equipment in combat.

This material support and the training provided by international donors has been huge and fundamental to the Ukrainian military's success so far. Over the winter. Our coalition has enabled the Ukrainian military to generate the military capabilities necessary to defend and regain parts of their sovereign territory. We're confident our Ukrainian partners are good stewards of donated equip aid.

Our Embassy team and Kiv, led by Brigadier General Garret Corman and the security assistance group in Ukraine, located in Germany worked diligently to monitor and keep a close eye on all lethal aid to ensure it is getting to and staying in the right hands. Although we remain optimistic for Ukraine's future and sovereignty, this war is far from over. Russia will remain an acute threat to Euro Atlantic security, and the national defense strategy rightly calls our attention to that. But Russia is not the only problem in Europe, the People's Republic of China continues to increase its access and influence in our theater, and its activities pose risks to us Allied and partner interests.

The PRC uses foreign direct investment, government backed business ventures and loans to gain access to technology and to gain control over vital European infrastructure and transportation routes. Finally, Europe continues to face transnational challenges as well, such as violent extremist organizations, uncontrolled immigration, organized crime, and even climate change EUCOM trains and cooperates with allies and partners to help counter those challenges as well. Our strategic

approach fortifies our allies and our partners it strengthens Alliance interoperability and enhances our collective combat capability which deters our adversaries. And as always, should deterrence failed us EUCOM alongside our allies and partners, is ready to fight and win your continued support for our efforts.

The authorities and the funding you give us are critical to our ability to do this. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for having me here today. I look forward to your questions.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you very much. General Cavoli. General Van Ovost. Your statement please.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker distinguished members of the Committee Good morning, it's my honor to join you today with my senior enlisted leader pleat master sheet Donald Myrick to represent the men and women of United States transportation command as we defend the nation, take care of our people and succeed through teamwork. I'm extremely proud of our team of logistics professionals who lead the joint deployment and distribution enterprise continually exceed expectations and ensure hope, deterrence, and victory are assured as we contribute to our nation's defense. From competition to crisis, the entire enterprise proudly delivers for our nation, our allies and our partners. We know our success in the European theater and beyond would not be possible without the steadfast support of this Committee, and the whole of Congress to maintain the unrivaled strategic advantage to project and sustain the joint force over global distances.

Through natural disasters, pandemics, conflicts, peace and war. while defending our homeland. We must preserve our logistical dominance. Our organic fleet, along with our commercial transportation partners, must continue to present credible deterrence and requires proactive efforts to recapitalize and modernize my highest concerns lie in reductions in capacity and readiness and both sealift and air refueling.

We are a generation late and recapitalizing already sealift fleet to meet our national objectives. The average age of our 44 Roll on roll off ships we use to surge from the continental United States is 44 years old. In fact, 17 of the 44 ships are 50 years or older. transcom supports the Navy strategy to acquire use sealift vessels in the commercial market and further request to provide Secretary defense discretionary authority to purchase Foreign built us ships under favorable market conditions without limitation on number.

I greatly appreciate your support for stabilized funding towards our sealift recapitalization effort, and I'm heartened by the current progress on the first five ships. We've also taken steps to address the Department shortfall and meeting wartime fuel delivery demands, and the vulnerable position of continued reliance on the use of foreign flag foreign crude tanker vessels. We are working with Moran to implement the tanker security program, which will provide a short access to US flag tankers and begin to reduce risk and see the tanker capacity. In addition to the tanker security program, we fully support the maritime security program, the Jones Act and cargo preference hauls that all work together to ensure we have the necessary US flag capability, and US mariners during peacetime and ready to move sensitive defense materials during a national emergency.

In every domain, American workers are critical to the joint force transportation, and logistics. In particular, maritime stakeholders have been experiencing challenges with recruiting and retaining mariners. We support Marat and industry efforts to identify strategies that address the Meritor shortage and ensure their readiness in the air. The air refueling fleet is the backbone of rapid global mobility and is our most stressed capability.

Transcom supports the Air Force's continued efforts towards focus modernization of the fleet, uninterrupted tanker recapitalization and accelerated pursuit of the next generation air refueling system to ensure our capacity and readiness remains credible to cover simultaneous global requirements. future operations will also require high degrees of battlespace awareness, and leveraging data to align scarce mobility resources with the greatest strategic needs. integration into battle networks, resource and cryptographic modernization, cybersecurity and ensuring resilient positioning navigation and timing are among my top priorities. Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act expires at the end of this year, which provides essential and irreplaceable insights on the activities of critical foreign targets.

The loss of this authority or renewal and diminished or unusable form would profoundly damage the department's ability to see and mitigate some of the most profound threats against the United States and our allies and partners. Therefore, reauthorization is a matter of utmost priority. Just as we are engaged globally in our flagship transformational effort, the global household goods contract will bring accountability that does not exist in the current program of dispersed vendors. We owe it to our members and their families to ensure that they have the very best relocation experience that we can provide.

I am honored to join Joker today where we are in lockstep to provide critical aid to enable Ukraine's national defense that in turn delivers success for the United States, our allies and our nation. I would like to thank you once again, for your leadership and for the support you provide our workforce. And I look forward to your questions.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you very much. General Van Ovost. Senator Wicker has suggested that we proceed with questioning and when he is called upon he'll have opportunity to submit his statement and also raise a question. So let me begin.

Both General Ovost and General Cavoli have absolutely critical positions. In fact, General Cavoli's Ukrainian situation is the most pressing military situation in the world at the moment. Unfortunately here in the Senate, we've reached an impasse in terms of the promotion of noncontroversial general officers on a routine basis usually being sent.

Good you indicate what effects this will have on your operational capacity, but also on the morale and personal dynamics of families.

Christopher Cavoli

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in an operational sense, if I have officers who are scheduled to retire general officers who are scheduled to retire and do so, but I don't have somebody to replace them, I'll suffer a gap in that some of those are in fairly critical positions right now. For example, the chairman's military representative to the military academy committee, General John Diedrich is scheduled to retire this summer. His replacement hasn't been confirmed.

So we'd have a gap in the chairman's representation at that rank. At the Military Committee and NATO, which in my US role is a vital connection between me and the Chairman to influence activities in NATO. And in my role as Secretary, of course, it's very useful to have aligned to the US military representative. So that's one example, sir.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Angle. Thank you. And General Van Ovost. You're perceptive?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Thank you, Chairman. Besides any operational impacts from not being able to rotate general officers into positions of significant responsibility, the United States transportation command is responsible for moving 311,000 families every year around the globe. It's important to continue these movements so that this so that the children can be enrolled in schools, they can find adequate housing, and ensure that they are ready to succeed in their new responsibilities. So this, these delays add additional stress to our military families who already sacrifice enough.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

General almost man overs. General Cavoli. There has been some discussion about the relative contributions of NATO countries and other countries to this fight. If we look simply at the dimension of military equipment, military supplies, that's one measure but overall, in terms of accepting refugees in terms of supporting those refugees, the Kiel Institute has analyzed that total input and indicates that the US was ranked 12 in terms of the amount of GDP, the 11 preceding countries or European countries.

It raises the question of how important these contributions are to the battlefield, even though they don't represent military equipment or military advice.

Christopher Cavoli

Mr. Chairman, thanks for the opportunity to comment on this topic. So first of all, the United States can and should be extremely proud of the quantity of aid that we've given and the leadership role we've taken. I think that's absolutely imperative to note upfront.

And in gross numbers, I think I think it's very fair by whichever mode of calculation, we arrive at a gross number, the US clearly is the leader. In terms of proportion, though, you're right. I mean, more than more than half a dozen allies have given

greater a greater share of their GDP in military aid to the to the Ukrainians, I can't speak to all the other types of aid, but maybe I can, I can give a little bit of a couple of illustrations. 514 tanks have been given by the West to the to the Ukrainians in the past few months.

None of them have come from the United States yet our Abrams won't won't get there until later in the year. 16, mid level or high level air defense Simpson systems have been giving two of those were given by the United States. So there are some genuine donations more than a third of our allies have given over half of their capacity in a given category. To the Ukrainians i I'd be reluctant to be really precise in public.

But I'd be delighted to be precise, in in closed session later today, if you'd like sir. And then finally, in non military ways, there's a lot going on. Our allies have treated or are treating about 2400. wounded, grievously wounded Ukrainians in their hospitals, largely in their national defense systems, national health systems, we have treated for at launch lawsuits.

So there are some genuine contributions being made, sir.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Oh, thank you very much. Let me recognize Senator Warner Thank you very much.

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I do ask unanimous consent that my opening statement be included after yours in the record without objection. And and I thank the Chairman for for bringing up the point about burden sharing. And I think it's helpful to reemphasize the 5 million Ukrainian refugees are being cared for by Europeans, at some considerable cost 1.5 million in Poland 920,000 In Germany, 177,000 in the Baltic states 500,000 in the Czech Republic.

So I'm glad to see the Chair, bring that up in his first round of questioning. I think one thing that could really harm public opinion here in the United States would be if we found that there was some corruption and siphoning off of money or weapons sold or donated by the United States. And I had a chance to ask you about that earlier. But would you Would you give us your take, and any assurance that you can give us that our friends are actually carrying to fight in Ukraine?

Or are mindful of of this possibility? And how serious it would be for to occur?

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Senator. Of course. First of all, just with the the general statement, my colleagues, my interlocutors in Ukraine, assured me that they understand how important this issue is to the American people. And and I believe, sincerely so.

But as usual, military people put into put into action systems to try to verify things. So we're doing enhanced end use monitoring. And and if you would permit me, I'd like to describe that for your first sec, please do yes, the first thing we do is whenever we receive us equipment that's going to go into the country, it comes through one of a couple of ports of entry, the main one is in southeastern Poland, and a number of the members have visited there. At that location, we inventory everything by serial number so that we know exactly what's going into the country.

A couple of months ago, about six months ago, we gave the Ukrainian military a NATO standard logistics tracking software system, called a log fast. It's what we use to track our own system. So we ingest all of that inventory into log fast. And then the Ukrainians use that to track and to distribute their equipment around the country.

And we have access to that in real time. So that helps us to a certain degree. But then of course, once you get inside the country, we have a responsibility to go lay eyes on things and check them in that enhanced and use monitoring is done by the Defense Attache Office in Kyiv, led by Brigadier General Garrick, Harmon. They go out to sites and they inspect they they went to Odessa yesterday to inspect and to inventory and they'll go to another location next week as well, when they can't get to a location.

They have barcodes placed on things and Ukrainian self report by clicking on the bar code, and then we ingest that information into log faster, we can track it as well.

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.)

Perhaps you could supplement that answer on the record, but you have confidence that that there are safeguards for for our weapons and and donations. Yes, I do. Senator Joe van Oh, vhost. You, we're not where we need to be at all in the Pacific.

If if conflict breaks out there aren't.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator, we are not yet fully set in posture in the Indo Pacific. I would agree.

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.)

And you mentioned on page 15, of your testimony, in particular, the importance of the technical security program. And and in your verbal testimony, you mentioned the importance of the Jones Act. Now. We're aware that in some circumstances, the consumers pay more because of the Jones Act.

But and in a previous conversation with you. You were I believe very compelling, and explaining why the Jones Act is so important to our national security in case conflict breaks out. So if I might, Mr. Chairman, let General Veno vhost expand on that.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Certainly, sir. Oh, thank you. The United States we only have 85 US flag US crude ships in international freight and right now we have less than 2% of the foreign trade that passes using US flag use cruise ship. In other words, 98% foreign flag is not enough for our national security.

So we are we have actually already reserved for us because we there's not enough US flag US crude shipping. So it's very important that we have maritime security program tanker security program cargo preference laws and the Jones Act to ensure that we keep us flag us crewed vessels available for our national security needs.

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.)

And what if we didn't have those?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator, if we didn't have those, we perhaps would have to grow our organic fleet of sealift ships keep requiring 100% of the burden being on the US military.

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.)

Thank you very much. Appreciate that.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, Senator Fisher Shaheen Shaheen.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

You know, I know we all look alike, but

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

No, Roger does not look at all like it should Chairman perhaps no, it's just I apologize. It's early in my coffee has not yet taken hold. It gives me Senator Shaheen of New Hampshire.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Thank you, General Kouvola and General Van Ovost for being here this morning and for your service. Gentlemen, oh vhost I would like to begin with you because in your opening statement, you talked about the

stressed capacity of our air refueling and the importance of that and I know you've been to we've been delighted to host you at the former Pease Air Force base where Pease Air National Guard 157 Air Refueling wing has KC 46 tankers to do refueling. But can you talk about when you talked about the stress capacity, how important the KC 46 is and what else we need to do in order to address our needs.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator, thank you. As I mentioned, our ability to project and sustain the force the foundation of that is our air refueling capability. It makes us a global superpower. So it's really critical that we continue to recapitalize the KC 130 fives and KC 10s with KC 46.

So I appreciate this community support and continually that recap, and thinking about the next generation air refueling. As far as the KC 46. It brings new capabilities to the flight capabilities we have not had previously, the that aircraft is what I call connected to the battlespace, it can see battlespace maneuvers, and it can assist the joint force in ways that we haven't even fully explored yet. So it's very it's a force multiplier, it can do probe and drogue, as well as boom, refueling, and it can receive and it can take on gas and flight.

So it is it's a multi capable airplane, and we intend to use it that way to augment the joint force.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

Thank you. You also talked about the importance of section 702. In terms of intelligence gathering, Senator Budd and I were with a number of other senators in Latin America a couple of weeks ago, and at every stop, we heard about the importance of reauthorizing 702. Ken, can you in general completely cavelli.

Both speak to what that allows us to do when we don't have people on the ground in terms of collecting information that we need.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

As senators signals intelligence is critical to my ability to understand the threats around the world where they're moving to what their intentions are, and how we can mitigate those threats. So that's it for the for the open session, happy to expound in the classified section.

Christopher Cavoli

Senator, of course, a full answer is best done in closed session. But I can assure you that an enormous amount of the intelligence that I rely on in the current crisis is derived from from the authorities under 72.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

Thank you. Thank you both. I think General cavelli, this question is probably for you, because we see arann continuing to supply Russia with critical support in this war against Ukraine. There are reports now that Iran is providing artillery and ammunition to Ukraine as well as drones.

It is Has that been confirmed? And how are we working with our counterparts in CENTCOM to track and respond to that Iranian equipment? And also, are we seeing other countries provide weapons and ammunition to Russia as well?

Christopher Cavoli

First, more broadly, Senator, we see other countries considering it. We see precious few actually doing it right now. And we're gratified by that. But it's because of significant efforts on the part of the United States and our allies to discourage them.

And you've seen some of that in the open press, we can discuss some more, some more in closed session. With regard to the Iranian threat. Specifically, we have seen and the Ukrainians have reported to us, the presence of Iranian drones, especially, that's been pretty well covered in open sources. But I can go into some details in closed session with you if you'd like.

I am in significant contact with my good friend and colleague, Eric Corella, in Central Command, and some of the things we were thinking about in terms of handling this situation. I can address with you in closed session as well, if you'll permit me.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

Well, thank you. And you may want to address this in closed session. But do we think they have an unlimited supply of the weapons that they're providing to Russia? Or are we seeing challenges within their industrial base?

Christopher Cavoli

They have a significant supply, but it's certainly not unlimited, ma'am.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

Thank you. And I have only a little time left, but could you both of you speak to the importance of the air defender exercises that NATO is going to be doing. Again, I'm pleased that the 157 from New Hampshire is going to participate in those but how important are those I understand it's the biggest exercise that exercise NATO's done.

Christopher Cavoli

If I could start as the commander of Allied Command operations, Senator, extremely important. Air Defense is one of the things that most of the nations in in the Alliance are challenged on in terms of capacity. And then the integration is something that has to be done and repetitively exercised constantly. Because systems change, and, and and the technology gets updated in the software.

And then you got to bring it back together. These are absolutely vital exercises.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

And our teams are fully engaged. This is a critical exercise for us for interoperability with our allies and partners growing their capabilities, and including command and control.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Cheney. Senator Fischer, please.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. General Kabuli. What do you assess to be the impact of Russia's assertions that it would deploy tactical nuclear weapons in you in Belarus, along with his handling over ice candor, mobile short range ballistic missiles to the Belarusian forces?

Christopher Cavoli

Senator, thank you for the question. As a military matter, I do not think that it is a particularly concerning development. And we can go into the specifics of that in closed session, of course, therefore, I think it's mainly a gesture.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

I think it's more sable rattling again,

Christopher Cavoli

I do. I think it's a gesture and, and it's a gesture that we'll handle throughout policy means etcetera. And I have I have less less to comment on in that regard.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

Okay, thank you. Also, can you discuss what your demands are for both manned and unmanned ISR?

Christopher Cavoli

Yeah, absolutely, Senator, of course, like all the combatant commanders, ISR is, is what we depend on, especially during peacetime to maintain situational awareness. There is a demand for ISR, both manned and unmanned aerial ISR that that far exceeds the supply across the Department of Defense, and were grateful when we get our share of it. Right now, it's extremely important for a variety of reasons we can't do everything with other means. It's our ability to collect and analyze depends on using a layered approach with a variety of systems.

And, and we depend on those were grateful for the advances that the services are making, from the army with its new Artemis system, which has been doing great work in Europe for the last couple of years to the Air Force's advances and to the Navy's PA program all a very valuable, ma'am.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

And how do you believe that the threats are going to change and EUCOM in the coming decades? In your crystal ball? What do you see?

Christopher Cavoli

Do you mean in general Senator in general? Well, I think I think Russia is quite likely to remain the core security challenge in Europe for for some years to come. Their military has suffered significant losses in this conflict. But they've mainly been in the ground domain, the Air Force, the Tactical Air Force, has lost about 80 fighters and fighter bombers, but they have more than 1000 of them left to long range.

Aviation has not been touched, the Navy has barely been touched loss to ship or to the strategic nuclear forces, the cyber the space have not been touched. So I think I think Russia will continue to be the core security challenge. But there are others China is gaining influence in China continues to press for influence. And then there's always instability in the Balkans.

You know, we're not going with that. So. So I think perhaps we'll see more of the same Senator.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

You brought up where Russia hasn't touched many of their capabilities, currently. And so they have they have those in reserve for the next decade when we look at munitions that are being used, especially in the conflict in Ukraine and the amount of EU munitions that are are being expended. Do you do you think that we need to increase our production capacity here in this country? And we do encourage our allies to do the same?

Christopher Cavoli

Absolutely. Senator to both our allies are very aware of the shortfalls that they have in munitions in certain cases where they do exist.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

You were you were talking about the number of tanks and the our allies have have already shared with Ukrainians,

Christopher Cavoli

Right. And so inside NATO in my in my role as the Supreme Allied Commander, I've been responsible to deliver to deliver a new set of operational plans and we turn them in on the 14th of April. They're very specific regional plans for collective defense. And they have a level of specificity that's going to drive a force structure requirement, which will be the first time in 35 years that the alliance has a plans based for structure requirement.

This will guide National Defense investments across the Alliance.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

Thank you, General Van Ovost. You talked a little bit about the sea lift and being able to fuel have that fueling capability. And you mentioned, you know, working with Marat, can you kind of focus and especially on the merit point there on how important that is?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Your Senator, we have a great relationship with the Maritime Administration who oversees our Ready Reserve force those ships that are in rouse operating status. And when we need to activate them, they wake up, and that comes to transcom. And we fight them. So it's really important that we keep that relationship going, and especially when it comes to our mariners, because the same mariners that crew ships that do foreign import and export.

They're also the same mariners that are on our great whole ship. So it's really important that we continue to support them.

Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you very much. Senator Fisher. Senator Hirono, please.

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you both for being here. Gentle Kavali. China is sending a special Representative, an envoy to Ukraine and other countries for talks on regulating that Ukrainian crisis.

Not sure what that means. And the special envoy has been selected, and Ukraine is sending a special envoy to China. Do you consider this a significant development? And what does that portend?

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Senator? I'm not sure we know yet the significance of the development. But what we do know is that China should begin by condemning Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. That should be the first step in my mind to any productive role for China in the conflict or its resolution, ma'am.

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii)

I think that yes, well, this also signifies China's engagement in Europe. And so I think that it remains to be seen, but it to me is possibly a positive sign that perhaps there will be an end to this terrible conflict. General van OVAs or we have spoken at length about Red Hill and your plan for the fuel currently stored there. I understand there is a plan for where the fuel will go once defueling begins and with over half the required repairs at Red Hill complete.

Do you feeling is remains on track to be completed in June of 2024 is your plan for fuel distribution in the Pacific complete?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator we're lockstep with indo PAYCOM and the Navy Task Force commander on the defueling of Red Hill, we have assets ready to support and we are on track to meet all of their needs. The posture in the Indo Pacific is is still under assessment, we are in our role as the global bulk fuel manager for the Department of Defense, we are looking very closely at the posture requirements, the requirements to ensure that we can buy fuel or store fuel, and also what needs to be a float and what should be in various areas. So we are still doing that assessment. We are working with indo PAYCOM on the section 333 report, that should highlight the key aspects of that posture.

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii)

So as you're assessing how you're going to complete the safety fueling of the 100 million gallons or so that is at Red Hill. If you require anything further, at this time to ensure that the defueling happens in the way that we would want it to happen, will you that me and this Committee know Jen general Kavali. In war, it is often the most vulnerable who pay the highest cost the elderly women girls. While it is vital that we continue to provide Ukraine with the military equipment.

It needs to continue to Bulwark democracy in Europe. Our support of the civilian population also speaks to our country's values and stand in sharp contrast with Russia and other malign actors. What is the UCOM doing to support and protect the people of Ukraine and how is EUCOM working with Ukraine and other US government agencies to monitor human rights abuses by Russia?

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Senator. First of all, we support NATO and other European efforts in this regard. The first one, of course, was the acceptance by our allies of large numbers of refugees who were in the main women and children. They have very successfully done that.

And they did it spontaneously, our initial thought was, we were going to have to help significantly, but the society's absorbed them as they've done. So we've worked with them carefully through non DoD entities, but advised by EUCOM, and participant by EUCOM, to make sure that rights are established. And then as we talk to our Ukrainian colleagues, we do keep our gender advisors and everybody involved as we develop plans with them. The Ukrainians are, are remarkably sensitive to civilian casualties, of course, because those are Ukrainian civilians, who will be inadvertently wounded in their operations.

And we routinely in exercises here, even Junior Ukrainian servicemen, saying, hey, wait a minute, you know, I know people in that town, what are we going to do about this? So it's, it's a complex question, man. But those are some of the things that that we're doing to help. We do provide support to those organizations that are attempting to figure out a war crimes as well, although we have not put people on the ground to do that.

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii)

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Hirono.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

Thank you both for your service and your appearances. Today. General cavelli testified earlier, that 31 Abrams tanks would arrive in Ukraine later in the year. estimates I've seen say that we're still about eight months away from that, is that correct?

Christopher Cavoli

No, Senator, the first thing we're going to do is put a training set in

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

That starts next month and Graaf and were correct. That's correct.

Christopher Cavoli

And then the next set i The dates are moving right now we're trying to accelerate as much as we can, I will probably the

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

Same tanks at Grafton. We're gonna be the tanks that go to Ukraine.

Christopher Cavoli

Set will not those will be training tanks that we keep and then we'll send a different set in we did the same thing with Bradley's earlier this year, sir.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

Okay. General van, Avast, have you received an order to transport that second set of tanks to Ukraine yet?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

So I work very closely with European Command to meet all of their requirements in a priority manner.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

We've had no.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

We anticipate the movement.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

Sounds like a NO to NO Cavalli, you look like you have something to say here.

Christopher Cavoli

My command has not issued a specific date for for movement for those yet. As soon as we have the exact sourcing pin down with a timeline. We will issue the actual order for the aircraft.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

Why has your command not issue that order?

Christopher Cavoli

You know, can I take that for the record, Mr. Cotton? Because I'd like to give you the exact the exact status.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

I mean, we our country has 1000s of Main Battle Tanks, it would seem like it's not that hard to find 31 and get them there,

Christopher Cavoli

Senator some of the reasons for that I could cover in closed session.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

I guess, but I mean, I think the main reason for that is the main reasons why we didn't even agree to supply the tanks for a year, which is that President Biden didn't want to supply them. And again, I think we could supply them faster than eight or nine months. If there was the political will, there's not a decision for you or General Van Ovos. To make.

I think it's just reflected from the political decision to continue to drag our feet and our what we're supplying to Ukraine. It's just a repeated story we've seen over and over again, throughout the course of this war. I want to get to one of the potential reasons for that as well. You talked earlier about submitting new Oh plans for NATO.

It came to my attention earlier this year that that we have not changed our Oh plans or our warfighting requirements and EUCOM for Russia. Is that correct?

Christopher Cavoli

Senator, I mean, constant consultation with the Secretary of Defense on that question right now, the question that has been posed to me and we're working our aim our answer with the staff, I believe I have a date with the Secretary of Defense later this month or next month to to discuss it and in detail and to come to a conclusion on on what timeline we will or will not adjust phones.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

A no then once again, that's a no we haven't changed our requirements and the old plan to fight Russia.

Christopher Cavoli

Could we discuss what exactly what we've done with no plans in closed session? Sir?

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

Again, we can but I think the question has been answered now. And the reason I highlighted is the Committee has continuously tell that by the administration not by uniformed military officers that we can't provide this that or the other weapon to Ukraine because as we need it for our own requirements, I understand that especially requirements in the western Pacific against China. But if we still have the same requirements in place to fight Russia, in April of 2023, that we had in February of 2022, after we've seen the performance of their military in Ukraine, and after the known degradation of their military and Ukraine, then I think that's just a pretext that the administration is using for not supplying more capabilities to Ukraine, we can get into more detail in closed setting. But I think it's very troubling that the administration is still stuck in the pre Ukraine war mindset of what it would take for us to adequately deter or defeat Russia in a conflict and ucomm.

One final point I want to raise is the flying of our MQ, nine drones in the Black Sea Russia, dangerously down one a few weeks back. reports I've seen, and what I've heard from my sources, is that we have now altered our flight patterns in the Black Sea, that we are no longer flying in the same airspace where we were flying before that negligent incident with the Russian aircraft. Is that correct?

Christopher Cavoli

Yes, Senator. So it was not just negligent, it was, it was not competent. The Russian pilot bumped into the MQ nine, which is not something pilots typically do on purpose. Again, on ISR operations, especially in the Black Sea, I'd be delighted to answer you in detail in closed session.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

I asked the Secretary of Defense this recently, and he repeatedly said we will fly the paths we felt necessary to collect intelligence information.

Christopher Cavoli

And those have been his instructions to me.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)

That. But again, that's not a that's not a No, when I was asking him that. That's, to me, that's him saying we're not flying wherever we are anymore. Because we don't want to be provocative, which, again, is a political decision.

It's not a military decision. And this is not some secret. I mean, Russia knows where we're flying these aircraft. But anybody here can find out where we're flying them for the most part just by going on open source information.

And the fact that if if we're flying those aircraft in certain airspace in the Black Sea, before that incident, because that's where we thought we needed to get intelligence. And now we're saying we can get that intelligence by flying them somewhere else where we shouldn't been flying them there in the first place. But if we needed to get in there to get that intelligence in the first place, then we should be back there. Otherwise, we're simply ceding that airspace to Russia.

So my time is expired, I guess we'll address more of these enclosed setting.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thanks Senator Cotton. Senator Gillibrand, please.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)

General Cavoli. Last year, we passed the justice for victims of War Crimes Act improving the Department of Justice's ability to prosecute war crimes committed in Ukraine. However, prosecutors, whether in the US or in an international tribunal cannot proceed with cases without evidence. How is EUCOM working with Ukraine and with our allies to preserve evidence of war crimes?

If your personnel discover evidence of a war crime through classified systems, are you ensuring that the evidence is flagged for declassification and eventually used by prosecutors?

Christopher Cavoli

You. So we don't have the lead on this question on this initiative, obviously, but but we do support it as requested. And when we find evidence of war crimes, whether in open sources or any other way, we do refer those and we do keep track of it. Yes, ma'am.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)

Thank you. The war on Ukraine has allowed the world to observe wartime operations in the cyber and space domains as a combatant commander in the theater, where this conflict is occurring. What have you learned from the conflict about the employment of military forces in the cyber and space domains?

Christopher Cavoli

We've we've learned a ton, both in terms of adversary capability and capacity Senator as well as our defensive needs. We're working hard to improve where we need to improve most of all, we're working to help our allies defend their networks and to help our partners who are vulnerable also to defend their networks. And we have a very tight cooperation with Paul Nakasone, on his US Cyber Command to do this. There are some specific things of course, that that at a classified level would be interesting to talk about.

But in general, we have seen a significant employment of cyber both inside the conflict zone and outside the conflict zone on the part of our adversaries man.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)

General vanno almost trans calm is turning over responsibility for service members permanent change of station moves to a private contractor. How will the Department ensure that service members experience actually improves under this contract?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator, thanks for that question. We are focused on delivering the quality service transparency. See, and accountability that is not existent in the current series of contracts. So we are partnering with HomeSafe.

And we have a measured phase in plan with 28 separate metrics monthly that we'll be reviewing for which we own the data. So we are going to continue to watch them as they bring on the capacity as they begin right after peak season September 23. And we have a spouse's group where we are we are getting feedback from actively seeking from them their experiences, so And our first sample rate is going to be about 50%. So we are going to definitely be understanding how they're bringing on the capacity and are they delivering on the quality that we desire.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)

Thank you. part of your strategy for trans comm has involved the increased use of commercial contracts for defense missions, rather than military aircraft and crews. Can you discuss how you are ensuring that these contracts are implementing appropriate and aggressive cybersecurity protocols? How are you including cybersecurity in these contracts?

And how are you verifying that these contractors are not endangering the security of our military personnel or allies?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator cyber is a consistent discussion point amongst us in our in our on our contractor or transportation service providers. We are collaborating with industry. We have contract cybersecurity standards to safeguard Defense Information in those contracts. They annually assess them and we review those assessments.

And we are working throughout the Department with Paul Nakasone, on sharing and collaboration initiatives with our industry partners, and I appreciate Congress's support of the no cost cybersecurity offerings offered in the cyber collaboration Center and the defense industrial base cyber security program. Our transportation service providers are taking advantage of these. And we are assessing them almost constantly.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)

General Cavoli following up on Senator Shaheen question and Senator Hirono is question about Iran and China. Can you talk a little bit more about what the impact of reining involvement and Chinese involvement in the conflict create and what recommendations you have to the administration?

Christopher Cavoli

Yes, ma'am. So the first complication is diplomatic and political. Right, the fact that they don't condemn the fact that in some cases they they affirm Russia's position. Second, China, Iran, as we noted, a few minutes ago, we has provided some material support specifically groans, those haven't had an effect those, those do two things.

First, when they succeed, they strike targets. And second, they, they have to be countered. And sometimes they're countered with air defense missiles. And as Chairman Milley and Secretary asked have made very plain, the primary requirement the Ukrainians have right now is ground based air defense to control their skies.

So it's a it's a cost imposition strategy that you can go after with that. Chinese aid has been non material. And, and it has not had a direct physical effect on the battlefield. Yep, ma'am.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)

Any other impact on non material?

Christopher Cavoli

In closed session, I could discuss one specific one man

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

That goes into jewelry and sent around, please.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to both of you for your service to our country and to your families, as well. And thank you also for your teams that are with you today and their families as well for their service to our country. I just want to follow up a little bit.

The line of questioning that Senator Cotton began, here is one that I think I'd like to understand a little bit more clearly. There. I believe there were 31 Abrams tanks that were committed to a by our country to Ukraine's defense. Are those in that 31?

Or do those include the training tanks that are already in? In Europe today?

Christopher Cavoli

Senator, that there will be 31 Abrams, as of right now donated to Ukraine, the training set will will be a separate set.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

Okay. And so you've got you've got some there in Europe right now. Do you have the 31 identified as being already in Europe? Are they in the United States?

Christopher Cavoli

Senator, if I could, I'd like to take that for the record so I can give you the exact location.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

I don't need the exact location. I was just curious if they were within your area of operation today in Europe.

Christopher Cavoli

Senator again, I would want to give you an accurate answer and I don't have it off the top of my head, sir.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

It would seem to me that if we've committed for those, those two eggs to be made available? What's the length of time from when you're notified that it's time to deliver them? How long does that take? And perhaps this is a better question for General Van Ovos.

How long does it take to actually deliver the Abrams tanks once you've been notified or requested to deliver them?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator were molded multiple avenues to deliver Abrams tanks, by air or by sea. So we consistently look not just that everyone's taxman, but the significant amount of aid that has been provided to Ukraine, we sourced that from around the globe, not necessarily just out of CONUS, or just out of Europe. And as we determine where the sources are going to be, we match it to the best resource to move it to meet the timelines as needed by the priority set out by the European.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

You're prepared to make that move as expeditiously as possible once you've been given the orders to transport the tanks? Yes, center, where would those tanks be located at today? If you were to do them? Can you share that in a in an open session?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator again, I don't know where all the tanks are and which ones would be viable for for this donation? I would leave that up to the Army Materiel Command.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

It hasn't gotten that far yet.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Not to my awareness has gotten that far. Right.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

Thank you. In general, once again, the the orders or at least your authorizations to move tanks over. You'll you'll play a part in that. But you have not been given the authorizations yet to do that at this time.

Christopher Cavoli

Right when the exact tanks are identified, and their locations, so they could come from stocks and Europe is general Vanover has just pointed out they could be reconstructed. When I've got the set identified, then I place an order with General Ban no votes, and it usually goes fairly quickly. So they can be moved by air or better by sea left.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

I think it's fair to say that we probably have the best logistics capabilities of any country in the world. And that's a testament not just to the men and women that serve within that. But also because we do a good job of planning. I think the the reason why I'm following up on this, and I recognize this is not a line of questioning that you really want to go down.

But I think it's important to point out that this is not a case of where we just simply can't deliver 31 Abrams tanks. Bottom line is that this has been a policy decision that they're not prepared to deliver 31 Abrams tanks at this time, it is not within your authorization. General, would that be a correct statement on my part?

Christopher Cavoli

Senator, there is an intention to deliver the 31 tanks. I think there are some technical things that we have to go through in terms of exactly which tanks that we're working on.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

But the bottom line is, is if we needed those tanks, it shouldn't take eight months for the United States Army to be able to access 31 Abrams tanks. If we needed them tomorrow, we'd get them very, very quickly. If you needed them, you could get them or if you were authorized to get them, you could get them this is not a case of us not being able to get them. It's a matter that somebody's got to make a decision on when they want those tanks delivered.

Is that a fair statement? General?

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, I think the key is exactly which tanks in which capabilities and there are levels of classification that the Army has to wade through on that question for release ability, sir,

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

Fair to say those are that should never take nine months. If you needed those tanks. You could get those tanks.

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, if I needed those tanks for the US Army. I certainly could.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

Yeah. Okay. That is very helpful. Thank you, General, I, I recognize this was not the line of questioning that I wanted to go down today.

But this I think is important to understand that those decisions need to be made. And this is not within your area of operation. You're ready to go, you can get it done. But someone's got to tell you, it's time to go.

And I want to thank you for those for those very frank answers. I also I'm mindful that my time is expired. But I just have to also say I want to take a moment just to thank you and your staff are resolving an issue that the South Dakota Army National Guard's 129 Global Public Affairs Detachment had and getting its meals paid for, while deployed in support of Atlantic Resolve, it takes a total force to defend the nation. The guard is a key component to that force.

But sometimes the pieces just simply don't fit together very well. And I want to thank you for going the extra mile to take care of these soldiers even while tending to the strategic issues that you are responsible for. And I wanted to publicly say thank you for getting involved in getting that fixed for these young soldiers.

Christopher Cavoli

Thanks to my commander was wrong in that case, and we appreciate your care for your constituents and for bringing it to our attention and we're rectifying it.

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

You, Senator Brown. Senator Kelly, please.

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you both for being in here today. I have a question for each of you. First I want to start with General Van Ovost. On the tanker recap, recapitalisation plan, the Air Force has modified this approach in order to accelerate the next generation air refueling system and gas.

And having a modern and survivable tanker plan is critical to any future fight. It's also part of strategic deterrence. And as you know, the Arizona National Guard provides a significant amount of support for rapid mobilization, worldwide deployment airlift, aeromedical, evacuation and sustained aerial refueling operations for both Air Air Forces and the Navy and partner nation. Air Force's.

The 100 and 61st air refueling wings fleet is now more than 50 years old, and it remains in really high demand. So general, what can you share about the Air Force's plan to recapitalize Arizona's national guard tanker mission, as well as the other Air National Guard units supporting this mission across the country? And what I'm getting at is what's the plan here? And for Arizona specifically to get either a KC y bridge recapitalisation tank or to continue with the KC 46 until n gas comes online.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator thanks for that question. You know, our our ability to project and sustain the joint force without fail is a deterrent to our add to our aggressors and it assures our allies and partners we will be there and air refueling is the backbone to that along those lines, thank you for your support the total force we could not do our job in in logistics and mobility without the total force to strengthen shoulder force I use them every day. So I thank them for their service. As far as the recapitalization as we work with with the Secretary of the Air Force The Air Force Staff, they are committed to a continuous recapitalisation program, because when we get the last KC 46 on the current contract 179 aircraft, we will still have 287 67 year old KC 130 fives, so they have committed to a very targeted modernization program for the KC 130 fives which need to last us out into the 2040s to ensure the safety of the airplanes and the survivability of those airplanes out into the future.

Meanwhile, they've committed to a continuous recapitalisation program with capabilities that are relevant to the KC 46 block one because as they accelerate next generation air refueling system, to the left to the mid 2030s, we'll have a gap of six or seven years there where we won't have any production airplanes. So I look forward to their plan. They're doing an analysis of alternatives are looking forward to their plan to continue to seed and recapitalize with all have our air refueling units, because in the end, all of those KC 130 fives need to be recapitalized.

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.)

Okay, can I get your commitment to work with me to ensure that the guard will receive modernize tankers in a timely fashion comparable with active duty units?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Yes, then I'll work with you in the Air Force on that.

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.)

Thank you. Thank you, General Cavoli. Good seeing you again. So we met in Munich, and I just got back from Kyiv, a couple of weeks ago, met with President Zelensky for over an hour, we had a very productive talk about what he thinks he needs to defeat Russia.

And I'm more than ever committed to support Ukraine. We can't let Russia win this thing. Last week, Congress was notified of a presidential drawdown authority for more high Mars 155 millimeter artillery rounds, and a series of other equipment and but just for me to get to the point here in your military assessment is the equipment that the US and our partners providing enough to pave the way for a decisive victory against the Russians by Ukraine.

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Senator and thank you for their notes on your recent trip to key of his wealth debt, they were very helpful to me. So we went into a a planning process with our Ukrainian colleagues last winter, and we develop with them a number of courses of action wargame them carefully. And when when we came down to the key courses of action for an offensive, we calculated the amount of equipment in the various types that they required. And we have fulfilled that we have nearly gotten everything into Ukraine.

And and I am confident they have what they need for the offensive that we have planned with them and I can go into significant detail in closed session with you sir.

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.)

Well pick it up. Then. Thank you. Thank you, gentleman, sir.

Thank you.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Senator Ernst blue.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa)

Thank you, gentlemen very much for our Excuse me, ma'am. Thank you, sir. General Kapolei for being here today and General Van Ovos. Thank you very much, ma'am.

For coming in front of the Committee today. I'm going to start with you, General Kavali. And a number of my colleagues have raised the issue of, of Ukraine and Russia. And what we hear in the news, and this has been a hot button topic with the administration as well as that we're afraid of escalation.

As the war continues to go on, will escalate, Russia will escalate. So general Kapolei, how do you assess the prospect? Or excuse me, the prospect of Russia escalating to a point of a nuclear weapons use in this conflict? Can you talk in open session just broadly, about what you see what you've heard?

And what would be that tipping point for Vladimir Putin?

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Senator. It's nice to see you again. And, of course, this is a complicated and difficult question. There are an enormous variety of things that that go into successful deterrence and successful escalation management.

It is something we work on every single day, I am in constant communication with the Department as well as my subordinate commands, as well as our allies in terms of what we're doing, where we're located. What's happening inside of Ukraine, what's happening outside of Ukraine, to include with my fellow combatant commanders, many of whom have Russian presence in their AOR, as well. successful so far, right, we've we've managed to control every incident, to the extent possible. And, and I think that's due to a lot of hard work and learning as as we go along.

With regard to nuclear escalation, specifically, man, it's very difficult to talk about it in an open session, but but I have traveled back to the United States to deliver testimony. So I obviously have a certain degree of confidence that we, the United States and the Alliance are in a good strong position and deterring such things.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa)

Thank you very much. I appreciate that. And we hope that we continue on a on a strong path of deterrence in that area. And with the other assessments out there of presidents Lenski his wishes to not only expel the Russians from eastern Ukraine, but also to retake Crimea.

What is your assessment of their ability to retake Crimea? And what would the posture be coming from the United States and our partners and allies?

Christopher Cavoli

Thanks, the the question of retaking any specific piece of ground, you know, depends on a variety of things. Crimea is pretty tough. Crimea has got a mountainous center. But of course, Crimea is pretty hard to keep resupplied if you're the adversary as well.

So it really depends on the situation at the time. If Crimea were empty of Russian soldiers, it would be easy if Crimea were defended at a certain level, it would be harder, and it's hard to see where things go. What we do know is that any such question would be answered sequentially with the activities after the activities that the Ukrainians are planning to undertake in the next in the next months. So it's hard to say from here.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa)

Yeah, thank you very much. And as we look to the future, and I know, we don't know when this conflict will end, we hope it would be soon. But General Kapolei. Would NATO's military requirements and UCOM increase if there is a political decision to extend a security commitment to Ukraine?

Christopher Cavoli

So our posture, the US posture has shifted over time. Of course, ma'am. In in, in the initial phases, we went up about 103,000. uniform, we've adjusted that over time, we're at about 82,000 in uniform right now.

And that depends on what we see going in the AOR. And it's it's a constant back and forth. With the Department and the situation. If we were to extend some form of security guarantee to Ukraine, it would clearly depend on exactly what the nature of the security guarantee was.

It would also depend importantly, on what approach our allies took to that. Our allies are increasing their defense commitments. Many of our eastern flank allies, such as Poland have made massive investments 3.94% of GDP right now, which exceeds us expenditures on defense. So it depends on what role they would take as well and that would certainly He be our choice, our preference to have them lead in such a situation.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa)

And I see that my time is expiring, but I'm part of that equation as well. I would like to discuss further at another time, but our continued participation in the state partnership program, especially with a number of our European partners. Obviously, I always partner with Kosovo. There's a lot of concern with some of those nations as well with Russian influence.

So I think they can be an extremely important part of that solution.

Christopher Cavoli

Ma'am, I am. I'm the biggest fan of the State Partnership Program.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa)

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you very much. Senator Blumenthal.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you both for being here and for your extraordinary service to our nation, and to each of your teams, some of them behind you. My thanks as well. General Cavoli.

I've been to Ukraine three times over roughly the last year plus. I've also by the way, visited the training area in Grafton beer. And I have been just immensely impressed, not only by President Zelenskyy on the three occasions that I've spent time with him and everyday Ukrainians, but his military team, and our team, training Ukrainians, their dedication, their bonding, in fact, in providing the hands on skills they need to operate the Bradley and Stryker vehicles. And I think it's a great tribute to

our military, that we have committed in the way that we have not just at the 30,000 foot level, but literally person to person hands on in the way that we have.

I'm deeply troubled, as I view the assets they have, and the assets that we could provide. You know, you've just testified in response to Senator Kelly, that your belief is that they have what they need to be successful in the counter offensive this spring in the south. And in the east. Is that correct?

Christopher Cavoli

That's correct, Senator.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

Our mantra is that we never want to see a fair fight. Do they have what they need to have an unfair advantage in this offensive going forward?

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, they they. They have to be better than the Russian force. They face it. There are great weaknesses in the Russian force they face right now.

Those weaknesses are temporary, and the Russians will improve their posture and their capabilities over time. But time and the enemies. The Ukrainians are enemies. capabilities is an important factor in this and don't they need more, I believe that they will have what they need.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

Sorry to interrupt, don't they need more? Air Defense? Couldn't they use planes? What about more of the armored vehicles, even more tanks?

Where would you assess the platforms that we can do more to provide to give them greater strength at this critical moment? Because I assume you agree that if this counter offensive is unsuccessful, it will be a significant setback for Ukrainian.

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, yeah, of course, there are things we continue to give them and that we will need to continue to give them over time. I may have mischaracterized things, we haven't delivered a force and then that's it. We continue to build with them. And we have plans to continue to build with them over the summer and into the autumn.

And then eventually, we intend to help them restructure their entire military. In the short term ground based air defense remains important. We've made some important advances in the last couple of months. I could be very specific about them in closed session, of course, sir, but but I feel pretty comfortable about where we are.

And I'm comfortable about where we're going in the in the next couple of months. Or what about an army can always use more.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

Understood. What about planes? What's your assessment?

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, they've just received a bunch of MiG 20 nines from from two of our allies. They begun to employ some of those MIG 20 dines. They have a few dozen aircraft right now. They are conducting offensive as well as defensive operations with them right now.

I think their key to controlling their own airspace right now, however, is ground based air defense. As you pointed out a minute ago, sir.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

The Washington Post reported yesterday that leaked United States Intelligence indicated that the Russians can fund the war in Ukraine for at least another year. Do you agree with that assessment?

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, I can't talk specifically to the to the undisclosed to the unauthorized disclosures. Clearly there are investigations going on and everything like that. However, it's important to note that as General Milley has had on a number of occasions, the Russians have strategic depth, that they have manpower, and they are not to be underestimated in terms of their ability to endure.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

So you don't disagree with the conclusion that they could fund the war for another year, which again, heightens the importance of the counter offense

Christopher Cavoli

As completely separate from what may or may not be in any documents and Evans. Yeah, no, I think they can they can fund for another year, sir.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

And one one last question, sir. Just following up on Senator Cotton's question. You may not be aware, but four of us wrote to the Secretary of Defense on March 21, asking that our warfighting requirements in Europe be updated to reflect the degradation of Russian forces 200,000 or more of their troops killed significant damage to their armored vehicles and so forth. Because obviously, it's a different force than it was when those war fighting requirements were devised.

Putting aside the timing, wouldn't you agree in your professional cabinet capacity, that those warfighting requirements do have to be updated?

Christopher Cavoli

Absolutely. When we can assess the exact status, Senator of the capabilities, the capacity and the disposition of whatever Russian army emerges from this? Absolutely, we'll we'll update that stuff. And I'm in contact, as I mentioned to Senator Cotton a moment ago with the Department about this, I would point out one or two things, though, you know, the the Russian army inside Ukraine today is bigger than it was at the beginning of the conflict.

So we have to make sure we got the right sight picture. That's what I'm working on. Separately, sir. I thank you for your visits to graph and bear and your kind words about our soldiers and our NCOs who are absolutely putting the ball over the left field fence every day, all components, all three components every day, and I invite all members to please come visit those those soldiers that graph and beer and see what they're doing for our country.

Thank you.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Blumenthal. Senator Scott, please. Sure.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.)

Thank you, Chairman. Thank each of you for being here. Thank you for what you do. The I just had the opportunity to go to Greece and Cyprus couple weeks ago.

And that was with Admiral Serrata, and some other sailors. And you really have to admire what people are doing. Could you talk about? General, can you talk about the importance of Cyprus, and the importance of making sure we continue to allow them to get the military equipment that they need?

Christopher Cavoli

So the eastern Mediterranean in general, Senator, thank you for bringing it up. It's a it's a complicated area, and it's an area that has seen greatly increased competition, as well as Russian naval presence in the past few years, you know, the establishment of the naval base in Tartus has been an important part of that, in my NATO role, we devote a lot of attention to that. And we have a couple of operations, maritime operations and air operations that help us with that NMI us Royal Naval Forces, your work extensively down there. One of our requirements is to be able to project power in to the eastern med.

And Cyprus is ideally ideally located to do dad, as you know, and and and, and does figure in to some of our thoughts in that regard.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.)

And Cyprus. It's in our best interest if Cyprus continues to buy American equipment rather than rely on Chinese or Russian equipment.

Christopher Cavoli

Sir American equipment sharing an equipment set with another nation creates a strategic bond as well as a practical bond. That is very useful.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.)

I want to thank you and everybody in in Europe for all their efforts to make sure Ukraine wins. If you're talking to just somebody that's not very political, doesn't really think about geopolitics. What would you tell them is a reason why we ought to be involved in the Ukraine more with as in all the help we give them, how what would you what would your pitch be? Just think about for a second Americans are saying, we spent, you know, I think we've committed you know, \$100 billion plus to this and that's that's clearly a lot of money.

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, thank you for the incredibly important question, right? The first thing I would tell just one of my cousins, or something like that is that America does not like bullies and having bullies around does not help America. And, and that's step one, and Russia is a bully. And we need to deal with that we need to help those who stand up to bullies to deal with that.

Second, the United States doesn't let adversaries control things that are valuable to us. And that part of Europe is valuable to us, and so as Europe in general, and if Ukraine loses, then more at Europe is at stake. And we don't let that happen. And then finally, I'd say just in a self interests a sense, you know, when I was a lieutenant and came in the army in the 1980s, we had more than 300,000 US service people start stationed overseas because of Russia because of the Soviet threat.

And we don't need to return to that. We don't need to return to that. And so Ukraine, Ukraine deserves help.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.)

Turn on the when you look at like on this chart, do you see where your troops are your servicemen and women are our station? Is there any logic to moving? More people out of places like Italy, and in Germany closer to where there's more risk?

Christopher Cavoli

Thanks, Senator. Yeah, yeah, of course, of course there is. And we've done that as the risk has gone up. We've shifted forces on temporary deployments out to the east and all of the reinforcement just about that have come in have gone out to the east.

Moreover, in the past, in the past year, the Department has announced the intent to station some new organizations in Europe, the fifth corps headquarters, Ford is in Poland, a new special logistics space has gone straight into Poland, we have shifted a Combat Aviation Brigade on rotation out to Poland. We have a permanent rotation, we have an enduring rotational presence in each of the three Baltics, we have a division headquarters in a brigade combat team in Romania. So we've done a significant shift shift to the east, the forces that are left in places like Italy and Germany are well positioned for deployment to to reinforce the correct location. They got good readiness, facilities, training facilities, and they have good infrastructure for deployment.

So they give us flexibility as we go forward, sir. Thank both of you.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Scott. Senator King, please.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)

Senator Scott, when people ask me that question, why are we there? My short answer is Google sued Dayton land 1938. Hitler could have been stopped. And 55 million lives could have been saved.

To me. That's the most compelling argument. If Putin is successful in Ukraine, then we're going to be facing threats in the Baltics, Poland, he said that he wants to rebuild the Soviet Union. General, I just want you to know that the concern about tanks is bipartisan.

I'm very frustrated that those tanks, they ought to be sitting in sessile, Poland right now ready. As soon as the training is done. This counter offensive that everybody is talking about, it's the longest wind up for a punch in the history of the world is going to be trench warfare, and it's going to involve tanks. That's why the tank was invented at the end of World War One.

If our tanks don't get there until August or September, it may well be too late. And so I just want to urge you to urge I know it's, you've done you both have done an amazing job of logistics and working with the Ukrainians and integrating and supplying them with what they need. But this this tank story is not satisfactory, the decision has been made. Okay, then let's get ready to execute it and and cut through whatever the red tape is, I know you got to do the training, but the tank should be sitting there in the Polish border ready to go when those when that training is done.

So I just hope you'll take back that this is a bipartisan concern on this Committee, that that you know, coming in at the end at the after the the counter offensive is just that's that will be looked on as a tragic mistake. I learned five years ago that the Russians have a doctrine called escalate to de escalate, that they will use tactical nuclear weapons if they believe that they're about to loot have some kind of catastrophic loss on the battlefield. You were asked earlier but I want to put a finer point on the question isn't it At least within the realm of the thinkable that Putin would use tactical nuclear weapons if indeed, he felt that Crimea was at risk, or if there's a significant breakthrough by the Ukrainians in the south and east.

Christopher Cavoli

Thanks, Senator. It has certainly been mentioned by members of the Russian government as well as by observers on the Russian political scene, that is the potential or the possibility for using nuclear weapons.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)

And this is part of their military doctrine going back before this invade, yeah, yes, sir.

Christopher Cavoli

The exact conditions under which they would do that, I think, are not completely known, and might not be completely known to them. They might look good on paper. But then when the moment comes, it might be harder to decide. Well, we have some insights into it, Senator, that I'd be, of course, eager to share with you in, in closed session.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)

Right turns is the key, they have to understand that there will be a response that would be very costly to them. Deterrence is the heart of our as you know, of our entire military strategy. Iron Dome, wouldn't Iron Dome help? Why don't we have Iron Dome in Ukraine?

Christopher Cavoli

Sir Iron Dome, clearly could help.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)

Oh, I agree. And Iron Dome seem to be particularly calibrated to the kind of low level attacks that are coming in by drones and missiles.

Christopher Cavoli

Yeah, I can't speak to exactly why Iron Dome in particular is not there. Sir. If I, if I could defer that to the working group that develops those solutions?

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)

I would if you could take that. For the record, I would really like to know, because we we certainly helped to fund the development of Iron Dome. And it just seems to me that it fits in this situation. And we move patriots in and as you mentioned earlier, air defense is one of the most crucial things that the Ukrainians need.

So I would like if you could take for the record, have some thoughts on how we could move forward with with Iron Dome?

Christopher Cavoli

I sure will. Senator King. Thanks.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)

And you've talked about China, it seems to me China can play either a useful role or a destructive role. And the jury is out on which direction we've seen some hopeful diplomatic moves in the last 24 hours. But if they start supplying significant material to the Russians, that also could tip the balance in the wrong direction. Would you agree with to that?

Christopher Cavoli

I absolutely agree with that, Senator.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine)

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator King. Senator. I believe Senator Budd.

Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.)

They Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And again, thank you both for your service. And it's great to have a former Deputy Commanding General, the 82nd airborne division before the Committee. So thank you for your service, especially in North Carolina.

General Cavalli, have a few questions I'd like to ask about our foreign military sales process. And I've asked these questions, similar questions of other geographic combatant commanders. And I'm hoping to finish this up with with you and appreciate on the first part, just yes or no. on each one.

And then at the end, I'll have opportunity for you to expand if you would. So is the current foreign military sales process? Is it fast and flexible enough to meet our foreign partners security needs in your area of responsibility? No, Senator, does the transfer of US defense articles build our partners capacity to provide for their own defense?

Absolutely, Senator. Does the FMS increase the interoperability between the US military and those countries we sell defense articles to?

Christopher Cavoli

Absolutely, Senator, it's one of the most important aspects of our foreign military sales.

Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.)

Thank you. Given the outstanding performance of US defense systems in Ukraine versus the lackluster performance of Russian systems, are you seeing an increase in FMS requests from our European allies and partners?

Christopher Cavoli

A doubt, Senator, there is an enormous appetite around the world for us armaments right now.

Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.)

Thank you and what particular systems are in demand right now,

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, the ones that have been on display, the high Mars system the gamblers rockets, radar systems. De Patri Patriot missile system is in high demand, but I would point out that just about all US armaments are looked upon around the world with To with with great desire, there's great appetite for them.

Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.)

Thank you General and from your view. How are these FMS challenges impacting strategic competition with China and Russia on the European continent?

Christopher Cavoli

Well, sir, in Europe specifically, they don't impact too much because the Chinese and the Russians aren't selling too much war material inside Europe. Clearly not to NATO, for example, and in fact, our European allies with our assistance are in the process of divesting their their Soviet era stuff. However, as you may know, I used to be the commander of US Army, Europe and Africa. In places like Africa, it's very difficult for us to compete if it takes us a long time to deliver, set a Humvees to a nation.

But it takes China you know, six months to put them on about enrollment there. It gets it gets hard to compete in that regard. So speed is like your point. Speed in foreign military sales is an essential part of delivering the influence that we seek when when we conduct ourselves.

Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.)

Thank you, General GERALYN Vanover. In North Carolina, we couldn't be more proud of the military ocean terminal sunny point we've had a chance to visit recently. And the 596 transportation regrade the unit whoever sees it. In the past, there have been concerns about staffing and funding shortages at Sandy Point and the nation's other terminals.

Can you please provide an update on those issues and what resources if any, are needed to ensure these critical transportation nodes are prepared to support the nation's needs?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Thank you, Senator. And thank you for visiting Matsu, it is a critical ammunition outlaid location for for the America. And so as we look at both Matsu and montco, and California we are working closely with with the army and the Department of Defense to ensure they have the resources they need so that we can protect and keep the capabilities there, as you probably know, infrastructure. I think about that, especially with contested logistics, that there those would be, you know, a point of interest for our aggressors to try to slow down.

So from a cyber perspective and infrastructures perspective, the burden perspective, we want to make sure that they're they're working well, and the 596, I couldn't be prouder of the work that they have done to support general Cavoli and the outflow to Ukraine. That's a really critical point for us and their readiness. Again, when I think about day to day readiness and readiness for the future, the number one thing you can do for us to ensure readiness is to pass an on time budget, because that seeds both time and money to the enemy.

Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.)

Thank you, General. Chairman. Just a question. I didn't see the time reset.

Do I have time for one more question? Thank you, General invento. Boss, do you have any concerns about cyber attacks that could slow down the flow of forces or material in a crisis or conflict? And if so, what's transcom doing about it?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator a cyber is one of the major concerns that we have because we have a large what we call surface attack area across the logistics network from end to end. So we are looking very closely at cyber hardening practices, not just in the US not just on the Department of Defense Systems, but our civilian systems within the defense industrial base, and with our allies and partners. So it is critical that we stay focused on that and we have our The other thing is our ability to command and control. We must have secure command and control superior secure communications and updated cryptographic materials so that we can maintain a consistent flow of logistics at a time in place of our choosing.

Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.)

Again, thank you both Chairman.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Budd. Senator Peters, please.

Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thanks to both of you for your service to our country, general Coverley. Nowhere in the world is the power of our alliances clearly more evident than what we're seeing in NATO right now. And through the National Guard's Bureau's State Partnership Program, the Michigan National Guard has supported the Alliance through our partnership with Latvia for now nearly 30 years.

One of the advantages of the state partnership programs is that it provides NATO an opportunity to utilize CONUS based facilities for training purposes. A complaint that I've heard from other combat commanders is the lack of suitable training facilities in their AR and how that's going to competent and how oftentimes a compliment or complicates partner force training. So my question for you is, what is your current capacity for training in your AR and given the renewed focus on our NATO allies on defense issues? Would you benefit from having a CONUS location that could be used for training similar to what the Latvians have been doing in northern Michigan for many, many years.

Christopher Cavoli

Thanks, Senator. And you know, again, as I mentioned a couple of moments ago to one of your the other members, the state partnership program is just invaluable to, to us and us, Yukon. I think the other geographic combatant commanders share my opinion. inside Europe, we have plenty of training capacity right now, for, for the US forces as well as for our allies.

There's quite a bit in Western Europe of training, capacity training facility capacity, that that existed for larger Armed Forces during the Cold War in our Eastern European allies. However, there are some things that we need to get done. As you know, Latvia has been building quite a bit has been improving quite a bit. Throughout the Baltics, it's necessary, it's necessary for a couple of reasons, not just for the host nation.

But because in order to reinforce that host nation with NATO forces at a time of need, those forces would need to continue to train in place in the country to maintain the readiness necessary. So all three of our Baltic as well as our Polish allies are working hard on their, on their training areas in that regard. Latvia's activities in the United States have been very useful to Latvia, they have other ones throughout Europe. And I think a good mix is a useful thing.

It's a useful thing, especially because it's useful for countries like Latvia to get a chance to go back to the States and to and to interact with their state partners on their state partners home ground and see the way our systems work there as well. As a matter of strict capacity, not as necessary, but as a matter of benefit. It's been huge.

Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.)

Right? Thank you. My next question for you, sir, is in your opening statements. You mentioned Yukons efforts to conduct activities in the information environment, cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum to counter Russian aggression and other malign activities in Europe.

So my question is, as the joint force moves towards data centric concepts to synchronize common operation pictures for the joint force, or are you comfortable with DoD as current platforms for cost management and the capacity to display a, an accurate, common operations picture for not only our joint forces, but for our allies and our partners as well?

Christopher Cavoli

Thanks for the question, sir. I don't think you'd find any of my combatant commander colleagues, who is anything but eager for the advances that we're working on inside the Department right now, specifically, the JAD C to the joint all domain command and control system, which is intended to link any sensor to the best shooter as quickly as possible. In my case, being the commander of European Command as well as the Allied Command operations commander, it's imperative that that Jad C two be combined Jad C two so that we can share it with our allies in the Allied space. No, sir, I am not satisfied we have work to do.

And I'm eager for the for the efforts of our Department to continue to bear fruit.

Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.)

Thank you, federal analyst during your testimony to the House Armed Services Committee. And with me, in our discussion in my office, you highlighted the ongoing challenges with contested logistics and the task to conduct the air refueling missions within that contested, integrated environment. So given these challenges and persistent threats, how are you working with the services to prioritize and, and really replicate training scenarios similar to potential threats from China, Russia, North Korea and Iran?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Thank you, Senator for that question. Contested Logistics is first and foremost in our minds on all of our development, our requirements development in our in our exercise development out into the future, especially in things like air refueling, which my most stressed ability, we are working to try to first understand ourselves, we are using what we just talked about here with jancy to understand where our data is, the ITV to understand what is going on what's in motion, we're beginning to develop predictive analytics to understand what needs to be moved in a predictive manner. So we can marry up our scarce resources with the highest priority, something like we're doing today, with Ukraine, being agile enough to change out our priorities. So I think about the exercise as we lay down the exercise, we're trying to get after those gaps, given them hard problems to solve, you know, loss of command control, loss of precision, navigation and timing, trying to get an understanding of Commander's Intent all the way down to the tactical echelon.

And we're doing this not just in Europe, but across all of the continents, and we have a heavy heavy emphasis in the Indo Pacific.

Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.)

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Peters. Senator Schmitt, please.

Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2014 Even after Russia moved into Crimea, NATO countries agreed agreed to raise defense spending to at least 2% of their GDP by 2024. Last year, eight years after that pledge, only seven of the 30 NATO countries met that goal. prosperous nations like France and Germany still lag well behind that goal.

And I know there's been some discussion about when we're delivering tanks. But we're talking about over the course of that period of time, billions and billions and billions of dollars from NATO countries that seemingly refused to ante up to protect themselves and Europe. And so general, I want to ask you a question. If those additional billions of dollars would have been designated for defense, wouldn't that have gone a long way in deterring Russian aggression?

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, thanks. Thanks for the question. You know, first of all, you would have to look pretty far to find somebody who were was a bigger advocate than me of all our allies spending 2%. In fact, in my confirmation hearings, I made clear that I consider 2% to be a floor.

There are shopping lists that have to be filled out there, there are readiness requirements that have to be filled out there, and they're going to require money. And I believe 2% is a floor not a ceiling, where we are right now. So in 2014, we had an average spending of 1.4% of GDP, sir, across the Alliance. Now we're at 1.8%, which is still short, we've got 10 allies with the addition of Finland this year, we've got 10 allies who currently spend 2% or more, we've got 11 allies who have a credible plan to get there, some of them enshrined in law to get there by 24, which was the goal.

But that leaves 10.

Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.)

I just I have to tell you to encourage them to Yeah, and I know you're in kind of a unique position with your role. But I have to tell you, you know, in the United States, I think it's like 54%, of the share of the GDP of all those NATO countries, and we provide 70% of the funding, I think the American taxpayers get a little weary, essentially, of subsidizing these western democratic socialist states. So when they're not investing in their military to defend their backyard, they're using that money on social programs that we may or may not agree with. But yet the United States continues to have to hold the bag, and we're having legitimate questions today about delivery of weapons systems, but I would argue that if they were actually meeting what they should be doing on their own continent, Russian aggression would have either been deterred, or, you know, Ukraine would have what they need.

And I want to ask about one country in particular, France. You know, President McCrone recently visited communist dictator Ji and said that it's not in Europe's interest to strongly support Taiwan and stand allied with the United States. I find this comment, by the way, totally insane. Do you have a sense that that France is is on their way to meeting their NATO obligations, this this amount of funding, because that's a pretty bold statement for the president of the country that kind of refuses to live up to their own commitments.

Christopher Cavoli

Senator, I, of course, you know, read the read the coverage of those comments and everything. And I think I'll leave commentary on them to my civilian leadership. Fair enough. I am a huge advocate of burden sharing, sir, and I believe the plans that we're working on in NATO will create the blueprint to get to that.

Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.)

Well, that's probably a question more for for Secretary Blinken. General then almost I want to ask you, after the disastrous withdrawal of Afghanistan from Afghanistan by President Biden. What was left behind was \$48 million worth of ammunition 80 aircraft 23,000 Humvees 250,000 automatic rifles, 95 drones, 42,000 pieces 42,000 pieces of Night Vision surveillance, biometric and positioning equipment. I mean this it's unbelievable.

And of course, you are charged with scrambling and in in saving over 19,000 people from perhaps one of the most embarrassing moments in American foreign policy history. My question to you is where did all that equipment go? Where is it? Do we know?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator I'm not familiar with where the equipment is. But I could tell you that the Afghanistan retrograde presented in a really an unprecedented situation. We had a rapidly involving security, deterioration, they're on the ground, and I'm proud of how the US service members were able to evacuate and take care of our Afghans.

Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.)

Agree. And I applaud you for that. And in fact, a servicemen from Missouri Jared Schmitz lost his life that day. And I don't think we talked about it enough.

I mean, I believe this would be a bipartisan, what happened there is inexcusable. And I just mentioned the equipment, not not the loss of life, to compound all of that, and I know you were charged with that. And just finally, well, I'm out of time. I just appreciate what you do.

But the idea that we left all of that behind and lost those lives, and there's not a word of it, in fact, I guess the most recent report was trying to blame a previous administration and inject politics into this. It was just an abject failure by this administration, and we ought to, we ought to get to the bottom of it, make sure it never happens. Again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Schmitt, Senator Kaine, excuse me. All right, Senator Rosen. Thank you.

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.)

Thank you, Chairman Reid, appreciate you holding this hearing. I'd also like to thank General Scavolini and Van House for testifying today. And for your service to our country, we really appreciate you. And General Kavali.

I want to talk a little bit about Ukraine, obviously, with both of you and a potential Ukrainian counter offensive because Russia has committed significant manpower and equipment to launch a FES offenses in Ukraine this past winter, we know that their gains have been limited. And their losses, we also know have seemed to be significant. Nonetheless, the defense of these towns has not come without costs to Ukraine. And so my colleagues have been asking about sending equipment to Ukraine, talking about the counter offensive, you've been speaking about that.

And I just want to build upon that for a moment. So let's just include drones in the conversation. Right. So what's your assessment of the use and effectiveness in the Ukrainian conflict of the short range drones the one way attack anti tank munitions that are being used?

Right now? And could you also speak to what's what lessons we've learned about these kinds of weapons for our own force going on in the future and our defense industrial base?

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Senator. That's that has been one of the one of the most interesting developments in this conflict. We it was prefigured a little bit during the Azerbaijan Armenia war two years ago, when Azerbaijan used unmanned aerial vehicles extremely effectively. Both sides are using them very extensively.

Both sides are using surveillance drones as well as armed drones as well as one way attack drones, they meet varying degrees of success, they can be shot down, they can be shot down with small arms, they can be shot down with standard machine guns, they can mostly be shot down with missiles as well. They can also be stopped with electromagnetic interference. And we see that going both ways. And those that's providing a very good learning experience for us, as we consult with the Ukrainians, and we're incorporating those through our services and through our commands.

We're incorporating those lessons to stay ahead of that EMI interference, especially. Some of them have been proven very effective. And as weapons and some of them have proven pretty effective, we have been in an iterative improvement cycle with regard to us supplied drones, ma'am.

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.)

Well, that's great. And I'm glad to see I like to follow up with you on being sure we have enough r&d and enough dollars and programs there for public partnerships, wherever that is with the Department of Defense to expand these UAS programs are really important. And that leads me into my next question about Defense Innovation. Because in 2021, NATO launched the Defense Innovation accelerator for the North Atlantic, we call it Diana.

And the goal of Diana is to sharpen our technological edge by working with the private sector to integrate emerging dual use technologies, and rapidly scale these innovations because things are happening, right as we speak, right on the battlefield lives are being lost. And maybe these can help save that. And so the US government doesn't have the authority to contribute to r&d initiatives which received funding from other nations. So we would need to provide specific authority to allow the US to make contributions to NATO, Diana by this October for us to have the opportunity to be a full participant.

Christopher Cavoli

As you know, Senator Diana is emerging right now. So so far they've got to about 54 initiatives that they're working on. But the budget is is fairly small. Defense Innovation.

And then procurement is national business for the most part, NATO, but especially for allies with without significant defense budget bases, it's useful to collaborate. I think the US collaboration with them is great. And I would advocate such authority, ma'am.

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.)

Well, thank you. And I'm going to build on that too, because we know things are happening technologically faster than we can keep up oftentimes. And so as the war in Ukraine obviously has progressed, we've seen proliferation of the relatively cheap, easy to use all the commercial drones that are out there, you can just buy them off many internet website, right? For both intelligence and reconnaissance for surveillance and kinetic missions.

Can Can you maybe expand on us working again, in whatever sectors we can hear public private to deliver advanced capabilities using some of these technologies that are emerging in the private sector?

Christopher Cavoli

Yes, ma'am. Absolutely. I would advocate any way for us to innovate quicker and adopt things more quickly. You know, with regard to the commercial drones, they've been, they've been very, very present on the battlefield.

In Ukraine, they tend to have a fairly limited lifespan. However, it's it's harder to find commercial drones that are adequately hardened against electromagnetic interference, for example, but they've been enormously effective at the at at the lowest levels for squads and things like that, to spot things.

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.)

Well, thank you. I appreciate it. We'll follow up with you on all of these. Thank you, Miss.

Thank you.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you, Senator Rosen. Senator Kaine, please.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.)

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and to each of our witnesses for your service. I so appreciate it. General Cavoli. I want to sort of flag an issue that I don't really want you to answer.

It may be inappropriate, it could be appropriate in the follow up session that we will have that will be classified but but here's a concern. In my time on the Committee, and particularly in the last couple of years, I've sometimes been struck by blue sky scenarios being painted that turned out not to be accurate. A blue sky scenario about the capacity of the Afghan security force in the aftermath of the withdrawal turned out to be vastly overstated. And there was somewhat of an overestimation of the likelihood of Russia being dominant in the early days of the Ukraine investigation.

Thank goodness, that proved not to be true. But in each instance, sort of what we were being told, the capacity of our intelligence about the capacity of another military turned out to be overstated. The reason I'm just flagging this now in the EUCOM domain, is I've been part of three classified briefings about Ukraine one, two and one in foreign relations on January 25. Two and SASC on February 2, and March 2, where certain predictions or assessments were made, about Ukrainian capacities, the potential for the counter offensive, when the leaked documents have come out, I've not looked at those documents, but I found the public accounts of it.

A lot of the accounts of the documents suggest internally in the Pentagon, maybe more skepticism than we were being messaged in the meetings that we had. And again, I don't think the right time is to talk about this now. But I hope during the next session that we have, we may dig into that a little bit, because I want to make sure that that the assessments being given

to this Committee are the best current information so that we are not led to believe one thing, when there may be a lot of folks in the Pentagon thinking something else. And so I just I'll leave that there, if I could, but I do think it's something we ought to discuss in the in the classified setting.

I look forward to that, sir. Great gentleman over I've got a couple of for you. In the in the Indo PAYCOM. Our ability to access logistics, to access logistics support is going to be absolutely critical.

And there are some challenges because of distances across water that are not necessarily challenges elsewhere.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Thank you, Senator. It's something we think of every day, you know, we are postured to operate on a global scale. But our adversaries are growing in their capabilities to disrupt degrade or deny our ability and our freedom of maneuver that we haven't so enjoyed around the globe. In fact, as I think about European Command and Europe, we enjoy very robust ground lines of communications, and we're able to use essentially all of them.

Frankly, we On impedance, as I think about the Indo Pacific, we're going to be using more of fast sea lift and air than we would be in ground like we're seeing. So we have to change our tactics, techniques and procedures. We're working with the services on their concepts to ensure that we can integrate and and across the entire deployment distribution enterprise. So we can deliver where and when optimally no needs it.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.)

And then one other question in that space, global bulk fuel. And again, in the Indo PAYCOM, that can be particularly challenging, what are you doing to do planning around fuel accessibility to indo PAYCOM missions?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Senator, US transportation command has been designated as the single manager for global bulk fuel and this latest unified command plan that just came out. And so what we're doing is we're taking a new approach of synchronizing end and fuel, so that we can assuredly deliver where and when we need it in a contested environment. So we're taking the very best of what DLA Energy does, to combine it with what we do for global command and control and prioritization and managing in this new environment. So we are really looking the posture of the fuel in the Pacific, that includes not only the stations, the places, we're going to keep it both on the on land and on the water, as well as how we're going to maneuver a fuel around that area.

And let me just to add to that, you know, we have robust fuel capability in the end, and the European theater, and as we did in the Central Command theater. And so this is, you know, a concern we have right now we're getting right after it with our tanker security program with movement of fuel, and also with our ability to really look and give feasibility assess a real feasibility assessment on the ability to do that more fight to the Indo PAYCOM commander, and I could not do it without your support for the Pacific deterrence initiative, which allows us additional funds to do exercising interoperability, and to lay out the logistics posture that we're going to need in the future.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.)

Thank you both very much. I yield back.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you. Senator Kaine. Senator Duckworth, please.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.)

Thank you. Good morning to our witnesses. InnoVent ovos thank you for your discussion last week, highlighting all the great transcom all the great work transcom is doing at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. transcom is the linchpin of projecting and sustaining the force key to our strategic deterrent.

I also recognize that joint force sustainment is a whole of government and whole of nation effort. transcom must coordinate and balance equities across multiple government agencies, numerous industry partners, and diverse allies and partners in order to project and sustain combat power. General goes I don't think enough people realize how complex your mission

really is, and how critical that message is. And I'm critical of the people in transcom are to tackle every day, their everyday mission.

Can you speak just for an example, to the efforts that your commander is supporting right now, both at headquarters at Scott Air Force Base and around the world just to paint a picture of how complex your mission is?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Thank you, man. We've discussed our key priority of supporting European Command in supporting Ukraine and their defense. But beyond that, we have we have supported down a State Department with Sudan. With the with the support for moving the diplomats out of Sudan and this recent crisis.

We were inside 24 hours of the devastating a series of earthquakes in Turkey a a bill our ability to launch out within 24 hours the urban search and rescue teams with the dogs and the cement breaking equipment to get to their rescue as well as the delivery 100 Bed field hospital. We are doing extensive exercises around the globe in almost every continent, to increase interoperability with our allies and partners and to ensure access spacing and overflight and agreements that are just going to keep our freedom maneuver into the future. We're also of course doing the global bulk fuel mission. And of course, we can't forget our families.

We're moving 311,000 families a year all around the globe to achieve our mission.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.)

Thank you. Your witness testimonies both underscore your combat and your combatant commands effort to exercise the joint force in Yukon XL exercise defender Europe 24 Journal Cambodia general Venerables defending your 24 assembly a division level formation on NATO's eastern flank for the first time since the Cold War and I quote your testimony, trans comments regularly Wargaming with partners and stakeholders identify and close operational gaps to strengthen deterrence and develop new concepts to prevail. If both of you could answer this question, can you explain how your combatant commands have exercise with each other and other combatant commands? What is the relationship between geographic and functional combatant commands as the joint force looks to exercise, merriment and integrate new tools and capabilities?

I'm very macro today.

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, sir. Oh, that's a great question. because it gives me an opportunity to talk a moment about trans con. So geographic combatant commands are responsible for delivering military results in a specific AOR.

There are other commands that that that are in charge of a specific function usually globally, in general Vanover obviously does transportation, everything in US EUCOM depends on the reinforcement that Jackie's forces can provide from CONUS. It is remarkable. We exercise it literally every day man for routine movements for rotational force movements, as well as for exercises. I said in my opening statement, there is literally nothing in the world like us transportation command.

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Thanks a man. Well, we are participating in extensive series of exercises across the joint portfolio that allow us to increase our capabilities to test new concepts and frankly, old concepts like convoy operations, with not only the United States and our allies and partners, and I appreciate the comments for general Cavoli functional combatant commanders do bring extensive experience in our specific areas of space, strategic nuclear deterrence, and in transportation, and it's an honor to work with them.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.)

Thank you, Giovanna was we had a good conversation about Arrow, Arrow medical evaluate evacuations. I'd like to expand on that a little bit, especially as it applies in a contested environment and the vast distances of our nation's joint force that we might be facing in the future, especially in the Indo Pacific region. Can you speak to efforts currently underway at US transcom to bolster the critical aeromedical evacuation capability? And also, what are you doing to provide our wounded Service members rapid access to medical care?

Because we talked about maybe they have to go someplace in between, especially when you're in a place like the South Pacific?

Jacqueline Van Ovost

Thank you, man. This is a this is a critical question. You know, we performed brilliantly over decades, with a golden I know, and countless people saved, ma'am, yourself included. But you know, in a near peer, a global power contest, we expect high casualty rates, in fact, I expect to be able to, to have to move the same amount of patients I moved in 2022, the entire year, on a weekly basis.

So we've got to do something differently. And here's what we're going to do. We're working with other partner nations to try to understand what capabilities that they have both in theater and their movement capabilities. We're working with the services on a multimodal platform to move patients in in mass form.

We are working on innovative capabilities for patient movement items. And we're also looking at ability to have smaller crews of people work on larger numbers of patients via using wireless and talking to doctors that are on the ground while we're in the air. So we want to bring all of this together to try to reduce the risk. And to your point on allies and partners where there is capacity with allies and partners.

We're looking into agreements to try and ensure that they'll be able to support us as an interim location until we can get them back to the United States.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.)

Thank you.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Duckworth. Senator Manchin, please.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

Thank you, Senator, thank you all for your service. And everybody here I appreciate very much. John Campbell, I just had the pleasure of being able to go to Ukraine and speak with Zelinsky. And I was with Senator Kelly and Senator Murkowski, it was a great trip, we learned an awful lot about that we talked directly to them, our main concern was transparency.

For every dollar that we're sending in for every bullet that we're sending, they're making sure it's been accounted for and used properly. And that was our biggest concern. We took it to everybody we talked to in Poland. And also, you know, we went to the staging area in Poland.

And they told us that after it leaves there, that the tracking is not as good from once they leave it and pull and put into theater. So we're trying to work with our ambassador there bring, she has inch with with a little bit of help there. Some personnel, she'll be she'll be able to track it much better, but they're staying on top of it. I left very satisfied knowing that we have good grass and they knowing how sensitive this is.

Because the naysayers that we have when you have them everywhere to a certain extent, but they're a minority. I don't want to give them any credence whatsoever credibility that something happened wrong. We shouldn't be sending equipment we shouldn't be supporting, and we shouldn't be financing it. How do you feel about that?

And you are, I'm sure tracking the same thing.

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you, Senator and thank you for your recent trip. And thanks to your staff for sharing your after action review of your trip also was very useful to us. So I feel confident that there has not been specific illicit transfer or pilfering of material I believe we're aware of one case reported to us by the Ukrainians of UK Couple of automatic rifles that were attempted to be diverted, and those guys have been arrested in there. So by and large this is this is an extremely strong effort that we're putting out, we recognize how challenging it is, however, a couple of things about the way we do it.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

That point, I saw the clipboard I saw this pasties on the board.

Christopher Cavoli

We ingest it into into a computer sign where system that we'd given to the Ukrainians that we maintain access to so we can track their their tracking of where they're putting the game. Exactly. And, you know, so we track it.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

Let me just say, I know our time, I want to say a couple things here. I truly believe that we're not telling our story. With with the amount of support that we're putting in and all of our our allies, there's always going to be a hiccup, something's gonna go wrong. We haven't built a base of how well we're regulating and staying on top of this, and monitoring and the transparency.

If Zelinsky said it wants to mean an hour and a half, we were there. He said 1015 times, bring 100 people and observe what we're doing. We're happy to share, do whatever you want. And if you see something wrong, let me know because we're looking forward to we're not telling that from our side of it.

And it's not being and I just think that we need to get ahead of this because that way, there's no saying tell your story before they tell one on you. As soon as they see something wrong. They're gonna blow it out of proportion. And there's so much good support that we're giving him and so much valiant fighting that they're doing.

I just don't want to lose that.

Christopher Cavoli

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell part of the story, sir.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

Until the press, tell your press people to start putting things out. We're happy to work with. We're happy to coordinate with you all to put out what we saw firsthand. And the confidence we had I put a statement out.

I'm happy to continue that. Thanks, Andrew, let me throw this at YouTube. I'm concerned now about our our Baltic Allies in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, northern Macedonia, Romania and Slovenia. They're all kind of tied into this TurkStream.

Okay, the same as the Nord Stream is tied in New York. They're tied in and TurkStream. We know exactly what Putin will do. He used energy as a weapon.

Are we doing anything?

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, thank thanks. So of course, the closure of Nord Stream and the weaning off of Russian gas through much of Europe has been has been an incredible success story of the last year.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

Will not. We get a lot of vulnerability down here. And he'll he'll he'll have the same playbook.

Christopher Cavoli

And it's exactly sir. It's the exact same playbook. So we work with them to wean off it. We're not the lead agency on that I defer to the Secretary of State for the Department of State for specifics on what exactly they're doing.

But but we are operationally not dependent.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

Reach I'll reach out to them because being Chair I'm Chairman of Energy Committee. Yes, sir.

Christopher Cavoli

Allies did it strategically, it would be very welcomed by EUCOM and NATO.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

Can you briefly comment on developments regarding Turkey's relationship with NATO? I just can't believe that here they are holding up the Swedes. Okay, made it very difficult for the Finns. And they're playing footsies with the Russians.

Makes no sense to me at all.

Christopher Cavoli

Sir, clearly, there's a lot of policy wrapped in there. And and I'll defer to my to my civilian leaders. On those questions. I would point out, sir, that there is a sharp difference between our military relationships and our other relationships when it comes to some countries.

And I was just down in on takia, with the Minister of Defence in the Turkish shot a couple of days ago, looking at the humanitarian assistance that we've provided through the US and NATO for the earthquake.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

I'm so sorry, Miss Chairman, but they didn't they acquire the s 400. From the Russians. Oh, yes, sir. Him and canceled F 35.

That's exactly right. Yeah. Okay, so you think I need to take this a different direction? I got I got the policy issue.

Sorry. I got it. I got it. I've well to thank you both.

And thank all of you for your service. I appreciate it. More than you know.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Thank you. Senator Manchin. General Kouvola General Van Ovos. Thank you for your testimony.

I look forward to the closed session, which will reconvene at 1230 and STC 217 After the address by the South Korean president. I'm sure one of the issues that might come up is the Abrams tank. I understand that there are some significant issues involved been transferring Abram tanks to any place in the world. One of which I think can be publicly discussed here is that it operates on something closer to jet fueled and diesel, which makes the creation of independent supply lines by the Ukrainians essential to use.

There's also the issue of training. And the fact that our European allies, I believe, is abroad 1000s of tanks, which are more familiar to the Ukrainian forces, which obviates the training issues related to the Abrams tank. So I think all those issues have to be explored in the closed session. I think also, General van almost a real serious discussion about contested logistics, particularly in the Pacific wouldn't be appropriate.

So let me see if there's anything else? No, I believe that. Oh, one other point, general kavali, is that there has been discussion about reevaluating what you are our plans for European Europe are looking at the depletion of Russian forces. But I think you're also considering the fact that many of our NATO forces have depleted themselves of equipment, and other factors that have to be included in the evaluation.

So it's not simply looking at Russia and saying, Well, they're much weaker now than they were. Is that correct?

Christopher Cavoli

Absolutely. And it's very difficult to speak about an open session for operational security reasons.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

I think we've got a lot to talk about. So I will adjourn this open hearing and look forward to seeing you at 1230 and SPC 217
Thank you.