

**NOMINATIONS OF ADMIRAL JONATHAN W. GREENERT, USN, FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF ADMIRAL AND TO BE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS; AND LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES H. JACOBY, JR., USA, TO BE GENERAL AND TO BE COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND/ COMMANDER, NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND**

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**THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011**

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
*Washington, DC.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:36 a.m. in room SD-106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Carl Levin (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Senators Levin, Reed, Udall, Hagan, Begich, Blumenthal, McCain, Sessions, Wicker, Brown, Portman, Ayotte, and Collins.

Committee staff members present: Richard D. DeBobes, staff director; and Leah C. Brewer, nominations and hearings clerk.

Majority staff members present: Jonathan D. Clark, counsel; Richard W. Fieldhouse, professional staff member; Creighton Greene, professional staff member; Jessica L. Kingston, research assistant; and Jason W. Maroney, counsel.

Minority staff members present: David M. Morriss, minority staff counsel; Adam J. Barker, professional staff member; Christopher J. Paul, professional staff member; and Richard F. Walsh, minority counsel.

Staff assistants present: Jennifer R. Knowles, Kathleen A. Kulenkampff, Brian F. Sebold, and Bradley S. Watson.

Committee members' assistants present: Carolyn Chuhta, assistant to Senator Reed; Nick Ikeda, assistant to Senator Akaka; Gordon Peterson, assistant to Senator Webb; Casey Howard, assistant to Senator Udall; Lindsay Kavanaugh, assistant to Senator Begich; Joanne McLaughlin, assistant to Senator Manchin; Ethan Saxon, assistant to Senator Blumenthal; Lenwood Landrum, assistant to Senator Sessions; Joseph Lai, assistant to Senator Wicker; Charles Prosch, assistant to Senator Brown; Brent Bombach, assistant to Senator Portman; Brad Bowman, assistant to Senator Ayotte; and Ryan Kaldahl, assistant to Senator Collins.

# **OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR CARL LEVIN, CHAIRMAN**

Chairman LEVIN. Good morning, everybody. Today the committee meets to consider the nominations of two distinguished senior military officers: Admiral Jonathan Greenert, U.S. Navy, the nominee to be Chief of Naval Operations; and Lieutenant General Charles Jacoby—Junior, excuse me, Charles Jacoby, Jr., U.S. Army, the nominee for Commander, U.S. Northern Command, NORTHCOM, and Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, NORAD.

The long hours and the hard work that are put in by our senior military officials at the Department of Defense require commitment and sacrifice not only from our nominees, but also from their families. We greatly appreciate the willingness of our nominees to carry out their new responsibilities and we also appreciate the support that they have from their families. Without that support, these nominees could not possibly do what they've been asked to do throughout their careers and what they're going to be asked to do when they are confirmed. Our nominees should feel free to introduce their family members when they make their opening remarks this morning.

The nominees have impressive qualifications and suitability for their positions. Admiral Greenert has served as Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Deputy Commander of the Pacific Fleet, and Commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

General Jacoby has served as the Commanding General of the Multinational Corps in Iraq, the Commanding General of ICOR, and the Commanding General of U.S. Army-Alaska. He has also served as the Commander of Southern Command's Joint Task Force Bravo in Honduras, which provided counterdrug support, and he led relief operations for Hurricane Mitch, missions that are directly relevant to NORTHCOM's missions.

Now, I would also note that he is a native of Michigan, he holds a master's degree in history from the University of Michigan, so from my perspective that seals the deal. And the fact that Admiral Greenert's wife hails from Michigan should not hurt his chances, either.

If confirmed, each of our nominees will be responsible for helping the Department of Defense face critical challenges. The ongoing use and possible future use of our military forces overseas, as well as the defense of our homeland, make it critically important that we choose military leaders for the Department who can provide a vision for dealing with a number of critical issues that confront the Department.

These challenges include balancing force structure and modernization needs against the costs of supporting ongoing operations, and to do so in an increasingly constrained fiscal environment.

Those fiscal constraints are likely to get tighter as we deal with whatever agreement comes from the ongoing debt ceiling-deficit reduction discussions. The President announced a reduction in security funding of some \$400 billion over the next 12 years. The actual reduction could be significantly greater, and if that happens this is going to amplify the challenges that you will face.

Admiral Greenert would be the 30th CNO. He will face the difficult tasks of recruiting and retaining a quality force and maintaining current readiness to conduct the ongoing war on terrorism, while at the same time transforming the Navy's force structure to deal with the threats of the future in the face of difficult cost and scheduling problems with the Navy's major acquisition programs.

Many of the ongoing challenges facing the Department of the Navy Center on Acquisition Programs. As CNO, Admiral Greenert would be leading the Navy in defining requirements for the acquisition community to fill. There are some programs that have been proceeding reasonably well, such as ramping up the two attack submarines per year.

But too many acquisition programs are mired down in problems which, unless resolved, will make it difficult, if not impossible, to reach our goal for the size of the fleet.

U.S. Northern Command is responsible for the defense of the homeland and for providing defense support to civil authorities in response to domestic natural or manmade disasters. Its area of responsibility includes all of North America, including Mexico. General Jacoby would be dual-hatted as the Commander of NORAD, our binational command with Canada, which has the mission to provide aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning for North America.

When confirmed, General Jacoby would face a number of significant challenges. These challenges include: working with the Mexican military to help them defeat the transnational criminal organizations that are causing high levels of violence in Mexico, which poses a threat within Mexico and to the security of our southern border.

As part of the mission of providing defense support to civil authorities, Northern Command must work closely and cooperatively with other Federal agencies and with all the States on plans and coordination for emergency response to domestic disasters, including potential incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

General Jacoby will need to work with the State governors and National Guard forces to improve the capabilities of State and Federal military forces to work together to support the governors' needs for disaster assistance.

Northern Command is also the combatant command responsible for the operation of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System, whose mission is to help defend the homeland against the threat of a limited ballistic missile attack from nations such as North Korea and Iran. The GMD system has had two consecutive flight test failures, most recently last December. We look forward to hearing General Jacoby's views on what we need to do to make the system work reliably and effectively, including adequate testing.

We all look forward to hearing your testimony this morning on these and other issues and the kind of issues that you are going to be facing in your new assignments.

Senator McCain.

#### **STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN**

Senator McCain. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I welcome Admiral Greenert and General Jacoby and their families and I congratulate them on their nominations. Admiral Greenert, in a nomination hearing on Tuesday for General Martin Dempsey, nominated to be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, we discussed the likelihood of deep cuts in future defense budgets and the uncertainty about how these cuts will affect defense personnel, equipment, readiness, and capabilities.

General Dempsey expressed his appreciation for the role of sea power in our National defense strategy and the Navy's enduring role in protecting our economic and national security interests in vast and vital areas, such as the Asia Pacific. Indeed, with the increasing importance of this geopolitical and maritime space, the roles and responsibilities of the Navy are becoming even more critical.

General Dempsey also acknowledged, however, that if adequate funding is not provided by Congress the Pentagon strategy will have to change to reflect the resources that are made available. Clearly, each of the services stands to be affected by the budget decisions made in the days ahead. But in my judgment the Navy, with its capital-intensive shipbuilding and aircraft procurement and maintenance accounts, could be the service that would be most adversely affected.

This puts huge additional pressure on the Navy to design and produce on time and on budget, reliable, battle-ready ships, submarines, and aircraft, a task in which I'm sad to say the Navy's recent track record has been less than admirable. If the Navy's performance in the design and procurement of its weapons systems doesn't improve, I'm worried that the service could lose the commitment and support of American taxpayers and Congress, which would be a long-term disaster for the Navy and our Nation.

While I'm confident you will be confirmed, Admiral, you will have many difficult challenges ahead. The Littoral Combat Ship heads the list. I continue to think the Navy misjudged in going forward with a dual-source block buy strategy for the LCS and that the true life cycle costs of buying and sustaining both LCS variants will be considerably more than what the Navy has estimated.

In recent days we have learned that one of the newly commissioned LCS ships has experienced unacceptable cracking of its steel hull, while the other variant suffers from "aggressive galvanic corrosion" that will require repair and backfitting to ensure the safety and durability of its aluminum hull. I'm sure you share my frustration that following an \$8 billion taxpayer investment in the LCS program, the Navy continues to lack a single ship that is operationally effective or reliable.

Similarly with the Joint Strike Fighter program, we're all too familiar with its continued cost overruns and schedule slips. After nearly 10 years in development and a \$56 billion investment to date, the program has produced a handful of test and operational aircraft. We've recently learned that the government's share of the most recent cost overruns for the first 28 production aircraft stands at three-quarters of a billion dollars, in addition to a requirement for an additional 33 months and \$7.4 billion as a result of recent program restructuring decisions.

The overall estimated cost of the program, \$383 billion, an estimated sustainment cost of a trillion dollars, make it the most expensive acquisition program in history. I remain deeply concerned about the affordability of this program and I don't think the taxpayer and Congress will have a lot more tolerance for additional cost increases and schedule slips.

The same is true with the LPD-17 San Antonio class of amphibious ships. Plainly, the Department of the Navy faces many difficult challenges. But if we can be confident in one thing without a doubt, it is the performance and commitment of our sailors and that of their families over the last 10 years of constant conflict. They give us reason to redouble our efforts to solve these problems and they make us proud every day, and they deserve better. So do the taxpayers.

General Jacoby, I congratulate you on your nomination. I'm interested in what your priorities will be if confirmed to ensure U.S. Northern Command is able to accomplish its missions and navigate an increasingly complex security environment.

The current situation in Mexico should be of concern to all of us, and I'm interested in your assessment of what steps need to be taken to strengthen the partnership between our two nations to combat the increasingly capable and ruthless transnational criminal organizations. President Calderon continues to act with great courage in this fight and he has achieved significant successes with the capture or killing of several powerful cartel kingpins. However, the situation remains dire. More than 35,000 Mexicans have lost their lives in drug-related violence since 2006, and this violence continues to rage in many areas in Mexico, threatening the safety and security of Mexican and American citizens alike.

I'm also—finally, I'm interested in your views on an increasingly grave threat to both American military and economic security, the growing proliferation of attacks in cyberspace. There isn't a week that goes by without media reports of major intrusion or compromise of cyber networks in the United States, both military and commercial.

We need to focus our attention and act with a real sense of urgency. I think we are long overdue in developing an understanding of how to respond to cyber attacks and when to shift from defense to offense. I've been and remain greatly concerned about the lack of a clear strategy that establishes coordinated, unambiguous command and control relationships that have real capability to effectively respond to cyber attacks within the Department of Defense.

In short, I don't think we have answered a host of fundamental questions involving cyberspace, despite recent efforts. I look forward to hearing the role you believe NORTHCOM should play in protecting the homeland against our cyber threats and what must urgently be done to ensure the roles and responsibilities for protecting the United States are clearly defined and established both within the Department of Defense and across the inter-agency framework.

Thank you both for your willingness to serve in these important leadership positions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, Senator McCain.

Let me now ask you to give us your opening statements, if you would. Let me first call on Admiral Greenert.

**STATEMENT OF ADM JOSEPH W. GREENERT, USN, NOMINATED  
FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF ADMIRAL AND TO  
BE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**

Admiral GREENERT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. Senator McCain, distinguished members of the committee: It is indeed an honor, a great honor, to appear before you as the nominee to be our Navy's Chief of Naval Operations. I am thankful for the confidence placed in me by President Obama and Secretaries Panetta and Mabus and Admiral Roughead.

But I'm most grateful for those people behind me who for years have given me great support, understanding, and inspiration, especially my wife Darlene, who is with us today, as you've acknowledged earlier, Mr. Chairman. We've been married for 30 great years. Darlene has been steadfast and, for heaven's sakes, she's been patient. She's a caring Navy spouse and the greatest mother three children could ever have.

Joining us also today is my daughter Sarah, who's really the apple of my eye, and my son Bryan. He's obviously the lieutenant behind us. He's just completed a 4-year tour as a Navy surface warfare officer, serving on two destroyers in Japan. Regrettably, Mr. Chairman, our oldest son, Jonathan, could not be here. He too serves our Navy, as a Navy Criminal Investigative Service special agent, and he's currently under way in the Western Pacific on the aircraft carrier George Washington as their special agent.

More than anything, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving as a sailor in the U.S. Navy. To me there is nothing more meaningful and honorable than to wear the cloth of our Nation and serve alongside today's magnificent Navy men and women. They are committed, they are tough, adaptive, and innovative, and therefore they deserve wisdom, clear direction, and understanding from their leadership.

The sailors we send into harm's way today could not do what they do without the support they receive from their families at home. As the Vice Chief, I have been honored to meet many thousands of Navy family members in an effort to understand how our institution can serve them better. I am grateful for their dedication, their resiliency, and their selflessness.

Today, 50 percent of our ships are under way. 43 percent are deployed. We have over 12,000 sailors on the ground in Central Command and about 10,000 sailors on individual augmentee assignments. Mr. Chairman, these numbers were almost identical to the numbers that Admiral Roughead reported to you almost 4 years ago. Your Navy remains ready. It is agile and it's global, and it's relentlessly been busy. Operating tempo has been high. Our missions have evolved, and changes are occurring in our world, particularly the Middle East, at a pace we couldn't previously imagine.

In spite of all that has taken place around us, one key element endures and I believe will endure: We must assure the security and freedom of the seas in all the domains, so that the economies of the world can flourish. To do this, I believe our Navy must be forward

in order to influence events, assist our allies and partners, and provide our Nation an offshore option.

If confirmed, my priorities will be: to remain ready to meet the current challenges today; to build a relevant and capable future force; to continue to take care of our sailors, our civilians, and their families, and institute a manning strategy that recruits and nurtures a motivated, a relevant, and a diverse future force.

Meeting these challenges in today's budgeting environment will not be easy. Going forward, we must be clear-eyed in communicating what we will and what we won't be able to provide the Nation in the future.

I recognize there will be rough seas ahead, but with the help of the Navy and DOD leadership and the support of this committee I am confident we will succeed.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed as the next Chief of Naval Operations, I will give you and the magnificent sailors in our Navy my best efforts. You rightfully expect it, they absolutely deserve it. And I look forward to your questions. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Admiral Greenert follows:]

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, Admiral.

General Jacoby.

**STATEMENT OF LTG CHARLES H. JACOBY, JR., USA, NOMINATED TO BE GENERAL AND TO BE COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND/COMMANDER, NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND**

General JACOBY. Chairman Levin, Senator McCain, distinguished members of the committee: It is a great honor and distinct privilege to appear before you today. I'm honored and humbled that President Obama has nominated me to be Commander of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, and I thank all of you for this opportunity.

Thank you, sir, for your kind words about our families. Today I'm joined by my wonderful wife Grace, my faithful partner of almost 22 years, who was raised in an Army family and originally hails from Puerto Rico. As a retired U.S. Army officer, Grace knows and understands the sacrifices of our service members and their families, and has worked tirelessly on their behalf. She has also raised three great young men, and I know she'll be prepared to give me a comprehensive after-action review at the completion of this hearing. Thank you, sweetheart.

Chairman LEVIN. One of the benefits of marriage.

General JACOBY. Yes, sir. [Laughter.]

I'm very proud of my three sons. Mike, a middle schooler, and Vic, a high schooler, are both at camps today; and our eldest, CJ, is a third year West Point cadet, currently completing his summer duties. I'm blessed with a terrific Army family and I thank the committee for inviting them here today.

Mr. Chairman, over the past year Admiral Sandy Winnefeld has led the U.S. Northern Command and NORAD team with distinction. His leadership, vision, and drive will leave a legacy of continuous improvement which, if confirmed, I hope to build upon.

Before fielding your questions, I'd like to emphasize just two points. First, as a leader who has devoted much of his service life

to combatting threats outside of the United States, I can think of no greater responsibility now than leading our military in defense of the homeland, while providing support to our citizens at the Federal, State, and local levels in times of their greatest needs. I view the NORTHCOM and NORAD mission simply as a sacred trust.

Second, in my current role as Director for Strategic Plans and Policy on the Joint Staff, I observed no other command and certainly no other combatant command in which cooperation with and support for partners is more important than with U.S. NORTHCOM and NORAD. If confirmed, I will reinforce the critical importance of a close partnership and teamwork with, first and foremost, the National Guard, the Reserve, other combatant commanders and service chiefs, the Department of Homeland Security, and all other inter-agency, State, local, and nongovernmental partners, as well as our close friends and neighbors Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas.

I look forward to working with the members of this committee and your superb staffs. Your countless visits to support our troops in theater, many of which I personally benefited from in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with your steadfast commitment to providing for their requirements and your unprecedented support for our families, are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of General Jacoby follows:]

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, General.

First some standard questions that we ask of all of our nominees. Have you adhered to applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest?

Admiral GREENERT. I will.

General JACOBY. Yes, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. Do you agree, when asked, to give your personal views even though those views differ from the administration in power?

Admiral GREENERT. I do.

General JACOBY. Yes, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. Have you assumed any duties or undertaken any actions that appear to assume to outcome of the confirmation process?

Admiral GREENERT. No.

General JACOBY. No, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. Will you ensure that your staff complies with deadlines established for requested communications, including questions for the record, in hearings.

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir.

General JACOBY. Yes, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. Will you cooperate in providing witnesses and briefers in response to Congressional requests?

General JACOBY. Yes, sir.

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. Will those witnesses be protected from reprisal for their testimony or briefings?

General JACOBY. Yes, sir.

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear and testify upon request before this committee?

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir.

General JACOBY. Yes, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. And do you agree to provide documents, including copies of electronic forms of communication, in a timely manner when requested by a duly constituted committee or to consult with the committee regarding the basis for any good faith delay or denial in providing such documents?

General JACOBY. Yes, sir.

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you.

We'll have a 7-minute round for our first round. Admiral, let me start with you. You appeared at a House Armed Services Committee hearing earlier this week, I believe, to discuss total force readiness and much of the discussion, understandably, centered around potential budget reductions. I believe that, in an exchange with Mr. Forbes, that you pointed out that combatant commander requirements already exceed the Navy's ability to meet those requirements.

Can you outline for us what are the greatest risks to the Navy if there are large budget reductions forthcoming?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, Mr. Chairman, right now the fleet is stressed. We are operating at a tremendous operating tempo and we are seeing some indicators of decreasing readiness. So I think we're operating at a pretty high rate today and at a limit.

If given a large budget reduction that we had to take, when I look at the global force management in the future that we might have to meet, I can't see—I can't reconcile without strategy guidance, without some change to that global force management plan. Our options are limited. We can't hollow the force, so the future force has to be ready. As I said before, we have to keep the faith and trust to our sailors. We can't go to our personnel. Our Navy hasn't changed much since 2008 in our manning level and our manning plan.

If we reduce force structure, that would exacerbate the problem we already have. If we reduce modernization, that is going to the shipbuilding and aircraft accounts, I'm concerned about the industrial base.

So we have sort of a conundrum here and I believe that this needs to be a strategic approach to such a large reduction.

Chairman LEVIN. Now, cost increases in our shipbuilding have meant that we're spending more and not making much progress in building the size of the fleet. The next major shipbuilding program over which the Navy has an opportunity to control requirements to keep the ship affordable is the Ohio class replacement, the SSBN-X.

Admiral, are you supportive of the design decisions that the Navy has made on the SSBN-X program to constrain costs?

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir, I am.

Chairman LEVIN. The committee's been concerned, very concerned, with the cost growth in the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program. At a hearing earlier this year, several members asked: What are the alternatives to the F-35 program if it is just unaffordable,

we just run into new trouble, we just don't see it working out the way we planned and the way it needs to work out?

Now, some of the witnesses said we just have no alternative, which of course troubles us, many of us. Admiral, what are the options for modernizing tactical aviation facing the Navy and the Marines?

Admiral GREENERT. Mr. Chairman, the F-35 provides us a fifth generation, which is really a measure of its stealth, its capability, fighter, strike fighter. The FA-18 Hornet, our primary strike fighter right now, is a fourth generation. We have no alternative in the Navy and Marine Corps with regard to an aircraft that will bring that capability.

If for some reason we were unable to bring the F-35 in, we would have to look at the capabilities, the weapons that we could produce and design for the Hornet, a more standoff weapon, so that we could get, if you will, a better output from that.

Chairman LEVIN. Admiral, in your written response to the advance policy questions you talked about the U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention. Can you tell us whether or not you believe it's important to our National security to join this treaty?

Admiral GREENERT. Mr. Chairman, I believe it is important to the National security. The legal certainty and the public order that it would bring, our ability to have a dialogue in an international forum for issues such as freedom of navigation, excessive exclusive economic zone claims, and also our continental shelf issues, such as in the Arctic, I think would be enhanced greatly by our accession to the Law of the Sea.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you.

General, the last two flights, as I mentioned, of the GMD system failed and the Missile Defense Agency is working to understand and fix the problem, including plans to conduct two flight tests to verify any fix. Until that happens, the Missile Defense Agency has suspended production of the interceptor-kill vehicles. Do you support the need to take the time necessary to fully understand and to fix the problem, to conduct all necessary testing to confirm the fix and to demonstrate that the system works?

General JACOBY. Senator, yes, I do.

Chairman LEVIN. General, last year NORAD conducted the first annual exercise with Russia, called Vigilant Eagle, in which both countries practiced passing control for monitoring and escorting a simulated hijacked aircraft into each other's air space. Can you tell us whether that exercise was a success and whether you believe that these kind of cooperative exercises enhance U.S. security, and if so how?

General JACOBY. Senator, I believe Vigilant Eagle was a success. It is an annual exercise. It is a practical exercise. As we saw in this last run-through with the Russian Federation, there really was benefit in that transparency that took place in the handoff of a hijacked aircraft, that really builds trust and confidence in a relationship and contributes to U.S. national security interests.

So with the Russian Federation, of course, we work with our eyes wide open. But there are areas of cooperation that are mutually beneficial and I think Vigilant Eagle is a perfect example of how we can both gain in the security realm by cooperating together.

Chairman LEVIN. Would that possible cooperation also be or might be helpful in the area of missile defense with Russia in terms of enhancing our security, particularly against Iranian missile threats?

General JACOBY. Senator, I know there is important discussions going on right now in seeking ways to cooperate with the Russian Federation on missile defense. I know Ambassador Rogozin just recently visited NORTHCOM–NORAD command centers. I know that we've been in extensive dialogue with them.

So again, finding places and venues and capabilities where we can cooperate with the Russian Federation can contribute not just to both nations' mutual security needs, but regional security needs as well.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you both.

Senator McCain.

Senator MCCAIN. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank the witnesses again.

Admiral, I don't know if you had a chance to see the Wall Street Journal this morning and other periodicals. The headline is "China Says Carrier Won't Alter Naval Strategy." The first paragraph says: "China's defense ministry said its first aircraft carrier would be used for 'research experiments and training' and would not affect its defensive naval strategy, in an apparent attempt to ease regional concerns that the vessel could be used to enforce territorial claims."

I have never viewed an aircraft carrier as a method to employ a defensive strategy. I don't believe that that's obviously what carriers are intended to. I'm curious of your impression. We've known that this aircraft carrier was in the phase of being refurbished for a long period of time. What's your view of the impact of this very significant move on the part of the Chinese?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, I believe it's clearly, if you will, a prototype for what they ultimately want to have, which is a better aircraft carrier, indigenously built and tailored to their needs.

Senator MCCAIN. What do you think of the meaning of it, the overall meaning of it?

Admiral GREENERT. By virtue of being an aircraft carrier, it's typically offensive. It's made to project power.

Senator MCCAIN. Which means, what is your view of the significance as far as what you think the Chinese thinking is?

Admiral GREENERT. The Chinese say they built it for defensive measures. Their transparency is—there's some question to that as to what their intent is. I don't—it's hard to gauge their intent. They could use it for defensive reasons, but, as we discussed, just stated, this is a power projection.

Senator MCCAIN. When you look at their statements about the South China Sea, about economic zones that are theirs, the near-conflicts they've had with their neighbors, their assertion that the oil resources out in the South China Sea, their new research ship that just reached new depths that exceeded that of the United States, doesn't all this put together a picture for you?

Admiral GREENERT. It puts together a picture of a navy that is interested in expanding its operations to blue water.

Senator MCCAIN. Thereby extending its influence.

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir.

Senator MCCAIN. Thank you.

In a House hearing yesterday, you testified, in response to a question about the possibility of drastic defense budget cuts ranging from \$400 billion to a trillion dollars over the next 10 years, and you said: Without a comprehensive strategy review, a fundamental look at what we are asking our forces to do, without a change in activity, we won't be able to meet the global force management plan today.

As Vice Chief, are you taking part in the Department's comprehensive strategic review?

Admiral GREENERT. We are not in the major deliberations of that. We are providing some data, but we have been told we would be part of any final, if you will, final decision process in this comprehensive review.

Senator MCCAIN. What would you view a 400, 600, 800, trillion dollar cut in defense over the next 10 years? Do you have an assessment of what the impact that would be on our most capital-intensive service?

Admiral GREENERT. Given that size of budget reduction and assuming it was apportioned to the Navy in accordance with our current ratio, we cannot go hollow, Senator, so we have to sustain our current force. Our personnel levels are not an area we can go to make further reductions. We've done about the best we can with efficiencies. There's some more overhead.

My concern is the cuts at that level, we'd have to go into force structure and modernization, and my concern about the industrial base and our shipbuilding plan.

Senator MCCAIN. And you are already concerned about the downward trend in ship maintenance funding and commensurate rise in ship inspection failures; is that true?

Admiral GREENERT. I am, yes.

Senator MCCAIN. It's already a serious problem.

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir. We are making some progress, but it remains a concern.

Senator MCCAIN. Well, I won't go into my rant about the F-35 or the Littoral Combat Ship. I will spare you that. But I am deadly serious about the fact that these costs of both of these programs are simply unsustainable. That's not just—I'm not the only one that holds that view. So I strongly recommend that you give both the Littoral Combat Ship and the Joint Strike Fighter your serious attention as you assume your new serious responsibilities.

General, give us an assessment of the situation in Mexico vis a vis the drug cartels? Is the situation improving, is it deteriorating, is it the same? Is it an area of concern for ranging from American tourists to the threats of increased violence along our border?

General JACOBY. Senator, Mexico and the United States have tremendous shared mutual interests, security interests as well as other interests, along our border, but specifically with regards to countering the transnational criminal threats that are shared by both countries. We both share responsibilities to counter those threats.

Senator MCCAIN. I'm curious about your view of the seriousness of those threats and whether we are making progress or it's basi-

cally stagnant or it's a standoff between the cartels and the Mexican government. I'd like to have your assessment of that.

General JACOBY. Yes, Senator. It's my understanding that progress is being made on both sides of the border. I know the Mexican government and security forces have made courageous political, moral, physical commitment to countering the transnational criminal organizations. I know that we have made progress. I know there is much more work to do.

I think recently the President has released an executive order declaring a national emergency regarding the threat of transnational criminal organizations, highlighting them as an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States foreign policy, our economy, and our security. I think that that accurately describes the seriousness of the threat.

Senator MCCAIN. The GAO has recently stated that the border is approximately 44 percent under operational control. Would you agree with that assessment?

General JACOBY. Senator, Department of Homeland Security is responsible for those assessments. I don't know of any counter to that report in terms of percentages under control or not under control. I know that it is a long border. I would be—I'm sure there is much work to be done along the border and at different places.

So if confirmed, it would be a priority for me to work closely with the Department of Homeland Security to understand and to see how NORTHCOM could support the Department and other agencies in gaining effective control of the border.

Senator MCCAIN. Well, I can tell you one thing and that is the use of Predator aircraft has—or UAVs, has been extremely effective and helpful. I think you would agree.

General JACOBY. Yes, Senator, I'd agree. We have found UAVs to be a multiplier across the board in all Department of Defense endeavors and certainly can assist in law enforcement operations as well.

Senator MCCAIN. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, Senator McCain.

Senator Reed.

Senator REED. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, gentlemen, for your service and for the service of your families. The chairman indicated he had a threshold level, which is some connection the Michigan. I too have a threshold level and you've both passed it. Admiral Greenert commanded a submarine and General Jacoby commanded the First Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. So I'll ask a few questions, but I think you've already done fine.

Admiral, both the chairman and Senator McCain have brought up the issue of the maintenance issues that are confronting the fleet. Some reports suggest that some destroyers, for example, will not reach their 30-year expected life or be able to be extended to a 40-year life. With these budget pressures, one of your most obvious responses is to keep the ships at sea at sea. So can you comment generally in terms of will that be a first response? Will that require additional money for maintenance? Are you making any progress there? Because, as much as we all like to see additional

platforms, you very well might have to curtail that, which obviously implies keeping the ships at sea longer.

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, the foundation of reaching our 30-year shipbuilding plan and our inventory is to make sure that the ships that we have reach their expected service life. To do that you have to do the right maintenance at the right time. That was something we didn't have right until recently. We were in our surface ship maintenance, we would fully fund a year's worth of maintenance and still not get the right things done in drydocking or otherwise.

We've made some good progress here now and the key now is we have to schedule it, allow them the time to do the maintenance, so that we can ensure ourselves that the ships make their full life.

Senator REED. Is part of this recent response turning more responsibility over to the Navy and to the crews, rather than contractors? Is that part of it, too?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, that's part of it, because there is an expenditure of money that—well, first of all, it's good for the crew. It's good for a crew to understand their ship, to understand how to operate it, and do that maintenance. That's what the commanding officers of the ship have said: We need more time to do that maintenance and get to know the equipment, and when you operate it right it'll last.

Senator REED. Admiral, the chairman also mentioned the Ohio class program, which is in the stages of design finalization requirements. One of the issues that I've addressed with Admiral Roughead is that, given the pressures on the shipbuilding budget, that this, as well designed and as efficient you can build it, is going to be an expensive proposition.

There's been ongoing discussions, because of its strategic role, of having some costs shared by Department of Defense, not exclusively the Navy. Are those discussions still under way?

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir, they are. If confirmed, I intend to try to continue those discussions. In the 20s we have a phenomenon, an unfortunate one, where many of the ships built in the 80s will now come due for retirement. That's right when the Ohio replacement comes in. So we'll work very hard to make sure we got the requirements right. We'll work very hard with the acquisition community to drive that cost down.

But we may, even so, need some assistance, I believe, in the shipbuilding budget if we're going to meet our goals.

Senator REED. And the British government has still fully committed to buying the Ohio class ship, which should help in terms of, perhaps not decisively, but should help in terms of the cost allocation; is that correct?

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir, Senator. They are all in on the missile compartment agreement that we had.

Senator REED. Thank you.

General Jacoby, and I'll ask the Admiral also to comment, one of the most interesting developments in your theater of operations is the fact that the Navy predicts, I think, by 2020 that the Arctic Ocean will be navigable for commercial traffic at least 1 month a year and perhaps longer, which opens up a whole new space that you have to operate in and the Navy has to operate in.

Can you comment upon your views as to what we should be doing now and what we can anticipate?

General JACOBY. Yes, Senator. In the most recent unified command plan, 2011, NORTHCOM received the responsibility for Arctic Ocean areas. It's shared with EUCOM as EUCOM picks up country responsibilities on the other side. But NORTHCOM is the advocate for the requirements and for the capabilities that will be needed as the Arctic becomes increasingly open.

The Secretary has directed that NORTHCOM ensure the peaceful and responsible opening of the Arctic, with a special emphasis on future transit lanes and potential choke points. I think there is also quite a bit of emphasis that this should be an international effort and that our efforts in the Arctic should strengthen international agreements and a sense of the peaceful opening of the Arctic.

So if confirmed as the NORTHCOM commander, it will again be about building relationships and ensuring that, eyes wide open, that we do the right things in the Arctic as it opens up over time.

Senator REED. Admiral, again, 20 years ago I don't think the CNO would be thinking about, how do I support a unified commander with ships in the Arctic Ocean for the transit of commercial vessels. So any thoughts?

Admiral GREENERT. Yes, sir, Senator. I believe we need to think about the Arctic as we think about other attributes when we bring in new programs. It's going to be a fact of life that we may have to operate up there. I'm taken back to when we first started operating in the Gulf. That was a unique experience. We didn't plan this into our equipment, so we had air conditioning issues and other issues with dust, etcetera.

There are unique challenges in the Arctic and I think it needs to become an attribute when we consider requirements. We also need to consider it in our concept of operations when we talk about what a ship needs to be able to do. Chem-bio and those kind of things; cold weather is another thing and it needs to be built into the CONOPS.

Senator REED. Thank you very much, sir.

General Jacoby, you have significant responsibilities with respect to National Guard and Reserve. There is an ongoing and very healthy debate about whether these units' primary responsibility should be for DOD missions or for homeland security missions, given the fact that they are State militias as well as Federalized forces that deploy constantly on the orders of the President of the United States.

Can you give us an idea of where you are in terms of that debate?

General JACOBY. Yes, Senator. I think the verdict is in. They're important for both. They're integral to both. As the commander of Multi-National Corps Iraq and deputy in Afghanistan, we could not have accomplished our mission without the effective, properly trained, equipped, and manned Reserve component forces, primarily National Guard, that we fought side by side with over the last 10 years.

So as we look at the challenges in the future and balancing our requirements against resources, the National Guard and the Reserves become even more important in our calculus.

Just as well in the homeland, Senator. Absolutely essential. The QDR and just good common sense has driven us to look to the Guard for more of a role in things like CBRNE, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear consequence management. I think that is the proper place for that to grow, and of course as the NORTHCOM commander, if confirmed, one of the things that I'll advocate strongly for are the resources that the Guard and Reserve need to accomplish those missions, and I look forward to that opportunity.

Senator REED. Thank you both, gentlemen, for your service.

Thank you.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, Senator Reed.

Senator COLLINS.

Senator COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Admiral, I enjoyed having the opportunity to participate with you last week as we honored the outstanding service members. Although you are not from the State of Maine, don't have the ties that you do to the home States of other members, I'm confident that, based on our discussion, that you fully understand the critical role that the great State of Maine plays for our Navy, with Bath Iron Works and also the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and a SERE training facility as well. And I look forward to having you come to Maine to see all of those firsthand.

I want to follow up on the questions that the chairman and the ranking member asked you about shipbuilding and your testimony earlier this week. You testified that the Navy would need approximately 400 ships to meet all of the combatant commanders' demands, a number which is 115 ships fewer than are in our fleet today. So that is of great concern to me.

Could you be more specific on what are the unmet requirements of the combatant commanders as they relate to Navy ships?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, in my statement I was referring to an unconstrained combatant commander input, which is what we get in the Department of Defense as part of the process. For those that aren't validated, if you will, by the Joint Staff and make the global force management plan, they tend to be theater security cooperation activity in theaters outside of Pacific Command and Central Command. Those tend to be our center of operations for the global force management plan.

These are important operations. They help preclude conflict. They help build partnership capacity. But, regrettably, in our force structure limitations we can't meet some of those.

Senator COLLINS. Among those is there a significant gap, for example, in ballistic missile defense, anti-piracy efforts? Are those some of the unmet needs of the combatant commanders?

Admiral GREENERT. Ballistic missile defense is a limit, Senator, but it is really based on the amount of force structure, writ large, we have. It isn't as if we have a destroyer that would be available for ballistic missile defense and we don't provide. We provide the combatant commanders all those that are capable today.

Counter-piracy, we do as much as we can in counter-piracy operations, particularly in the Central Command and the African Command.

Senator COLLINS. General, the Homeland Security Committee, on which I am the ranking member and former chairman, did an in-depth investigation into the failed response to Hurricane Katrina. One of our astonishing findings was that Northern Command had so little situational awareness about what was going on in Louisiana and Mississippi.

I know that there has been considerable progress made since that time. Military support to civil authorities during a major disaster relief is absolutely critical to effective response and recovery, as I'm sure you're aware. What are your goals for strengthening the cooperation between Northern Command and FEMA, the State National Guard units, and the State emergency managers? Specifically, will you continue the program to train dual-status commanders?

General JACOBY. Senator, I think you've nailed it right on the head in terms of situational awareness. That's been my personal experience in large-scale disasters. It's really a challenge to know exactly what's happening to you and to gain that. I think under Admiral Winnefeld's leadership it's my understanding that great strides have been made in improving its ability to see and understand what the requirements are, more importantly, to anticipate those requirements. That's part of, another part of the question you asked. I think it's about relationships and it's about building strong, cooperative partnerships, effective relationships, prior to an incident, so you're not exchanging business cards after the hurricane strikes; you're doing it beforehand.

So that comes down to trust and confidence and trust and confidence has been built by Admiral Winnefeld in a way that I think is unprecedented. Reflecting that is the initiative by the Council of Governors on dual-status commander. I think it's a tremendous and overdue initiative. It's something that's been tried and worked before in special, national special security events, and I think that it will serve us well in times of disasters in the future. If confirmed, I will continue to put energy and power behind the back wheels of that program as best I can, supporting State and local authorities.

Senator COLLINS. Thank you. I look forward to working with you to advance that goal.

Admiral, I want to talk further with you about shipbuilding. As you know, Admiral Roughead said many times that he considered 313 ships to be the absolute minimum that is really needed for the fleet. There are other studies, such as the quadrennial defense review, the independent bipartisan Perry-Hadley panel, that suggest that the number really should be in the neighborhood of 346 ships.

What is your judgment on the minimum number of ships that, unconstrained by budget, we should have in our fleet?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, I believe that the 313-ship floor remains the right number to deliver the capability needed to meet the challenges in the 2020 time frame.

Senator COLLINS. Finally, and my time has expired, one way that we can reduce the cost per ship is to increase the rate of procure-

ment. We've seen that in the past with the DDG-51 program. In fact, at one point when DDG-51s were being awarded, the contracts were being awarded, at a rate of three per year, it saved nearly \$800 million.

Do you have any thoughts on whether we would be able to increase the procurement rate and thus lower the cost per ship?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, at every opportunity we will pursue multi-year procurement of a DDG-51. As you said, it's an efficient way. You get economic order quantity. It's good for the builder, it's good for the Navy. As we balance resources across the shipbuilding portfolio and all accounts, we'll be looking for that opportunity.

Senator COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, Senator Collins.

Senator UDALL.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning, gentlemen. Thank you for being here.

Admiral, I look forward to working with you. Colorado is landlocked, but there are certainly important developments in the world that will be under your purview. I note that a book entitled "Monsoon," which I think you've probably seen—and General Jacoby talked about this the other day—presents a fascinating way, an insightful way, of looking at the Indian Ocean and that part of the world, in which we're very involved. I look forward to carrying on those conversations with you. Thanks for your willingness to serve.

If I might, I'd like to turn to General Jacoby and talk about NORTHCOM. We have been well served by your predecessors, General. We had a chance to talk about their accomplishments and successes the other day. Thank you for taking the time to come by and see me.

Would you just touch on your top priorities and concerns as you begin to take a look at the command you're going to assume here in the near future?

General JACOBY. Senator, as I look across the portfolio of the NORTHCOM commander, it really consists of three groupings. One is support, defense support for civil authorities in case of natural and manmade disasters; defense of the homeland; and security cooperation with our neighbors. In all of those mission areas, complex relationships are the key to effectiveness, particularly in support to civil authorities and defense of the homeland.

There are many stakeholders in the comprehensive defense of the homeland and support to civil authorities. So without delving immediately into a set of things to do, it's my understanding and as I've watched Admiral Winnefeld command so effectively, it's really building trust and confidence in those relationships, building effective partnerships, ahead of the problem, that will allow NORTHCOM to play its critical supporting role in most of those activities.

Of course, the defense of the homeland is the responsibility of the NORTHCOM commander. But so much of the rest of the mission set folds into that and supports that mission that really I think getting down to business means rolling up your sleeves and paying attention to the critical partners that are required to really effectively support and defend our people and its interests.

Senator UDALL. Let me build on those comments, as well as those of Senator Collins. You talk about creating those relationships beforehand. We talked about the dual-status command opportunity and Senator Collins just brought it up as well. I just want to underline my support for working with the Guard, particularly those Guard leaders, the TAGS, that know their home States, that know those relationships in the civil and the military world.

I just really encourage you to move in every way possible to firm that up and take advantage of those relationships. I know that's your intention, but I want to work with you and really make that happen.

General JACOBY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator UDALL. If I could, let me turn to cyber. Would you share your thoughts on where we are, talk a bit about, too, the discussion we're having about kinetic responses, non-kinetic responses, how do you determine which is most appropriate? I'd appreciate it.

General JACOBY. Senator, like members of this committee and senior leaders across the military, we are recognizing the cyber domain as being critical to our National security. Within the realm of the Department of Defense, we rely heavily on the cyber domain for something as significant and fundamental as command and control, but also for all the supporting infrastructure that makes the Department run and supportive of our National security interests.

So it is an absolute requirement that we become effective in that domain and that we have the right strategies, the right policies, and the right authorities to conduct the full range of activities required in the cyber domain for now and in the future.

For NORTHCOM specifically, the NORTHCOM responsibilities lie primarily in the physical domain. The technical side is really a comprehensive issue that involves the lead with the Department of Homeland Security, but a very, very close partnership with the Cyber Command and U.S. STRATCOM. U.S. NORTHCOM's role will be to not only protect critical, physical critical infrastructure outside the Department of Defense, if requested by local and State authorities, but also Department of Defense facilities as well.

Then in the event of an incident that would certainly have some kind of physical consequences, NORTHCOM would then go into its mode as a supporting element of providing Department of Defense resources in support of civil authorities that are dealing with the consequences of such an incident. I think that all of us can imagine pretty significant consequences as a result of a deliberate cyber attack.

Senator UDALL. I think we have more work to do on the civilian side with the vulnerabilities, but also strengths. Again, I look forward to working with you in that regard.

Admiral, I want to turn to China. I'm sure you're familiar with the piece that Admiral Mullen penned recently. I thought he had some interesting insights into how we interact with China. I'm somebody who thinks we ought to communicate, collaborate, and compete with China. We ought to be careful, though, about getting ourselves into conflicts with China that involve the use of force.

Would you share any of your thoughts on that relationship? Then in particular, a piece of good news is what we're doing in the Gulf

of Aden. Sino-American efforts there to counter piracy I think maybe present a model that we might move forward.

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, I think Admiral Mullen had it pretty much exactly right. We need to continue the dialogue. It's a long, grinding affair, but in my experience in the Pacific, especially at Seventh Fleet, I found that we can make some headway. We can't be naive.

What I found was, especially in special mission ships operating in and around China, an understanding of a proportional response. I think we have an opportunity with the desire of both nations for a peaceful resolution of the Korean Peninsula, and I think we should leverage that. You've already mentioned the piracy. So there's a few areas that I think we can leverage and continue on. But we can't be naive. We have to be clear and deliberate.

Senator UDALL. Well put.

Thanks again for your service. I look forward, particularly, General, to having you out in Colorado with your great wife. So looking forward to it. Thank you.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you, Senator Udall.

Senator BROWN.

Senator BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Admiral, what's the current strike fighter shortfall?

Admiral GREENERT. The predicted current strike fighter shortfall for the Department of the Navy will be 65.

Senator BROWN. Is it your opinion that the Navy needs 28 Super Hornets in fiscal year 2012 to alleviate that shortfall?

Admiral GREENERT. With the 28 Hornets in 2011, that would be the shortfall, Senator.

Senator BROWN. So the cost of a Super Hornet is about \$54 million and, just to kind of pick up a little bit on what Senator McCain didn't want to talk about, the Joint Strike Fighter right now is about \$132.8 million. Do you think that the Super Hornet and getting those would be the plan B, the safe hedge against further slips in growth costs of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter for your purposes?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, that would get us a temporary measure for the strike fighter shortfall. But I go back to the requirement for fifth generation. Eventually we need to move ahead in capability to the fifth generation, that stealth, that ability to deliver the range and the weapon capacity.

Senator BROWN. General—first of all, congratulations to both of you for, obviously, having this opportunity, and I look forward to voting, as well as probably everybody up here, for your confirmation.

General, what's the—what sort of relationship will you have with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau in terms of coordination between NORTHCOM and NGB? Are there any improvements that you think we can make?

General JACOBY. Senator, if confirmed, it will be a top priority to develop a relationship, an effective and a strong trusting relationship with the National Guard Bureau. I've watched General McKinley with great respect over the last year. He provides invaluable assistance and advice to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to the NORTHCOM commander. And I've watched the current NORTHCOM commander, Admiral Winnefeld, forge those bonds,

develop those relationships that allowed them to make these bold initiatives like the dual-status command opportunity.

So if confirmed, I'll commit to you that I will continue to develop those relationships and have that strong, strong, trusting working partnership that's required for support to the States and the civil authorities and for the defense of the homeland.

Senator BROWN. In your view, how and when dual-status commanders will be utilized? What's your view on that?

General JACOBY. Senator, as you know, in the past we've proven the concept. Dual-status commanders have worked effectively in support of national special security events. So this leap forward is saying, well, why do we need 6 months to put in place a dual-status commander? Why can't we do that in advance?

So the training program, the designation in advance of dual-status commanders, the marrying up of dual-status commanders with a deputy from the other authority, I think those are tremendous initiatives that need to carry forward, and I think that can be used across a broad spectrum of support to civil authorities in response to incidents around the country. It makes a lot of sense. It's about unity of effort.

Senator BROWN. When you're dealing with the Mexican border, the Mexican-U.S. border, and the use of Guardsmen, some of the concerns are the fact that they don't have the ability to actually defend themselves, like we would in a war situation. I would argue that what's happening down there is pretty darn close to being a war, a war on drugs, and a form of terror.

What's your position as to providing, giving them the authority to protect themselves when it comes to life and death?

General JACOBY. Senator, I'm not familiar with the exact rules of engagement or the arrangements that have been made for the Guardsmen that are serving in a terrific manner along our southwest border. I know that the States have requested that and have implemented that program, and the Guard's mobilized very effectively to support it.

I also know that the Department of Homeland Security is training agents to eventually replace those Guardsmen. I would say that, as just a matter of professional opinion, that any time we put a soldier, sailor, marine, in harm's way, we need to make arrangements for their personal security.

Senator BROWN. Thank you, sir.

Admiral, just getting back to you, you said you predict that there's a 68-strike fighter shortfall. Why is that a prediction?

Admiral GREENERT. It's when we take into account the number of hours on an airframe that we have today, hours flying by tail number, and look at operations, extrapolate it out.

Senator BROWN. The usual that we've talked about.

Admiral GREENERT. It's the throughput, yes, sir.

Senator BROWN. One final question. The Navy's business case analysis of its dual LCS award strategy indicated that it can demonstrate overall cost savings of around \$1 billion. Is that still accurate, that cost savings?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, I would like to take a look at those numbers and get back to you on the precise number.

[The information referred to follows:]

[COMMITTEE INSERT]

Senator BROWN. Great. Thank you, sirs.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you, Senator Brown.

Senator SESSIONS.

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you.

Congratulations to both of you. We appreciate your service and value that tremendously. We have a magnificent military and as we go through the financial challenges that we all face we want to be sure that we keep the most magnificent military in the world, and I trust that you will help us achieve that, and also cost savings wherever they can be achieved.

A couple of questions. General Jacoby, you as NORTHCOM will be the person to pull the trigger if we were to have an incoming missile attack. You have the GMD system and other systems that are on the drawing boards. I am a strong believer that the GMD system we have presently will work to protect the country. I do believe that we need to enhance its kill vehicle to be more sophisticated, and that's being worked on, although we did have a defect in that in a test failure, which will mean we'll have to take a little longer and cost more money to work that out.

So I guess my first question to you: Will you tell us and commit to us that you'll master that program and will keep us advised on any shortfalls or problems that occur and will work to ensure that we properly spend the money to deploy the system that we've invested substantially in over several decades?

General JACOBY. Senator, yes, I will.

Senator SESSIONS. And will give us your best military judgment when asked about that?

General JACOBY. Senator, if confirmed as the commander responsible and accountable, I will.

Senator SESSIONS. You've had some experience with the National Guard and you told me yesterday your respect for that institution. Would you share with us your understanding of the partnership between active duty and the Guard and how that can benefit the Nation?

General JACOBY. Yes, Senator, I will. I've been—it's been my privilege to serve side by side with Guardsmen from my days as a second lieutenant out in the woods in Camp A.P. Hill, Virginia, on annual training, right up until last year in command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, where tens of thousands of Guardsmen served side by side with active forces in the accomplishment of a single mission.

It's also been my privilege to serve with Guardsmen around the world in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, particularly in Central America and South America. So I have an abiding respect and admiration for the Guard. They bring special talents to every endeavor and they make special and unique sacrifices, as do their families, when we call upon them, both in their home States and abroad, to serve the Nation.

So I believe that this is all about working together. I think it's about taking advantage of unique skills and opportunities. I believe it's about responding locally first and then piling on as required. So there is a very special supporting role that NORTHCOM can

provide State governors and TAGs, and I think that in order to be the most effective in doing that you have to have that relationship with the Guard.

I think exercising, training, fighting together, those are the keys to building those relationships and bonds that you can't break.

Senator SESSIONS. Well, I agree. I know you'll be working with the 167th Theater Support Command out of Alabama, and I know they look forward to that, and I hope and believe you'll have a positive relationship.

Admiral Greenert, we're at 285 ships in the Navy today. The requirement is for 313. The Chief of Naval Operations previously called that a floor for the Navy. We'll have to work hard to get there. I believe that is a reasonable amount for the Navy and hope that we can be able to support you maintaining that.

I know you were asked earlier about the LCS, Littoral Combat Ship. They're just beginning to be produced and the plan calls for 55 of those to be a part of that fleet. I understand the personnel required to man the ship is only about 40. How do you see that in terms of being able to help us achieve the fleet size we need with a cost improvement as compared to conventional ships that we now have in service?

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, I had the pleasure of spending an overnight on the Freedom and I went from stem to stern on the Independence, and I am very impressed with the potential that those ships will bring. They have speed, volume, agility, and the ability to adapt. They are coveted by Special Forces. The Marines want to get involved as we are putting together packages.

So with the mission modules, with anti-submarine warfare, with mine warfare, surface warfare mission modules, they will be a key and essential—the Littoral Combat Ship will be a key and essential part of our future fleet. We just have to bring them in on time, budget, and schedule.

Senator SESSIONS. Compared to the other ships that would be most comparable to it, they would be a lot more expensive and require a lot more personnel to operate, do they not?

Admiral GREENERT. That would be correct, yes, sir. The closest thing that I know of to the Littoral Combat Ship is the National Security Cutter. It has a different mission, but nonetheless costs a little bit more, the cutter, and its crew is larger than the Littoral Combat Ship.

Senator SESSIONS. The DDG-1000 or 51s, also some of their missions could be reduced, and they're substantially more expensive and have much larger crews; is that not correct?

Admiral GREENERT. That's correct.

Senator SESSIONS. I think this is a smart Navy move. I remember when Admiral Clarke proposed it, and it came up when I was Seapower Chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee. I thought it was a good step in the right direction. I will acknowledge that some of those ships now will be built in Alabama, so I'm watching it closely. But I do believe it was a good idea then as a cost-cutting, flexible, more mobile Navy capability with much varied capabilities.

With regard to the corrosion matter that I think Senator McCain asked you about, I've looked into that. I don't know if you've had

a chance to. I've talked to Defense Department people. It does appear that this first vessel—they checked them from stem to stern for corrosion and other problems. They found a bit of corrosion.

Ships in the—any ship that's in the oceans, corrosion is always a problem, is it not? And do you believe this corrosion—launching a ship, you wouldn't be surprised to see some corrosion problem appear; is that correct?

Admiral GREENERT. It has happened in the past. It is not a new problem, corrosion. And as you said, with the turbulence of the water, any metal in sea water, you have that threat of corrosion.

Senator SESSIONS. We've looked and talked with Defense Department officials and, while it may be this ship that's in the water may cost 1, 2, \$3 million to fix that problem, once it's been identified there are techniques that can be employed for the new ships ongoing that would avoid that problem at a much, much more modest cost; is that correct?

Admiral GREENERT. That's correct, Senator.

Senator SESSIONS. I just feel like that you've got a good ship there. I appreciate Senator McCain because he's going to be on top of it, and we should be on all our procurements. And your feet will be held to the fire. The contractors and the Navy will be held to the fire. But I don't think that this problem is anything like a huge problem. It does not jeopardize the program financially or technologically, and I do believe that the LCS ship will be cheaper to operate and be a step forward for the Navy as we strive to create the 300-plus-ship Navy that we'd like to have.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, Senator Sessions.

Senator Blumenthal.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, General and Admiral, for your extraordinary service, very distinguished service to our country. And thank you for your willingness to serve in the future. I apologize that I missed some of your testimony because of my appearing at other committee hearings. But I think I was here for probably some of the most important part, where you thanked your families, and I want to join in thanking them and recognizing their service to our country as well.

In that spirit, Admiral, let me ask you my first question, which really centers on family support. I noted in your testimony your very important reference to the need for "adequate oversight and sufficient funding" for these programs. You say that you "remain open to initiatives designed to further evolve existing programs and look for innovative ways to help our sailors and families become more resilient and ready to meet the enduring demand for Navy forces."

In that spirit, I would like to suggest perhaps to both of you that there really is a need for more family support, particularly in the employment area, where spouses are concerned, and where professional credentialing requirements are imposed that may limit employment for members of families at those bases where they move frequently, as you know much, much better than I, and career options are frequently blocked for frequently relocating military spouses.

I'm sure you're familiar with this problem and I don't need to belabor it for you. But to the extent that we can help on this committee with that issue, certainly I would like to do so. One means of doing so might be to have an individual at bases responsible for those credentialing or professional licensing issues.

But beyond that, perhaps, Admiral, you could speak to the issue of how family support more specifically can be provided to our Navy and perhaps the Navy as a model for the other services.

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, I appreciate your offer of support. We have a Department-wide, it's really a joint effort, in credentialing of spouse skills. We've got about, I believe it's, eight States we have gone straight to the governments and the governor in the case of the chairman, to form a coalition who will agree to accept the credentialing of our military spouses.

We're working very vigorously on this and will be very vigilant. Again, it's a joint effort and my colleague General Jacoby—we're really mimicking the Army method and model to do that.

I believe that family programs are the foundation for the support of the family, and without a strong family the sailor doesn't have—can't do what he or she need to do. I'm committed, if I am confirmed, to ensure those programs are properly programmed and budgeted and that they execute properly and we share best practices.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you.

General, if you could address that same question I'd appreciate it.

General JACOBY. Senator, I really thank you and the committee for taking this on. We are really finding that we've been testing the all-volunteer services here over the last 10 years, and we're discovering their strengths and we're discovering things that we can continuously do better.

One of the things that we've discovered is how critical families are. When we ask soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and our civilians to deploy over and over and over again in support of our National security interests, we're also asking their families to make tough commitments.

I'm especially grateful for your consideration of the challenges that come from moving, and particularly true for the young families that are moving and young spouses that are seeking employment, and oftentimes that employment is central to running the household. So those initiatives are very, very important. I applaud the efforts and I thank all that are moving those family programs into the base, and I can tell you as a recipient and as a commander across my experience here during the last 10 years of conflict we have gotten better and better with the help of Congress.

So thank you, sir.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Another area where I found your written testimony very compelling was on the issue of better treatment for our wounded warriors, particularly those suffering from the less visible wounds of war, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress. If you could expound perhaps on some of the specifics, where I know that both the Navy and the Army are seeking to address those issues, which are not new to this conflict, but perhaps newly discovered in their importance and their priority.

Admiral GREENERT. Senator, I think we've made some strides. We need to continue to pursue the ability of our medical people to detect the potential for TBI in the field. If somebody gets bonked or has what might be perceived a concussion, to be able to detect that and to document it and get that person off line and recognize it.

Following up at the completion of a tour of duty, to be sure there are people who may suffer from post-traumatic stress, that we do the proper post-deployment health assessment; and particularly for our Reserves, that those that feel, they feel different, they may have an issue, that we keep them on active duty, take care of them, do psychological outreach. I think that's a program that has done us well.

Post-deployment returning warrior weekends, people get together, talk about how they feel, what's going on, they get great referrals there.

Lastly, for the Navy we have what we call Navy Safe Harbor. When an individual is wounded, ill, or injured, combat or otherwise, they enter the Navy Safe Harbor. They're a member of Navy Safe Harbor until they choose to leave, go back to full duty, and voluntarily leave Safe Harbor, or they transition to a new lifestyle out of the military service and their disability evaluation system is complete.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. My time has unfortunately expired and I may be one of the last of your questioners today. But again, I want to thank you for your service. I want to particularly support your observation, Admiral, in your written testimony, and again I'm quoting, "An attack submarine force level below 48 will increase the risk of gaps in our coverage for indications and warnings of potential hostile actions, delay or reduce the arrival of submarines critical to the war fight, and potentially allow an adversary to create and maintain a safe haven."

I think that is a very powerful and eloquent statement in support of the kind of submarine force that we need. Again, I offer my strong support.

So thank you for being here and thank you for your service, and look forward to working with you. I have no doubt that you'll both be confirmed.

Thank you.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you very much, Senator Blumenthal.

I just have a few questions for the second round and then if any other Senator wants to add to that they should come by.

Admiral—excuse me, General. I've asked the Admiral about the question of whether the United States should join the Law of the Sea Convention. Now, Northern Command's going to have new responsibilities for the Arctic. Can you tell us what your views are about whether the United States should join the Law of the Sea Convention?

General JACOBY. Senator, I believe we should.

Chairman LEVIN. Can you tell us why?

General JACOBY. Senator, I think that when we look at the global commons in all of its domains, particularly at sea, it's important that the commons are disciplined, that there are international standards, and that those standards are agreed to across the inter-

national community. It's hard to sit at the table with any moral authority or standing when you're not a member of that treaty.

It's my understanding as well that we had significant input in the design of it, and so I think our friends, allies, neighbors, and the rest of the community that travels the global commons would benefit from our ability to influence outcomes by being a member.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you.

You've been asked, General, about the cyber security issues and the growing threats of cyber attacks and the growing number of cyber attacks. You indicated in your prehearing questions that the Department of Homeland Security is the lead Federal agency for the cyber security of the Nation and that Northern Command would operate in support of the Department of Homeland Security.

Can you expand just a bit on that? What is the relationship, if any, between the Northern Command mission to protect critical infrastructure and its cyber security mitigation role?

General JACOBY. Senator, principally we'll be—NORTHCOM would play a supporting role in mitigating consequences of a cyber attack. To that end, close coordination with the Department of Homeland Security is a requirement.

Where we have critical infrastructure associated with cyber elements on Department of Defense property, then NORTHCOM would play a critical lead role in defending that or protecting that, with the services, in protecting that infrastructure. And then, upon request, if there are Federal properties that require additional assistance in their protection, then NORTHCOM would play a supporting role.

But across a wide variety of potential impacts on our critical infrastructure, NORTHCOM could be called on to provide support to civil authorities in mitigating the results of a cyber attack. I think when you pull the thread on what could happen if there was a significant cyber attack on our electrical grid or other types of infrastructure that has not just maybe local, but regional implications, then you can see where a response of some significance might be required.

Chairman LEVIN. Thank you.

We want to thank you both again and your families for your service. We're going to hope to get these nominations and other pending nominations acted on by the committee yet this week. That's our goal, and then to get you and the others confirmed next week, if not late this week. That's our hope and, even though there are some wild things going on in the Congress these days, these nominations I think will not only be confirmed, but will, when people do realize the importance of these nominations and coming together on a bipartisan basis in support of our military efforts and our military families and people who wear our uniforms, these nominations are going to have a settling effort on the environment here in the Congress.

So that's our goal, and I will close with that optimistic note, and again with thanks to both of you.

[Whereupon, at 11:07 a.m., the committee adjourned.]