

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE POSTURE OF UNITED
STATES NORTHERN COMMAND AND UNITED STATES
SOUTHERN COMMAND IN REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND THE
FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING
1029 VERMONT AVE, NW
10TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
(202) 289-2260
www.aldersonreporting.com

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7
8 U.S. Senate
9 Committee on Armed Services
10 Washington, D.C.
11

12 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m. in
13 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Roger
14 Wicker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

15 Committee Members Present: Senators Wicker
16 [presiding], Fischer, Cotton, Sullivan, Scott, Tuberville,
17 Budd, Banks, Reed, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Hirono, Kaine, King,
18 Warren, Peters, Duckworth, Rosen, and Kelly.
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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROGER F. WICKER, U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM MISSISSIPPI

3 Chairman Wicker: This hearing will come to order and I
4 thank I witness for being here today. We're joined by
5 General Gregory Guillot. Thank you for being here from
6 Northern Command and Admiral Alvin Holsey from Southern
7 Command.

8 The United States faces the most dangerous security
9 environment it has entered since World War II. We know
10 about the threats in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, but
11 we must not lose sight of threats in our own hemisphere.
12 Both of these commanders face an increasingly complex set of
13 actors who seek to harm Americans and undermined our
14 interests.

15 The Chinese Communist Party has exploited our poorest
16 southern border to facilitate the trafficking of fentanyl
17 and other deadly drugs. Beijing has brazenly violated U.S.
18 airspace; it has burrowed its cyber payloads into core U.S.
19 telecommunications infrastructure and spread its predatory
20 economic practices to South America. China, Russia, and
21 North Korea pose an increasing nuclear and conventional
22 threat to key U.S. cities. Not to be outdone, Iran
23 continues to try to kill Americans on our own soil.

24 General Guillot, I would like to hear your updates in
25 three key areas: first, border security is a priority for

1 the President, and I agree with his decision to declare a
2 national emergency at the southern border. President Trump
3 has asked you to deliver an updated plan to ensure border
4 security. He's also directed you to assist law enforcement
5 in its security and deportation operations. DOD has a lot
6 to offer to support law enforcement.

7 The 2022 National Defense Strategy published by
8 President Biden, listed Homeland Defense as the military's
9 first priority, so this is bipartisan. It is clear that the
10 American people do believe that border security is national
11 security. I look forward to hearing from you on your work
12 in this area.

13 Second, President Trump has asked you to contribute to
14 a new plan for Homeland Air and Missile Defense. I would
15 welcome your insights in this effort. Please tell us where
16 in your opinion, new investments should be targeted. Do
17 they involve updating our ground-based radars and building
18 out new missile warning satellites? Perhaps they involve
19 developing the most cost-effective methods of intercepting
20 incoming cruise and ballistic missiles.

21 Third, you have led on the development of a new
22 strategy for countering drones here in the homeland. My
23 friend and Ranking Member, Jack Reed, held a great
24 classified briefing on the Langley Incursions. There have
25 been numerous similar incidents since, all of them

1 troubling. Senators Cotton and Gillibrand are working
2 together on ways to counter drones. I would appreciate your
3 comments on how we can be more effective in this space.
4 Tell us what new authorities you need.

5 Admiral Holsey, I would appreciate an update from you
6 on how your adversaries are using economic coercion against
7 key Latin American partners. The CCP aims to drive a wedge
8 between the U.S. and our neighbors. China hopes to reverse
9 longstanding policy recognizing Taiwan's independence, and
10 it wants our allies to look the other way as it builds so-
11 called "Gray Zone" dual use civil - military infrastructure.

12 Beijing is also trying to force our friends to rely on
13 Huawei for telecommunications. Even as numerous Latin
14 American leaders have adopted this CCP controlled TikTok
15 app. We need look no further than the Panama Canal.
16 President Trump has rightly expressed concern about the PRC
17 state-owned port infrastructure on either end of this vital
18 maritime artery.

19 Those PRC facilities pose a risk to the free flow of
20 U.S. flag merchant ships and U.S. naval vessels. This issue
21 must be addressed. There are additional troubling PRC
22 developments in the SOUTHCOM region. The PRC has leased a
23 space port in the remote Patagonia region of Argentina.
24 That perch provides the Communist Chinese with unprecedented
25 surveillance capabilities in our own hemisphere.

1 Since at least 2019, Beijing has operated a spy base
2 out of Cuba and has done so with impunity. Just last year
3 in Lima, Peru, a PRC state owned power company purchased the
4 city's entire power grid. Meanwhile, Xi Jinping presided
5 over the opening of a Chinese funded deep water port just
6 north of Lima, which is capable of holding PRC warships.

7 So, Admiral Holsey, I would like for you to update this
8 committee on how you are integrating military and non-
9 military tools to fight against these predatory techniques.
10 Despite the significant and growing security threats in the
11 region, SOUTHCOM is consistently under-resourced to fulfill
12 its many critical national security missions.

13 I look forward to hearing from you about how these
14 resource constraints are affecting SOUTHCOM. I would also
15 like to learn how innovative solutions like the Office of
16 Strategic Capital, can be leveraged to close this resource
17 gap.

18 Again, I thank our witnesses for being here and for
19 their earlier meetings with members of this committee, and I
20 now recognize my friend and the distinguished Ranking Member
21 of the committee, Senator Reed.

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

3 Senator Reed: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and
4 let me join you in welcoming General Gregory Guillot, the
5 commander of NORTHCOM and Admiral Holsey to today's posture
6 hearing - the Commander of the U.S. SOUTHCOM.

7 Gentlemen, over the past month, both of your commands
8 have been ordered to conduct new missions in support of U.S.
9 border of security and immigration enforcement. President
10 Trump has deployed over 2000 active-duty soldiers and
11 Marines to supplement the 2,500 guard members and reservists
12 already deployed to the southern border and has directed
13 NORTHCOM to seal the southern border.

14 Additionally, last week, President Trump ordered the
15 Defense Department to expand the Department of Homeland
16 Securities Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station,
17 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to accommodate up to 30,000 migrants
18 and to begin transporting migrants via military aircraft to
19 that facility.

20 Thus, I understand that around 100 migrants have been
21 transported to Guantanamo, at least half of whom are being
22 detained, not at the Migrant Operation Center, but at the
23 detention center where alleged and convicted international
24 war criminals are also housed.

25 Border security and immigration enforcement is critical

1 to our National Security, but Guantanamo Bay is a dubious
2 location to detain immigrants. The detention center has
3 only been used for war detainees, and it is unfortunate to
4 equate immigrants with international war criminals.
5 Further, the facilities at Guantanamo are in poor condition
6 and are extremely understaffed.

7 The U.S. military, which is already stretched for
8 resources, is now spending millions of dollars to use
9 military aircraft and burning thousands of dollars of
10 military personnel time for these operations. While a naval
11 station in Guantanamo does prepare for mass migration
12 operations, these operations are for saving people, leaving
13 dire situations in Cuba or Haiti on unsafe craft, not moving
14 individuals already in the United States to a place where
15 the status of their rights is ambiguous.

16 I have questions about the legality of this operation,
17 and I'm concerned that this is part of a broader effort by
18 President Trump to militarize immigration enforcement. I
19 hope the President and Secretary Hegseth will use common
20 sense to follow the law and stop spending significant
21 amounts of taxpayers' dollars on performative deportation
22 activities.

23 General Guillot, Admiral Holsey, I would like to know
24 how these Immigration Force submissions are impacting the
25 readiness of your forces. Physically, I would ask for your

1 estimates of the course personnel and resources required
2 thus far, and any concerns you have about the limitations
3 you have to continue conducting such operations,
4 particularly in light of your other critical missions.

5 Indeed, U.S. Northern Command is key to our national
6 security as the principal command for protecting the
7 American homeland. As we consider threats from China, other
8 competitors, our very concept of Homeland defense must
9 evolve. General Guillot, NORTHCOM publishes its Homeland
10 Defense policy guidance to address this challenge, and we're
11 going to ask for an update on the status of its
12 implementation and how it will transform the Homeland
13 Defense plans of the department.

14 The urgency of this mission has been made clear with
15 the recent incursion of drones and unidentified aerial
16 phenomenon in our airspace. America's skies and seas must
17 be secured to protect our citizens, and the department must
18 pursue technologies that provide adequate detection.

19 The Trump administration has proposed an Iron Dome
20 program for North America and issued an executive order to
21 develop additional defenses against cruise, ballistic and
22 hypersonic missiles. I would note that many of these
23 efforts have already been underway by the Missile Defense
24 Agency for years, and that the concept of space-based
25 interceptive that President Trump is interested in, has been

1 debated, and tested at enormous financial cost without
2 significant promise.

3 General Guillot, I would ask for an update on how the
4 Homeland Missile Defense mission is proceeding and your view
5 on how a space-based interceptive system could affect
6 Russia's pursuit of a nuclear weapon in space.

7 Turning to Southern Command, Admiral Holsey, your
8 command faces growing challenges from China and Russian and
9 Latin America. The political and economic instability in
10 the region presents a situation that our adversaries are
11 seeking to exploit, to increase their own influence.

12 China in particular, is expanding its presence in the
13 region, including through investments in strategic
14 infrastructure, 5G telecommunications, and an expanding
15 network of space tracking installations.

16 Admiral, you testified last year that the PRC and
17 Russia are strategic competitors who seek to undermine
18 democracy while gaining power and influence in the region,
19 and that partnerships are our best deterrent to countering
20 shared security and economic concern. But that for now, the
21 U.S. remains a trusted partner or the trusted partner.

22 U.S. International Development Programs strengthen U.S.
23 partnership in the region, which advance U.S. national
24 security objectives. Now that USAID has been dismantled,
25 I'm interested in your assessment of whether the U.S. will

1 remain the partner of choice in your AOR or whether China
2 and Russia will use this as an opportunity to gain further
3 inroads with our partners.

4 I'm also interested in your assessment of how we might
5 work strategically with our partners in the region to build
6 resilience against these activities. SOUTHCOM, like
7 NORTHCOM, continues to work closely with U.S. interagency to
8 support counter-narcotics and counter transnational
9 organizations, or TCOs.

10 I'm concerned about the threats from TCOs and synthetic
11 opioid trafficking, including fentanyl, which are
12 contributing to more than 100,000 overdose deaths each year
13 in the United States.

14 Admiral, I would ask for an update on SOUTHCOM's work
15 with partner nations and other U.S. government agencies to
16 counter narcotic and counter TCO efforts given SOUTHCOM's
17 limited force posture and resources.

18 Finally, we know that insecurity throughout SOUTHCOM
19 area is contributing to the flow of migrant North to the
20 U.S. border. Economic instability, violence and corruption
21 continue to be a major source of insecurity in much of the
22 region, especially in the northern triangle countries of
23 Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Admiral Holsey, I
24 would like to know your views on what more can be done to
25 help improve the situation and strengthen our broader

1 securities throughout the region.

2 Thank you, again, to our witnesses. I look forward to
3 your testimony. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Chairman Wicker: Thank you. And we're now ready for
5 testimony from our witnesses. Before we begin, as members
6 know, there are votes, two votes beginning at 10:00 a.m.,
7 and we'll keep the hearing going. When the vote begins,
8 I'll try to run over very quickly and come right back. In
9 the meantime, a member of our committee will preside and
10 we'll keep going.

11 So, we are ready to begin testimony. General Guillot,
12 you are recognized with the thanks of the committee.

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1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL GREGORY M. GUILLOT, USAF
2 COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND AND NORTH AMERICAN
3 AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND

4 General Guillot: Thank you, Chairman Wicker, Ranking
5 Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee.
6 It's my honor to command the men and women of North American
7 Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern
8 Command. I'm also pleased to appear alongside my U.S.
9 SOUTHCOM shipmate, Admiral Alvin Holsey.

10 I'd like to highlight three trends of particular that
11 NORAD and NORTHCOM face with direct implications for
12 Homeland Defense. First, is the growing cooperation between
13 China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran to challenge the United
14 States. While their cooperation does not approach the level
15 of complete integration demonstrated by the United States
16 and Canada, their transfer of weapons, military technology
17 and basing access has cause for significant concern.

18 The associated risks to North America have also grown,
19 as the number of Russian bomber incursions into the Alaska
20 and Canadian Air Defense Identification Zones has returned
21 to levels not seen since before the Russian invasion of
22 Ukraine, and Russian Navy surface and subsurface vessels
23 conducted out of area deployments off both U.S. coasts,
24 including in the vicinity of Alaska.

25 Second, evolving technologies demand that NORAD and

1 NORTHCOM rapidly adjust our defense posture. Small uncrewed
2 aircraft systems or UAS, proliferate the open market and in
3 the hands of malign actors pose a growing threat to safety
4 and security. Likewise, as competitors continue to target
5 U.S. networks and critical infrastructure in cyberspace, a
6 whole of government effort is increasingly necessary to
7 mitigate potential harm.

8 Finally, non-state actors continue to target our
9 homeland. Radical Islamic terrorist groups have rejuvenated
10 attack planning and anti-American rhetoric, intended to
11 inspire lone wolf attacks. Like the daily New Year's Day
12 attack in New Orleans. And transnational criminal cartels
13 based in Mexico threatened U.S. territorial integrity and
14 the safety of our citizens.

15 With that strategic backdrop, homeland defense is our
16 command's top priority and essential task. And in mindset
17 and action, nobody waits on NORAD or NORTHCOM. The mantra
18 proved true over the last year as the command's planning and
19 preparation generated swift and effective responses to
20 competitor actions, major disasters, and emerging
21 requirements.

22 Over the past 12 months, NORAD and NORTHCOM:
23 intercepted joint Russian and Chinese bombers off the Alaska
24 coast, tracked Russian surface vessels off both coasts,
25 detected and assessed numerous North Korean missile

1 launches, tracked multiple Chinese dual use military and
2 research vessels in the bearing sea and Arctic Ocean,
3 supported Americans in need following hurricane Helene and
4 wildfires in California, postured to support a hurricane
5 Milton response.

6 Deployed troops and unique military capabilities such
7 as airborne ISR along the U.S. southern border, illuminated
8 transnational criminal networks, deployed military personnel
9 to assist U.S. Secret service in securing 195 presidential
10 campaign events and improved defensive capabilities against
11 all threats ranging from ICBMs to small drones.

12 Looking forward, NORAD and NORTHCOM modernization is
13 crucial to outpacing our competitors. Establishing a
14 layered domain awareness network from seabed to space to
15 detect and track threats approaching North America, is
16 critical to immediate and future mission requirements
17 because you can't defeat what you can't see.

18 To that end, I appreciate the department and
19 congressional support for fielding all domain capabilities
20 such as Airborne Moving Target Indicator satellites, Over-
21 The-Horizon Radars, the E-7 Wedgetail, and an Integrated
22 Undersea Surveillance System.

23 Defending our borders, establishing a continental
24 missile shield, protecting critical infrastructure and force
25 projection capability, and safeguarding our citizens will

1 require the best our nations have to offer.

2 And I'm grateful to the committee for your ongoing
3 support of NORAD and NORTHCOM's vital Missions. Thank you
4 again for the opportunity to appear today, and I look
5 forward to your questions. We have the watch.

6 [The prepared statement of General Guillot follows:]

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1 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, General. Admiral Holsey,
2 you're recognized.

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1 STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL ALVIN HOLSEY, USN COMMANDER,
2 UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND

3 Admiral Holsey: Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed,
4 distinguished members of the committee, I'm humbled to
5 appear before today as the 33rd commander of United States
6 Southern Command.

7 We're a war fighting organization, and I've moved
8 forward to lead this command, service members, surveillance
9 contractors and their families, as we've foster democracy,
10 security, shared prosperity throughout the Western
11 hemisphere. I'm honored to testify alongside General
12 Guillot as a relationship between NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM is
13 vital to the safety and security of our homeland.

14 The United States and our partners in Latin America and
15 the Korean are linked together, not simply by history and
16 geography, but by family bonds, cultural traditions,
17 security and economic cooperation, and a steadfast devotion
18 to democratic values. This enduring commitment to these
19 values is a cornerstone of our collective partnership.
20 Together we seek to achieve lasting security, stability, and
21 prosperity throughout the Americas.

22 Today, this vision is imperiled by a host of threats.
23 These threats include strategic competition from China and
24 Russia, the impact of transnational criminal organizations
25 and the complex transboundary challenges such as irregular

1 migration, natural disasters, eroded democracies, food, and
2 water insecurity. China is outpacing threat and continues
3 to its methodical encouragement into our shared
4 neighborhood, wielding diplomatic informational, military,
5 and economic influence to export its authoritarian model to
6 the region,

7 Most focused to the east and west when they think of
8 great power competition. A look to our south reveals that
9 China has already established a strong presence. It's
10 predatory and opaque investment practices, resource
11 extraction, and potential dual use projects from ports to
12 space, threaten the security and sovereignty of our partners
13 while jeopardizing the United States National Security

14 Simultaneously, Russia supports like-minded regimes
15 like Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, using disinformation
16 military engagements, armed --, force protection. Moscow is
17 now attempting to undermine the United States leadership
18 interest and influence in the region.

19 Meanwhile, TCOs continue to fuel instability throughout
20 the region. They exploit the permissive environment and
21 engage in brutal violence, illicit trafficking, and other
22 criminal activities to undermine the rule of law and disrupt
23 the legitimate government functions. And they're having
24 devastating effects, which is spill over into our homeland,
25 destroying lives.

1 Border security is a concern for us all. SOUTHCOM
2 recently stood up Joint Task force -- guard in at Naval
3 Station GTMO Bay, in support of Department of Homeland
4 Security to provide safe and care of illegal aliens until
5 they're returned to their countries of origin. Our time is
6 now. Deliberate and meaningful action to address these
7 threats is required or this region, our neighborhood will
8 continue to change.

9 Partnerships are our most effective approach to
10 countering shared security and economic concerns to enable
11 our enduring trust in the region. However, we cannot take
12 this for granted. To be a trusted partner, we must be
13 credible, present, and engaged.

14 During my tenure at SOUTHCOM, I've witnessed how
15 enduring presence builds trust. As a result, partners
16 prefer to work with us over China, Russia, and other nations
17 to overcome their most pressing challenges. SOUTHCOM
18 continue to stand shoulders to shoulder with our partners.
19 We have and will continue to respond rapidly to crises in
20 any form.

21 Together with our partners, we're building their
22 capability, capacity to mitigate, respond, and recover from
23 our collective threats. Sustained investment and security
24 operation, joint exercises, disaster assistance among other
25 initiatives enable us to innovate and deliver at the point

1 of need.

2 As this department sharpens its war fighting edge, I'm
3 grateful for the continued support of Congress. Today, this
4 vital support to defending the democratic principles and
5 interests that underpins the stability of prosperity and the
6 region and ultimately the security of our nation.

7 Thank you again, Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed,
8 and members of the committee for this opportunity. I look
9 forward to your questions.

10 [The prepared statement of Admiral Holsey follows:]

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1 Chairman Wicker: Thank you very much for your
2 testimony. Let's get restarted quickly. General Guillot,
3 you can see from Senator Reed and me we're interested in the
4 executive order to renew America's aging missile Defense
5 architecture. So, I'll jump right in there.

6 So, how are we going to do this? What are the options?
7 What are your top priorities with respect to upgrading our
8 air and missile defenses? What role do you see space-based
9 capabilities in this effort? And is our industrial base
10 primed to execute this mission? So, what are your top
11 priorities?

12 General Guillot: Chairman, the top priority in our
13 efforts to meet the direction of the executive order is
14 first and foremost, to establish increased domain awareness.
15 As I mentioned in the opening comments, you can't defeat
16 what you can't see, and the adversaries have an increasing
17 capability of reaching us and threatening us from ranges
18 beyond what some of our current systems can detect and
19 track.

20 So, the first layer of any approach to defending the,
21 the United States or North America from the NORAD
22 perspective would be a sensor layer from seabed to space, of
23 systems that can detect threats from a further distance.
24 Those are seabed, ground-based, air base, such as the E-7
25 and then space-based systems for detecting tracking and

1 warning.

2 Inside of that, I think we build on our existing GBI
3 and NGI capabilities via ground-based interceptors and next
4 generation interceptors to defeat intercontinental ballistic
5 missiles.

6 Chairman Wicker: Let me interject on the sensor layer.
7 How soon can we get there?

8 General Guillot: Chairman, some of those capabilities
9 are right on the edge. Others are probably three to five
10 years out, but I think within inside of a year, we could
11 have a significant capability that could network those into
12 a single sensor grid.

13 Chairman Wicker: All right, well then go ahead if
14 you've got anything to say about space-based or our
15 industrial base capabilities.

16 General Guillot: Chairman, cooperation with the
17 industrial base is critical, so they can keep pace with not
18 only our requirements, but those requirements are based on
19 the capabilities of the adversaries, which are rapidly
20 increasing. So, I can't emphasize enough the need to
21 develop systems and move them left on the timeline to field
22 them more quickly to achieve our goal.

23 Chairman Wicker: Okay. And again, the Ranking Member
24 and I spoke about fentanyl deaths. The estimate I have is
25 more than 225,000 Americans are estimated to have been

1 killed because of fentanyl overdoses from 2021 to 2023. So,
2 what progress are we making there? Who's to blame? I
3 understand that we've been told in the past there are more
4 Russian GRU spies operating in Mexico City than anywhere in
5 the world. Is that true? And what's NORTHCOM doing and
6 needing to do?

7 General Guillot: Chairman, the fentanyl crisis is a
8 significant concern to our command. We have a number of
9 Intel analysts that work with the interagency and lead
10 federal agencies to provide intelligence that gets after the
11 cartel networks that drive the production and distribution
12 of fentanyl and pushes it across the border. Recently we've
13 been permitted to increase our ISR, our intelligence
14 surveillance and reconnaissance to --

15 Chairman Wicker: Permitted by Mexico?

16 General Guillot: No, by the department, sir. But we
17 do have intelligence sharing with Mexico to show them what
18 we see. And we have increased cooperation with Mexico to go
19 address the cartel violence in terms of sending more troops
20 --

21 Chairman Wicker: Because time is limited, we had 2022-
22 2025 a three-year space, are we making any progress now?
23 Now it's 2025.

24 General Guillot: From our perspective --

25 Chairman Wicker: Has it gotten better?

1 General Guillot: No, I wouldn't say it's better, but I
2 do think Chairman, that we have a better foundation now that
3 we've increased the intelligence to make rapid progress
4 against this threat.

5 Chairman Wicker: It definitely needs to get better.
6 And so, tell us what you need and thank you for your
7 efforts. You got eight seconds.

8 [Laughter.]

9 General Guillot: More ISR is the first, and then
10 expanded authorities would be required for more advise and
11 assist types of operations between our forces and the tier
12 one Mexican forces.

13 Chairman Wicker: We want to be your teammate there.
14 Senator Reed.

15 Senator Reed: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and
16 General Guillot, following along in the questioning of the
17 chairman with respect to the space-based systems and use,
18 both for acquisition of targets and perhaps for contact with
19 targets, you need to unfettered access to be expanded. Is
20 that fair to say?

21 General Guillot: Senator, to properly employ all those
22 systems, we would have to have uninterrupted and complete
23 access to the entire spectrum.

24 Senator Reed: And as a result, the proposed spectrum
25 options would complicate significantly your ability to carry

1 out that mission?

2 General Guillot: Senator, compromising that part of
3 the spectrum is a significant concern to me and the systems
4 necessary for Homeland Defense.

5 Senator Reed: Thank you, General. And General, also
6 there's approximately 2,000 active-duty personnel now down
7 at the border, and there's always an opportunity cost,
8 whatever you do. And one of the opportunity costs
9 obviously, is the readiness and training of these troops.
10 Are you aware of what training is being deferred or ignored
11 because of this deployment?

12 General Guillot: Senator, first, all of the forces
13 that come to us from the services are extremely well-
14 trained, disciplined, and highly qualified. If they are
15 conducting missions that are outside their normal specialty,
16 we have a series of five work days, one training day, and
17 then one day off each week.

18 And in that training day we prescribe our leadership to
19 make sure that the forces that are operating outside of
20 their standard specialty have the opportunity to train and
21 maintain some of those skills.

22 Some of the others, such as helicopter pilots, and some
23 of the infantries are doing work that is already in line
24 with theirs, and I think they maintain their readiness.

25 Senator Reed: So, you know, in a rough metric, one out

1 of five days, it's my math is terrible, I went to West
2 Point. If so, now they're doing 20 percent of the training
3 they would've done at home base.

4 General Guillot: Yes, sir.

5 Senator Reed: Thank you. I didn't have the privilege
6 of going to Navy or the Air Force, so I forgive my math.
7 Admiral Holsey, can you give us a concise but detailed
8 description of your role, SOUTHCOM's role at Guantanamo's
9 Migrant Detention Center and the JTF-GTMO?

10 Admiral Holsey: Yes, Senator. So, SOUTHCOM plans and
11 postures has always over the years, to conduct migrant
12 operations. In fact, one of our enduring missions is to
13 plan for a mass migration scenario. Under the current
14 situation, what we're doing is modifying our existing plan
15 to be able to support the migrant ops at GTMO, the Naval
16 station, and to provide safe and humane care in support of
17 Department of Homeland Security.

18 Now, to be clear, there are two different sides of the
19 base. One is the Naval station, both is Naval Station GTMO,
20 but you have one which is the MOC, migrant operation center
21 where we're actually setting up tents and have JTF-GTMO on
22 the other side of the island, which we have the war
23 detainees.

24 Senator Reed: Now have you estimated that you're going
25 to incur DOD South County for your operations? You have to

1 construct facilities for 30,000 individuals, which would
2 include mess halls, which would include healthcare centers,
3 sanitation provisions, et cetera. How much money is that
4 going to cost us?

5 Admiral Holsey: So, right now, sir, we're in the
6 initial phase of this process. So, it's a tailored approach
7 to get to 30,000, if that is desired. So, right now, where
8 we stand, we're in initial phases, I guess some numbers to
9 you, but right now we're still building out, we have forces
10 on the ground and that process still in place, sir.

11 Senator Reed: Thank you. Going back General Guillot
12 to the concept of Iron Dome, unlike the Israelis, this is
13 not a missile defense system. This is a system of systems
14 and most important aspects of the system; I think you've
15 already alluded to is detection rather than interception.
16 Is that fair?

17 General Guillot. Senator, I agree with you. The first
18 and most critical part is the detection capability.

19 Senator Reed: And I met recently with the defense
20 minister from Canada. They're very much interested in
21 participating. They have legal obstacles, but they assume
22 they can jump over them very much participating in the
23 missile defense system, and their best contribution could
24 come in what way, sir?

25 General Guillot: Senator, I welcome their

1 participation. I think the first would be to buy into our
2 domain awareness expansion, whether ground-based or space-
3 based, and then further down the line, if they get defeat
4 mechanisms, see how they would mesh with our existing
5 defense mechanisms in a similar way that we employ fighter
6 aircraft with NORAD. Perhaps we could do the same with
7 missile defeat systems from the ground.

8 Senator Reed: Thank you very much, gentlemen. Thank
9 you, Chairman.

10 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Ranking Member, perhaps
11 that would be one way that Canada could begin to meet its
12 NATO requirement is as far as defense spending as a portion
13 of their GDP. Let me ask both witnesses to move the
14 microphones a little closer, and then I recognize Senator
15 Fischer and then Senator Shaheen.

16 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank
17 you Admiral, thank you General for your service to this
18 country. The work you do is extremely important. Thank
19 you.

20 General, you're going to hear I think a lot about
21 spectrum because here in the Senate we're discussing that
22 and General, you were talking about, that many think that
23 the Iron Dome for America is similar to what we see in
24 Israel. It is not. What we're looking at, as you said, we
25 can't defeat what we can't see, so we have to be able to

1 increase domain awareness, and increasing domain awareness
2 means that we need additional radars, terrestrial, airborne
3 space, underwater.

4 You hit that in your opening comments, I'm trying to
5 hit it more here to make a point not just with the media,
6 but with my colleagues as well. All of those systems depend
7 on spectrum, the spectrum that the Department of Defense
8 has. Is that true?

9 General Guillot: Yes, Senator. That's exactly
10 correct.

11 Senator Fischer: Can those systems function if there's
12 a lot of noise, which means additional users close by in
13 creating a lot of noise?

14 General Guillot: No, Senator, we have to have complete
15 control of the spectrum to operate our systems effectively.

16 Senator Fischer: And operating those systems
17 effectively means protecting the homeland. Correct?

18 General Guillot: Yes, ma'am. That's the purpose for,
19 for all of our systems, it all centers on Homeland Defense.

20 Senator Fischer: Thank you. To move to a different
21 topic General, you predicted during the posture hearing last
22 year that Chinese and Russian aircraft, you said that they
23 flew a mission into Alaska Air Defense Identification Zone.
24 Do you assess that the United States will see more of this
25 from China, whether it's aircraft or ships or submarines?

1 General Guillot: Senator, I do think that they'll
2 increase their presence both independently as well as
3 increase cooperation with the Russians in the air, in the
4 maritime and in the sea.

5 Senator Fischer: And in that cooperation with the
6 Russians, what do you worry about the most?

7 General Guillot: What I worry about the most is that
8 instead of just weapons and technology, that they will trade
9 access, which would shorten our timelines to react to either
10 country military capabilities.

11 Senator Fischer: Are there any authorities or
12 capabilities that NORTHCOM and NORAD would need in order to
13 protect your AOR?

14 General Guillot: Senator, the most important
15 capability we would need is the improved domain awareness to
16 allow us to see at further ranges, as the military
17 capabilities improve by the adversaries, we have to match
18 that with our detection capability. At this time, I do not
19 lack any authorities.

20 Senator Fischer: Admiral, since you took over command
21 late last year, what is your assessment of China's long-term
22 strategic objectives in your AOR?

23 Admiral Holsey: Thank you, Senator. The PRCS has
24 continued to do their, expanding their economic engagement
25 to having more influence and diplomatic and political

1 influence in the region. And they're continuing with their
2 Belt and Road initiative throughout. Currently, 22
3 countries are members of the Belt and Road Initiative, and
4 so they continue to go down this path, they stayed on
5 enterprises, the Huawei hold, the whole nine yards. So
6 that's just one aspect of it.

7 The aspect that is more critical to me as a military
8 officer is the military view, right? So, right now, when I
9 think about deep water ports, dual use sites facilities, so
10 deep water ports, like the port of Chancay in Peru. I think
11 about the space enabling infrastructure throughout the AOR,
12 at least 10 PRC's-linked space sites across five countries
13 in the region.

14 Then you get into the 5G, the Huawei, right? You get
15 into the safe city technology. So, they continue to do
16 this, and when our partners use Huawei and Safe City
17 Technology, now they're having threat of having Chinese
18 technology on their critical infrastructure.

19 So, again, we have to continue to block them out and
20 find ways to deliver for our partners. And so I do that by
21 engaging security cooperation as well as trying to make
22 sure, from an economic standpoint, working throughout the
23 region and working with the Office of Security strategic
24 Capital -- Bank and others to find ways to block out the
25 PRC.

1 Senator Fischer: Okay. Thank you. Thank you both.

2 Chairman Wicker: Senator Shaheen and then Cotton.

3 Senator Shaheen: Thank you both for being here and for
4 your service to the country. General Guillot, I'm not sure
5 if any resources are coming from the operations in your area
6 of responsibility to address some of the flights that have
7 been transporting migrants out of the country, but I
8 understand that last week, an Air Force C-17 transported 104
9 migrants from the United States to India.

10 That flight cost the American taxpayers \$2.5 million,
11 and I understand that we're currently spending nearly
12 \$30,000 an hour for every deportation flight that's being
13 run by the military, when Homeland Security used to charter
14 flights like these at less than one-third the cost or \$8,500
15 an hour.

16 Doesn't seem to me like a very effective use of our
17 dollars, given the needs that you and Admiral Holsey talked
18 about in terms of what you require for additional resources
19 to address the threats facing the country.

20 So, can I ask, are you seeing any of the impacts of
21 those costs yet on NORTHCOM's budget? And do you know how
22 those costs are being paid?

23 General Guillot: Senator, I have not seen any impact
24 at this point, but I'll remain transparent with the
25 committee if I do feel strained in that area. As you

1 alluded to at the beginning, those flights are flown by U.S.
2 TRANSCOM, so we coordinate with the border patrol to have
3 the migrants available but we do not operate those flights.

4 Senator Shaheen: And do you know if those flights are
5 coming out of TRANSCOM's budget?

6 General Guillot: Ma'am, I can't say for sure, but I
7 assume they are.

8 Senator Shaheen: Mr. Chairman, I would hope that this
9 committee would request information about the cost of those
10 flights and why the military is doing them, as opposed to
11 doing them the way we used to at one third, the cost.

12 Chairman Wicker: Thank you for that suggestion.
13 Senator.

14 Senator Shaheen: Admiral Holsey, over the last year,
15 we've actually seen an almost 15 percent decrease in drug
16 overdose deaths. Illegal drugs, however, as you pointed
17 out, and General Guillot pointed out, are still killing
18 nearly 90,000 Americans every year.

19 Both of your commands rely on partnerships with
20 governments and militaries in the region to help stop the
21 flow of illegal drugs. So, can you talk, Admiral Holsey, in
22 particular, about whether you're seeing any impact of the
23 stop on our foreign assistance in countries in Latin America
24 on the willingness of those countries to cooperate?

25 And then are you seeing, or do you see the concern that

1 China may move in some of those areas where our presence is
2 being discontinued?

3 Admiral Holsey: Senator, thank you for that. The
4 China continues to look incredibly hard at every opportunity
5 to come in and engage, so we can't take that for granted.

6 With regard to our partners in engaging in the counter
7 drug piece, they're very resilient. Some of our training
8 that do the security operation, the exercises specifically
9 focus on the counter drug flight fight. If you look into
10 the Eastern Pacific right now in the first 90 days, I'm
11 sorry, since the 1st of January, we've already interdicted
12 50 metric tons of cocaine, right? And, and actually
13 arrested 84 detainees.

14 So, again, when you think about this piece, our
15 partners are with us. So, 80 percent of our interdiction
16 last year was done by our partners using actually a ship
17 special mission. We actually bring out interceptors from
18 our partners along with us and get after the fight. So,
19 they're all in with us.

20 So, I would like to continue to do that security
21 operation. I haven't seen any impacts at this point, but
22 we'll look and I'd be happy to let the committee know.

23 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. And General Guillot, as
24 you're looking at the challenges with our northern border,
25 are you finding Canada willing to cooperate in all of the

1 ways that are important as we're looking at the interdiction
2 of drugs and other illegal activities across our border?

3 General Guillot: Yes, Senator, I am. I find that my
4 counterparts in Canada are very open to planning potential
5 partnering on the northern border to detect illegal
6 crossings both ways in the future.

7 Senator Shaheen: And Canada has developed a plan to
8 address their commitments to NORTHCOM. Are you seeing that
9 beginning to be built out at this point, or is all that
10 still in the future? And did we participate in the
11 development of that plan?

12 General Guillot: Senator, they were very collaborative
13 on defining the NORAD requirements and their NORAD
14 modernization is at the very, in beginning stages. We are
15 seeing improved F-18 radars and missile capabilities
16 already. The next step we'll see is the arrival of the F-35
17 in the next two years. So, they're well on the track, but
18 we do have some immediate improvements with their F-18.

19 Senator Shaheen: Great. Thank you both.

20 Chairman Wicker: Again, I'm looking forward to our
21 friends in Canada fulfilling their commitment to NATO.
22 Senator Cotton.

23 Senator Cotton: Thank you, gentlemen. General
24 Guillot, as the chairman mentioned his opening statements, I
25 have legislation with Senator Gillibrand to address the

1 drone threat here in America. We seem to have drones just
2 flying around everywhere and many times people don't know
3 what's going on. Most notably in the public eye late last
4 year in New Jersey.

5 This is also happening around our military bases a lot.
6 You've had drone incursions over Joint Base Langley, Wright-
7 Patterson Air Force Base, Vandenberg Space Force Base,
8 Picatinny Arsenal, Andersen Air Force Base. Could you
9 explain to us briefly what is the threat that these drones
10 pose to U.S. military operations facilities, and personnel?

11 General Guillot: Senator, the primary threat I see for
12 them in the way they've been operating is detection and
13 perhaps surveillance of sensitive capabilities on our
14 installations.

15 Senator Cotton: And that's all installation, not just
16 super sensitive ones like nuclear sites. It could be our
17 fighter bases or army bases or naval bases or what have you?

18 General Guillot: Yes, sir. There were 350 detections
19 reported last year on military installations, and that was
20 350 over a total of hundred different installations of all
21 types and levels of security.

22 Senator Cotton: Yeah, but it's the case right now that
23 only at certain sites, which you might call the
24 supersensitive sites like nuclear bases, do commanders have
25 the authority to protect their airspace from these drone

1 incursions?

2 General Guillot: That's correct, Senator. We call
3 those covered installations and not all the ins about half
4 are covered

5 Senator Cotton: Which sounds crazy to me. And I think
6 most Americans would think it, it doesn't show a lot of
7 common sense. I mean, base commanders at every base around
8 America, they have the authority and they have the
9 capability to protect their perimeters.

10 Say if some terrorist got a dump truck and drove it
11 through the front gate or we're trying to breach the
12 perimeter fence, we would expect base commanders to protect
13 their base with force if necessary. Is that correct?

14 General Guillot: That's correct, sir. And I would
15 propose and advocate for expansion of 130i to include all
16 military installations, not just covered installations.

17 Senator Cotton: I'm glad to hear you say that because
18 I have legislation to do just that, the counteract with
19 Senator Gillibrand that, again, would give these commanders
20 the legal authority they need, plus the capability required
21 to protect their bases from these kinds of incursions and
22 then hold them accountable for doing so. Is that exactly
23 what you're advocating for?

24 General Guillot: That is, sir and if I could add, I'd
25 also like to see the range expanded to slightly beyond the

1 installation, so they don't have to wait for the threat to
2 get over the installation before they can address it.
3 Because many of these systems can use side looking or slant
4 range, and so they could surveil the base from outside the
5 perimeter and under the current authorities, we can't
6 address that.

7 Senator Cotton: Even better. Now, last year, you also
8 said there were thousands of drone incursions over the
9 southern border. And just last week, Mexican cartel leaders
10 were reportedly authorized used drones to equipment with
11 explosives against U.S. border patrol agents. Now I know
12 that this is primarily a DHS responsibility at the southern
13 border, but do you need authorization for DOD to share
14 information with DHS and the border authorities about these
15 incursions?

16 General Guillot: Yes, Senator, I would like 130i to be
17 expanded to allow a seamless exchange of data on drones.

18 Senator Cotton: Again, sounds like a great idea. I'm
19 glad that Senator Gillibrand and I have legislation to do
20 just that. And I hope that we can pass into law this year.
21 Thank you, General.

22 Admiral, I know that the Navy is responsible for
23 Guantanamo Bay, but Southern Command is responsible for some
24 of the operations there to include the operations I gather
25 of the violent illegal migrants who are recently

1 transported. Could you give us a little bit of sense of the
2 security measures in place that protects against any risk of
3 violent criminals and terrorists being held at GTMO?

4 Admiral Holsey: Senator, the JTF-GTMO is the detention
5 facility, we have a highly trained military police who come
6 down on rotation with the guard's force. They're on a one-
7 year rotation, they're highly qualified, they've been
8 trained to do their mission, they've been doing it for years
9 throughout. So, again, I think they're very capable of
10 force and they're ready to deal with any situation.

11 Senator Cotton: And you're confident that your
12 personnel are trained and ready to do that and are safe in
13 doing so?

14 Admiral Holsey: 100 percent, sir.

15 Senator Cotton: That's great because I'm also very
16 confident that it's much safer to have depraved savage
17 criminals from other countries waiting at Guantanamo Bay for
18 deportation than it is to have them waiting at a base on the
19 American mainland soil where we hope they'd never be able to
20 cause any problems, but you never know there are American
21 citizens on those bases and just outside those bases.
22 Gentlemen, thank you again both for your appearance, sir.

23 Chairman Wicker: Excellent point Senator Cotton.
24 Senator Hirono, and then Senator Sullivan.

25 Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. General

1 Guillot, the President's recent missile defense executive
2 order tasks you with providing "an updated assessment of the
3 strategic missile threat to the homeland" that is the
4 President's direction to you.

5 I remain concerned about the viability of DOD'S
6 strategy to defend Hawaii, specifically from missile
7 threats. We're looking at China, North Korea examples.
8 Will you commit to include the missile defense of Hawaii as
9 part of your assessment?

10 General Guillot: Senator, I absolutely will. Hawaii
11 and the defense from ballistic missiles for Hawaii is part
12 of my responsibility.

13 Senator Hirono: Thank you again. For you General,
14 last year, the former National Guard Bureau chief testified
15 that the border security mission provides no military
16 training value to guardsmen and does not prepare troops for
17 great power competition.

18 Additionally, a GAO report from 2021 found that
19 multiple units lost critical training opportunities due to
20 deployments to the border. That of course impacts military
21 and operational readiness. General, do you agree with the
22 assessment that these missions provide no military training
23 value to guardsmen?

24 General Guillot: Senator, I don't agree. I think that
25 specifically in the helicopters and in our intel specialties

1 that are conducting missions on the southern border, those
2 are exactly in line with their training specialty. However,
3 I certainly recognize there are areas where they're cross-
4 trained and they are not getting immediate benefit to their
5 primary specialty in about half of those roles.

6 Senator Hirono: So, your testimony is that using
7 military troops at the border, that is not going to have an
8 impact on readiness. How many troops are do we have on the
9 border right now and do you expect that number to grow?

10 General Guillot: Senator, we have 5,000 Title 10
11 forces on the southern border right now, and I do expect
12 that number to grow.

13 Senator Hirono: As the Ranking Member on the Readiness
14 Committee, I do have concerns about what these kinds of
15 troop movements will do to readiness. What specific
16 military training events and readiness exercises will
17 NORTHCOM forego due to the resource demands of the Board of
18 Mission?

19 General Guillot: Senator to this point none have been
20 altered and we don't project that we would lose any of our
21 exercises as the forces are provided by the services. We
22 still have the capabilities to conduct all of our scheduled
23 exercises.

24 Senator Hirono: Well, the GAO report noted that there
25 will be some critical training opportunities that will be

1 lost and I am going to follow up with you as to whether that
2 is also what is happening.

3 For Admiral Holsey, in your confirmation hearing last
4 September, you stated that SOUTHCOM's main campaigning tool
5 is security cooperation utilizing a whole of government
6 approach that includes USAID. How will President Trump's
7 decision to freeze foreign assistance and dismantle USAID
8 affect SOUTHCOM's security cooperation Mission?

9 Admiral Holsey: Senator for right now, we're still
10 assessing the impacts of USAID, I'll tell you from a
11 military standpoint, I still can do my security cooperation
12 at this time and so I look to Tradewinds exercise, right?

13 So, that's one we do yearly. And it's focuses on the
14 humane assistance just release in the Caribbean, right? So,
15 we go out there, we do these missions, we're training our
16 forces for earthquakes, hurricanes, and the like. So, those
17 type of opportunities give our partners a chance to develop
18 their skills for you know emergencies or contingencies.

19 Senator Hirono: I really don't see how an action like
20 closing USAID would not have a negative impact on part of
21 your mission. Regarding Guantanamo Bay, this is again, for
22 Admiral Holsey. SOUTHCOM is responsible for implementing
23 the President's directive to expand the detention center in
24 Guantanamo Bay to hold 30,000 migrants.

25 Admiral Holsey, who are these migrants and where will

1 they be coming from and what is the estimated cost to lead
2 the expansion and support of this development, Department of
3 Homeland Security mission, including food, medical care,
4 construction, and sustainment?

5 We're talking about a big, I would say, infrastructure
6 that we're going to need to house 30,000 migrants. Can you
7 explain how all this is happening? how much it will cost?
8 how it will impact SOUTHCOM's mission? Briefly, I've run
9 out time.

10 Admiral Holsey: So very, very briefly. From the
11 standpoint of who decides, that's DHS who decide who comes
12 to the base for the migrants, they decide at that point and
13 we just support them. We're in support of DHS with regard
14 to the pricing. We're still understanding it's a phase
15 approach right now, and so we're going to build it up and as
16 we understand how large we'll get, we'll have a better focus
17 on the price.

18 Senator Hirono: So even if this is DHS, we're going to
19 want to know how much this is actually going to cost. And I
20 know that you were asked about the amount of money that went
21 to deporting 104 people to India, and whether or not that
22 was an appropriate use of your funds.

23 Chairman Wicker: Perhaps witnesses can take that for
24 the record.

25 [The information referred to follows:]

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1 Chairman Wicker: And also, we'll have another round,
2 if we need to, then we have Senator Sullivan and Senator
3 King.

4 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gentlemen,
5 thank you for your testimony. I want to echo what the
6 chairman's been saying, we do need Canada to step up, you
7 know, when they don't meet their 2 percent GDP NATO
8 commitments, it undermines the entire alliance. So I
9 appreciate the chairman mentioning that.

10 General, it was good to meet with you. The other day
11 we had a meeting with senior Trump administration officials
12 just a couple days ago, a number of senators who were
13 focused on the border, and they focused like your testimony,
14 a lot on the northern border, which I really appreciate.

15 I have a chart here that depicts a lot of the air and
16 sea incursions that we've seen in the last few years. It's
17 been quite remarkable, particularly the Joint Chinese,
18 Russian strategic bomber missions into our air and the joint
19 Chinese Russian naval task force quite big, a 12-ship naval
20 task force last summer.

21 President Trump himself commented recently, and we need
22 to increase military investments in Alaska as Russian and
23 China make more menacing moves in the region. That's a list
24 -- that's just an example of all the different incursions
25 air and sea just in the last three years, which is quite

1 astounding.

2 General, I want to go into a little bit more detail.
3 Your troops have done a great job of intercepting these
4 strategic bombers by the way. They come with armed MiGs,
5 right? This is a serious incursion, not easy to do. Our
6 navy's done a good job, although the first time we had that
7 joint Russian Chinese task force, we didn't have any Navy
8 response. Nothing, which was ridiculous in my view. 150-
9 foot Coast Guard cutter.

10 But these are difficult missions made more difficult,
11 for example, when you're intercepting strategic bombers, a
12 lot of times our fighters are having to fly over a thousand
13 miles just to get to the end of the --, is to intercept
14 them.

15 So, my question -- can you put the other side up, the
16 one with the map, there you go. Do you agree we need more
17 infrastructure? You and I have talked about reopening the
18 airfield in the navy base at Adak, this out here on the
19 Aleutians Island chain, or -- and Barrow Alaska to help with
20 the SAR emissions. Can you explain that in a little bit
21 more detail?

22 Admiral Paparo is in agreement with you on this, where
23 these incursions are going to increase. This is America,
24 our northern border, and yet the infrastructure we have for
25 the young men and women who are doing these dangerous

1 intercept missions, both at sea and in the air, they need
2 more infrastructure for their safety and for our rapid
3 response.

4 Do you agree with me that they do? And would you
5 support reopening the Adak Naval base in the extension of
6 the Barrow Runway, which is way up there, the northern part
7 of America.

8 General Guillot: Senator, I do agree with you. And as
9 you mentioned, Admiral Paparo and I are very closely linked
10 and aligned on all issues in the Pacific. I would support
11 Adak for sure, for maritime and air access, and as you
12 pointed out, dead horse or a point at the far north part of
13 Alaska, because those missions aren't only long, a thousand
14 miles or more with five or six or seven air fuelings usually
15 at night.

16 But also, the harsh conditions if a pilot should have
17 to eject having those forward points that you mentioned
18 would allow us to pre-position search and rescue aircraft or
19 be able to land there in an emergency, which are
20 capabilities that we just don't have right now.

21 Senator Sullivan: Great, thank you on that. And
22 again, I want to thank the men and women under your command.
23 They do these intercept missions all the time. They're very
24 tough, they're dangerous. They don't make a lot of news
25 down here in the lower 48, but they're doing a great job.

1 Let me turn to missile defense. Senator Cramer and I
2 recently introduced our Iron Dome Act that reinforces what
3 President Trump's executive order does. That's a depiction
4 of that covering the whole United States with integrated
5 missile defense systems to protect our homeland. I'd love
6 to get co-sponsorship from all my colleagues, my 2017
7 advancing America's Missile Defense Act, which pretty much
8 became law in the NDAA, had 30 co-sponsors, 10 Democrats, 20
9 Republicans.

10 But can I get your sense to first a commitment to work
11 with me and Senator Cramer on that? And then you mentioned
12 the NGIs and the ground-based missile interceptors. Those
13 are almost all based in Alaska. Why is it taking so long to
14 fill those 20 silos that we just filled out that are needed?
15 And can I get your commitment to work with me as part of
16 this Iron Dome Act to accelerate that?

17 General Guillot: Senator, you have my full commitment
18 to work with you on the Iron Dome, it's the core mission of
19 NORAD and NORTHCOM is to defend just as you described there.
20 And you also have my full commitment to work to move all
21 defense industrial based capabilities to the left, to bring
22 these capabilities earlier as our adversaries are advancing
23 their capability, and we must keep pace.

24 Chairman Wicker: Great. Thank you, General. I ask
25 unanimous consent that the three charts that Senator

1 Sullivan referred to be admitted to the record at this
2 point. Without objection, it's so ordered.

3 [The information referred to follows:]

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1 Chairman Wicker: Senator Kaine, and then Senator
2 Scott.

3 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to our
4 witnesses for your service. This morning, I received an
5 email from one of my long-standing staff members. And Mark
6 runs constituent services from me, and he did so when I was
7 governor as well. Mark graduated in Richmond from J.R.
8 Tucker High School. Kind of looked in the mirror and
9 decided he wasn't college material yet, and enlisted in the
10 United States Marine Corps.

11 Mark served for four years as an enlistee in the United
12 States Marine Corps, and it put him on a path. It's been an
13 amazing path. He finished his marine service, and then went
14 and got a social work degree at Virginia Commonwealth
15 University. And advice to any of my colleagues, if you want
16 somebody great in constituent services, pick a marine with a
17 social work degree. The dogged persistence of the Marines,
18 and the skill in working with organizations and listening to
19 people of a social worker, Mark exemplifies that.

20 Mark sent me this morning, he reached out to send me
21 this article that appeared on the 10th of January in
22 military.com, "Military drops recruiting efforts at
23 prestigious Black Engineering Awards event". I'd like it
24 entered into the record, Mr. Chair.

25 Chairman Wicker: No objection.

1 [The information referred to follows:]

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1 Senator Kaine: First two paragraphs of the article.
2 Here they are, "The Army and other service branches are
3 abandoning recruiting efforts at a prestigious Black
4 engineering event this week, turning down access to a key
5 pool of highly qualified potential applicants amid President
6 Donald Trump's purge of diversity initiatives in the
7 military.

8 Until this week, army Recruiting Command had a
9 longstanding public partnership with the Black Engineer of
10 the Year Awards or BEA, an annual conference that draws
11 students, academics, and professionals in science,
12 technology, engineering, and math, also known as stem. The
13 event which takes place in Baltimore has historically been a
14 key venue for the Pentagon to recruit talent, including
15 awarding ROTC Corps scholarships and pitching military
16 service to rising engineers.

17 Past BEA events have included the Army Chief of Staff
18 and the Defense Secretary. This is one of the most talent
19 event dense events we do, when Army Recruiter told
20 military.com, on the condition that their name not be used,
21 our footprint there has always been significant. We need
22 the talent".

23 My staffer, Mark, said to me when he sent me this
24 article, I would never have served in the military if there
25 weren't men and women who looked like me in the recruiting

1 process. Limiting military recruitment to avoid qualified
2 Black applicants in the name of DEI will ultimately hurt our
3 all-voluntary military. I was intending to ask questions
4 about NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM until I got Mark's email this
5 morning.

6 Intentionally avoiding an event chockfull of STEM
7 Talent and Engineers, because it happens to be a draw for
8 Black engineers, is more than an anti-DEI initiative. It is
9 an intentional effort to avoid certain kinds of people in
10 recruiting. The article goes on to say, it's not just the
11 army that has pulled out of this event. All the service
12 branches have pulled out of this event.

13 And I just want to put this on the record. Two things
14 happened on January 31st that I found very unusual. The
15 President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, did what
16 every President since Gerald Ford has done on January 31st,
17 he declared February Black History Month.

18 And on January 31st, the Secretary of Defense, Pete
19 Hegseth, put out a directive, "Identity months are dead at
20 DOD." That was not the newspaper headline summarizing the
21 directive, that was the directive from the Secretary of
22 Defense. "Identity Months are Dead at DOD," including Black
23 History Month.

24 So, we have two events on January 31st, we have the
25 President and Commander in Chief issuing the standard Black

1 History Month proclamation for the nation, but apparently at
2 DOD it's different. At DOD, Black History Month is dead, at
3 DOD, we won't go and recruit engineers who happen to be
4 Black to come in and serve at a time when we need more
5 people serving in the military and all of our service
6 branches are struggling with attracting talent.

7 There's a lot of issues dealing with NORTHCOM and
8 SOUTHCOM. I'm glad my colleague Senator Cotton asked about
9 UASs, I had a whole series of questions I wanted to ask
10 about Haiti and other SOUTHCOM priorities, Admiral Holsey,
11 I'm glad we had the chance to talk about those in my office.
12 The United States military has been at the forefront of
13 including talent of all kinds, with the actions on January
14 31 the President acknowledging Black History Month, but
15 within the DOD family, now this is dead.

16 I worry that the military will no longer be at the
17 forefront, won't even be at the average, but will be behind.
18 And that would be a terrible sellout of an amazing tradition
19 that our United States military should be very, very proud
20 of. With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

21 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Senator Kaine. Senator
22 Scott.

23 Senator Scott: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you for
24 being here. Thank you for all the servicemen and women that
25 serve with you. So all these hearings are important. This

1 is important one, I like this one a lot because SOUTHCOM's
2 here and it's from my home state of Florida. I was hoping
3 my good friend Senator Sullivan was still here because all
4 he talks about is Alaska all the time.

5 So one thing I would always like is if people
6 understood the risk that we're having in Latin America, and
7 I think we have to put more effort into it. I know Admiral
8 Holsey, we talked about that yesterday, and I know you're
9 focused on it. So after years of Joe Biden's open border
10 crisis wreaking havoc on our domestic security, with
11 millions of illegal alien encounters at our border, an
12 appeasement dangerous of dangerous regimes, the safety of
13 our nation in communities are top of mind, I think for all
14 of us.

15 I think you have a very important job here as we bring
16 back peace through strength. So let me just get to the
17 questions first. General, President Trump recently signed
18 two executive orders, one to seal the southern border, which
19 is right, and another deploying 1500 service men and women
20 to the southern border, which none of us hoped he would have
21 to do, but unfortunately, he'll have to do to secure the
22 border.

23 Can you speak to how the administration's preparing for
24 and do you feel you have the capability to face down the
25 cartels and other U.S. enemies present in Mexico?

1 General Guillot: Senator, I do think that we have the
2 capability and the support to meet the requirements
3 established in the executive orders. As you might know,
4 we've doubled the number of Title 10 forces inside of a
5 week, down there in their operating in seven roles in
6 support of the Department of Homeland Security.

7 And then we've also increased some uniquely military
8 capabilities that will get after the point you made, the
9 cartels, which are driving the illegal migration. And
10 that's primarily through Airborne ISR to get more
11 information on those and figure out how we can counter their
12 actions.

13 Senator Scott: You think there's any chance you're
14 going to need a carrier strike group in the Gulf of America?

15 General Guillot: Senator at this time I haven't gotten
16 to a carrier strike group, but I will need a significant
17 increased maritime presence in cooperation with the Coast
18 Guard.

19 Senator Scott: Are the LCS chips at Mayport helpful at
20 all?

21 General Guillot: Yes, sir. Those would be right in
22 line with what we're looking to do in the Maritime. Thanks.

23 Senator Scott: So Admiral Holsey, I've been up here
24 about a little over six years and it seems like, and I think
25 we talked about this a little bit, INDOPACOM and Syncom

1 receive a majority of this committee's attention and a lot
2 of their assets. I think we're seeing a little bit of
3 change under President Trump.

4 SOUTHCOM's area of responsibility faces real threats to
5 national security as we all know, we've got problems in
6 Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and potentially Columbia. So
7 you might need additional assets, especially with what China
8 Russia, Iran are doing in the region. Can you talk about
9 the importance of having the right assets at SOUTHCOM to be
10 able to deal with the threats?

11 Admiral Holsey: Yes, Senator, to be clear, presence
12 means power, presence mean relationships. And so not only
13 when out --, come or the TCOs are moving drugs, when they
14 see presence, it gives them pause. But also, when we come
15 down and work with our friends and partners in the region,
16 they look for us as leadership.

17 So when they see our ships, our aircraft, you know, our
18 boots on the ground working with them again and again, it
19 builds those partnerships and it shows that we are there
20 enduring, and we can block out the PRC and others.

21 Senator Scott: Thanks. Can you talk about the
22 importance of Homestead Air Force Base and its mission?

23 Admiral Holsey: Yes, sir. For Homestead Air Force
24 Base located there in south of Miami right now, we've used
25 it in the past. We used it in our Haiti operations as a

1 jump off point. We use it in exercises as well. So again,
2 it's a key location when I think about contingencies down
3 range and how I engage and using that as a base to forward
4 deploy, if you will. And also, I'm looking at some
5 opportunities coming up for unmanned assets as well. So I
6 continue to work on that.

7 Senator Scott: You think it needs to be returned as an
8 active-duty base?

9 Admiral Holsey: I think it's more in the AirForce lane
10 to answer that, but I could definitely use an active-duty
11 base, sir.

12 Senator Scott: [Presiding.] Thank you, Chairman. Now
13 Senator King.

14 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairman.
15 Appreciate it.

16 Senator Scott: First time, big promotion.

17 Senator King: As we're sitting here, news feeds often
18 come across and I just saw one that the Department of
19 Defense has indicated in its February in its 2025
20 procurement plan to buy \$400 million worth of Tesla trucks.
21 I'm going to just let that fact sink in, that's all I'm
22 going to say about that.

23 Admiral, you talked about the activity of the Chinese
24 in Latin America. Do you believe that that activity is
25 number one significant and number two, increasing? And the

1 nature of the activity, as I understand it is public works
2 projects ports, two ports in Panama, for example, is this
3 significant activity on behalf of China and Latin America?

4 Admiral Holsey: Yes, Senator. I think all their
5 efforts from an infrastructure standpoint, the development
6 of dual use sites and facilities, is a challenge, and we
7 should be concerned about that.

8 Senator King: I would point out to the committee that
9 two weeks ago we unilaterally disarmed in Latin America when
10 we destroyed the Agency for International Development,
11 because that's the agency that provides funds for these
12 kinds of projects. So, basically, we've left the field in
13 Latin America, and I think that should be understood.

14 We're always talking about competition with China and
15 the outpacing threat. But here is a place where we
16 basically have, as I say, left the field, we've abdicated,
17 we've surrendered to China in Latin America by unilaterally
18 and illegally and unconstitutionally abandoning the vehicle
19 by which we were competing with them in terms of development
20 and work in Latin America. I just think that should be
21 noted.

22 We've gone almost entirely through this hearing and not
23 talked much about terrorism. I believe that in all the talk
24 about pivoting to great power competition, the Indo-Pacific,
25 we've taken our eye off terrorism, and it worries me that

1 that's still a threat. General, is terrorism's still a
2 threat to this country? I believe you mentioned lone wolfs,
3 which is the most difficult kind of terrorism to combat.

4 General Guillot: Senator it's still a threat and a
5 concern and one of the primary focus in the NORTHCOM part of
6 my job. To address that we have very close ties with
7 central command and special operations command to follow
8 their operations in overseas, and they give me any
9 indication of activities moving towards the United States
10 that we'd have to plan for.

11 And of course, we have great relations across the intel
12 and interagency to ensure that we have a consolidated look
13 at any terror threats to the U.S.

14 Senator King: Well, I hope that there is significant
15 emphasis because I worry that this is one of those things
16 we're going to wake up and find ourselves under attack. And
17 everybody's going to say, well, what happened? And it's a
18 matter of taking our eye off the terrorism ball. That's one
19 of the greatest threats to this country, particularly if
20 terrorists get a hold of nuclear material.

21 And there are a lot of -- there's a growing nuclear
22 family, including Iran and North Korea where nuclear
23 material might become available, and that's the nightmare
24 scenario because deterrence doesn't work with terrorists.
25 They don't care about dying, and they don't have a capital

1 city to destroy. So, intelligence and awareness of what the
2 terrorists are thinking and planning and plotting, I think
3 is absolutely critical.

4 Admiral, every year when we have this hearing, I talk
5 to the SOUTHCOM commander about the fact that we have
6 intelligence reports about drug shipments coming to the U.S.
7 in the maritime domain, and we have the assets to interdict
8 25 percent of them. To me, that is just straight up
9 unconscionable.

10 There are people dying in my state from fentanyl
11 overdoses, from drug overdoses generally, and we are not
12 meeting because of a lack of basically allocation of assets,
13 the drug shipments that we know about. That's what's so
14 objectionable about this. Is that percentage still
15 reasonable? 75 percent is not being interdicted that we
16 know of?

17 Admiral Holsey: Yes, sir. About 10 to 20 percent is
18 what we can get after what we see. Yes, sir.

19 Senator King: And that's because of a lack of assets.
20 Is that not, correct? We don't have enough boats, ships?

21 Admiral Holsey: Primary lack of assets, the lack of
22 resources ISR capability, yes, sir.

23 Senator King: Well, I would argue that, again, this is
24 a misallocation of resources. That here is an active attack
25 on America that's killing our citizens and we don't have

1 enough ships and whether it's Coast Guard or Navy in the
2 region to interject these drug shipments.

3 I think that's basically a dereliction of duty, not of
4 you, but of the entire policy apparatus. And this goes back
5 three, four administrations. But it's one that I hope that
6 this administration might pay some attention to, and
7 correct. Maybe there's a second round we'll talk about
8 icebreakers General. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

9 Senator Scott: Thanks Senator King. One thing did,
10 was it secretary, was it state or defense about the Tesla's?
11 Do you know?

12 Senator King: My understanding it was the Department
13 of Defense armored Tesla Cyber trucks. Okay.

14 Senator Scott: All right. Senator Budd.

15 Senator Budd: Thank you, Chairman, congrats on the
16 promotion.

17 [Laughter.]

18 Senator Budd: Admiral, General, thank you all for
19 being here. General, I enjoyed our conversation earlier
20 this week. And also, just want to thank you on behalf of
21 those in Western North Carolina for your efforts there. In
22 the early days, late September of last year, early October,
23 there was some bureaucratic hand wringing at the top, but
24 that was not from you, that was not from our military. So
25 again, thank you for all those in uniform who served those

1 out west.

2 I want to shift to the southern border, and we've heard
3 this a lot from our colleagues this morning, and I share the
4 concern about fentanyl. In North Carolina we lose every
5 single year the totality of what we lost on nine 11 just in
6 North Carolina, and that's our whole country compared to
7 just my great state.

8 I'm interested in stopping the supply of these Chinese
9 precursors and chemicals that end up in Mexico and make
10 their way here. And also stopping the Chinese nationals
11 that are being caught illegally crossing our southern border
12 in record numbers, I think it's up by a factor of 50 from
13 2021 to 2023.

14 So, what concerns do you have, if any, that foreign
15 actors, not just South American immigrants, but they're
16 using the southern border to access our nation? We'll start
17 with you, Admiral

18 Admiral Holsey: Senator, as I look at the daring gap
19 over the last year or so, we did see an increase in number
20 of Chinese actors coming across. Typically, what we do is
21 we've been working with the Panamanians as well as Colombian
22 to kind of support them in stopping the flow of migration.
23 Now, it's slowed down this year, I think President Mulino
24 was pretty clear to try to stop migration when he got in
25 office.

1 We've supported from a logistics intelligence and
2 training equipment standpoint, with the Columbia and
3 Panamanians. We saw the drop about 90 percent coming
4 through the daring right now, but we have to keep our eye on
5 it,

6 Senator Budd: Of course. Thank you, General?

7 General Guillot: Senator, I want thank you for your
8 comments for the men and women of primarily the 18th
9 Airborne Corps that did an outstanding job supporting their
10 teammates in the western part of North Carolina. I
11 appreciate that. I share the concern on the intent of many
12 that are crossing the border and in particular, work closely
13 with the Border Patrol to figure out why the Chinese
14 migrants, one, are so many and two, through such a narrow
15 corridor in the San Diego region.

16 And my concern there is a wolf and sheep's clothing
17 coming across having someone who intends us harm. So we
18 work very closely with the border patrol to see who is
19 coming across and making sure that our intel agencies are
20 tracking them. I'm encouraged by the recent decrease in
21 detections and incursions across the border. But as I've
22 mentioned before, the increase in military presence down
23 there and some of the unique military capabilities, I hope
24 will continue to seal that border.

25 Senator Budd: Thank you for that. Let's go to another

1 topic which was previously discussed in regards to UAS. As
2 you mentioned in your opening statement and in the
3 discussion with Senator Cotton, we've seen UAS incursions
4 over sensitive sites, military bases, it's an alarming
5 amount. Can you briefly, briefly describe how bases are
6 determined to be "covered facilities"? under Title 10,
7 section 130i and titling them to an active defense.

8 General Guillot: Yes, Senator. To become a covered
9 installation, there's 9 criteria that any one of those could
10 allow the base to be covered, ranges from nuclear
11 deterrence, missile defense, all the way down to if it's a
12 test facility there, roughly half of the 360 installations
13 in the U.S. meet those criteria.

14 My request and proposal would be is if we look at 130i
15 again, would be to expand coverage to all military
16 installations and not just those that are covered.

17 Senator Budd: Thank you. So, as the lead synchronizer
18 of counter unmanned aerial system operations in the U.S.,
19 how are you preparing our bases to defend themselves from
20 these threats? I know there's a policy discussion in your
21 prior answer, but what are you doing right now?

22 General Guillot: Senator, since we received this
23 responsibility in November, we're responsible for
24 coordinating any response. The authority to defend a base
25 as Senator Cotton mentioned, remains with the installation

1 commander and the services. But we can be a synchronizer
2 role and are a synchronizer role to ensure standardized
3 training response, tactical techniques, and procedures.

4 And if the base and the service aren't able to handle
5 the incursion, we can bring in help from across the
6 interagency and DOD to support. And perhaps most critically
7 is we can work closely with the interagency to give them the
8 authority to operate the systems once they arrive due to our
9 close relationship with the FAA.

10 And in the near future, I think we will have our own
11 capabilities to bring in from NORTHCOM once we procured them
12 to assist if the service and the installation cannot handle
13 the incursions.

14 Chairman Wicker: [Presiding.] Thank you very much.

15 Senator King: Mr. Chairman, in your absence, I made a
16 statement about of the purchase of Tesla trucks I was
17 misinformed, it was not the Department of Defense that's
18 announced this purchase, it's the Department of State. So,
19 I just wanted to clarify the record.

20 Chairman Wicker: Thank you. And thank you very much
21 for that. Senator Warren.

22 Senator Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, the
23 Trump administration is sending troops to the southern
24 border and holding immigrants at Guantanamo, redirecting
25 active-duty military personnel from critical missions and

1 costing taxpayers several times more than when DHS does the
2 same job. That seems to be bad for national security, bad
3 for our military families and bad for America's bottom line.

4 We've seen this before. When the first Trump
5 administration deployed troops to the border, it pegged the
6 cost at a billion dollars over three years. But the GAO
7 found that the Department of Defense estimates were not
8 "reliable" and excluded "significant costs". DOD reports to
9 Congress missed more than half the actual total for entire
10 fiscal years.

11 So, GAO made seven detailed recommendations for the
12 Department of Defense to improve its cost estimates, but
13 four years later, the Department of Defense has not executed
14 a single one. Now, DOD estimates that this new border
15 deployment will cost almost a billion dollars over the next
16 eight months, but that may be another underestimate. So,
17 general Guillot, you are overseeing the border deployment,
18 does underestimating the cost of an operation put future
19 missions and future readiness at risk?

20 General Guillot: Senator, I would assume so, but I
21 think I need to point out that NORTHCOM is not appropriated
22 funds for the Southwest border, and we've never had
23 reprogramming or pass through funding. This is all done
24 through the department comptroller and the services.

25 Senator Warren: I appreciate that, but I'm asking the

1 question about running past the limits and the consequences
2 of that, because the money has to come from somewhere, and
3 I'm concerned that we're going to see the same problem that
4 we saw the last time, big costs and little transparency and
5 accountability.

6 When DOD has been tasked with doing DHS's job, it has
7 cost taxpayers a lot more money. It costs three times more
8 to deport migrants on military aircraft than civilian planes
9 that ICE often uses, and has cost ice at least five times
10 more per detention bed to hold migrants at Guantanamo Naval
11 Base than at facilities in the United States.

12 Anytime civilian authorities ask DOD for help, DOD is
13 supposed to evaluate the request based on six criteria,
14 including cost, but we don't even have a cost estimate for
15 the new Guantanamo operations. So, Admiral Holsey, what do
16 you expect the budgetary cost of SOUTHCOM Guantanamo
17 operations will be through the end of this fiscal year?

18 Admiral Holsey: Senator, we're new into the process
19 right now, we surged assets down there to start building out
20 the camp. It's a phased approach, so it's not automatically
21 going up to 30,000. So right now --

22 Senator Warren: So, you're telling me you actually
23 don't know the cost yet?

24 Admiral Holsey: Not at this point, ma'am.

25 Senator Warren: Not at this point. So, the decision

1 to deploy DOD personnel and assets was made without knowing
2 the cost, which is exactly what DOD is supposed to consider
3 in making the decision to deploy. Will you at least commit
4 to provide that estimate to Congress as soon as you have it?

5 Admiral Holsey: Yes. Senator.

6 Senator Warren: All right.

7 Admiral Holsey: Yes, I'll work the OSD and DOD to get
8 that to you.

9 Senator Warren: All right. I will hold you to that.
10 I'm relying on both of you also to tell us if, DOD blows
11 past whatever estimates you give us, given the potentially
12 astronomical costs, will you commit to informing this
13 committee if you determine that these operations are not
14 militarily effective?

15 Admiral Holsey: Yes, Senator.

16 Senator Warren: All right. You know, we need to know
17 if the operations are having an unmanageable impact on
18 readiness and morale. Political stunts like this can easily
19 damage troop morale. Many Texas National Guard members who
20 deployed to the southern border have felt isolated without
21 purpose and some have even committed suicide. I think it is
22 important that we have better oversight over these plans and
23 that we make these plans that conform to the law. Thank
24 you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Chairman Wicker: Thank you very much. Yes, Senator

1 King.

2 Senator King: One follow-up, General. Give us an
3 outline of the Russian activity and militarization of the
4 Northern Arctic Ocean. I don't know how to define Northern
5 and Southern when you're coming from the North Pole, but on
6 the Russian shoreline.

7 General Guillot: Senator, over the last year, we've
8 seen a significant increase in both Russian air and maritime
9 activity in the vicinity of Alaska, both in the bearing and
10 up in the Arctic Ocean. In fact, the incursions in the
11 number of ships this past year equal or exceeded the rate
12 that it was before the Ukraine invasion, after which I think
13 we all know the numbers dropped.

14 And we've also seen increase in air patrols on the
15 eastern side, what we call the two o'clock approach through
16 the Greenland and Iceland gap towards Maine and the
17 northeast portion of the United States. So I'm certainly
18 concerned by that and I would expect the numbers on both
19 sides of our coast to increase in the coming year.

20 And then also sir, along those lines also the Russian
21 out of area patrols for both surface and undersea was
22 significant last year. And I expect to see that on both
23 coasts again this year.

24 Senator King: The Chinese are increasingly active, are
25 they not?

1 General Guillot: Yes, sir. Last year we saw the most
2 Chinese vessels off the coast of Alaska than we've ever seen
3 and simultaneously.

4 Senator King: I was at a conference some years ago on
5 the Arctic, and there was a huge delegation from China. And
6 I said what is China's interest? They said, we are a near
7 Arctic nation. My response was, Maine is a near Caribbean
8 state. They are very active in increasing their actions.
9 Now how about where are we? Do we have a port for a
10 facility, for example in the Arctic? And secondly, give us
11 a breakdown of the status of icebreakers. We are woefully
12 inadequate in terms of icebreakers, particularly for the use
13 of the Northwest passage.

14 General Guillot: Senator, I was going to use the same
15 word. We're in a woeful situation with icebreakers. The
16 Coast Guard is working very hard to increase that for us,
17 but at this time we're completely outnumbered with
18 icebreakers.

19 Senator King: They're building one new icebreaker, but
20 it's really merely a replacement for the ancient one that's
21 about to go out of service, is that not correct?

22 General Guillot: It is.

23 Senator King: And so, there's no net gain in
24 icebreakers?

25 General Guillot: That right, Senator.

1 Senator King: And the icebreakers, we have commute
2 between the Arctic and the Antarctic, is that not correct?

3 General Guillot: That that's correct as well.

4 Senator King: And how many icebreakers do you estimate
5 the Russians have in the Arctic?

6 General Guillot: Between 20 and 40?

7 Senator King: 20 and 40 to less than one?

8 General Guillot: Yes, sir.

9 Senator King: I would argue that the icebreakers are
10 the essential infrastructure of the Arctic region and to say
11 we are inadequate and behind where we should be as I believe
12 is an understatement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Chairman Wicker: Senator King, let me just say, I
14 think you'll find a lot of bipartisan support, both in the
15 Congress and in the administration for a substantial
16 increase quickly in our number of icebreakers.

17 Senator King: I believe that's the case, and I
18 appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. All right.

19 Chairman Wicker: We have Senator Peters, and then
20 Senator Rosen.

21 Senator Peters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gentlemen,
22 thank you for your service to our country and for being here
23 today. As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and
24 Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as having served in
25 the U.S. Navy Reserve, I want to echo some of my colleagues

1 concerns on the dangers of increasing the Department of
2 Defense's role in border security and civil immigration
3 enforcement.

4 I'm going to be following up with both the Department
5 of the Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to
6 get additional information, related to the DOD deportation
7 flights and DHSS use of naval station Guantanamo Bay.

8 But my questions first, General Guillot, as you have
9 previously stated, the successful execution of your mission
10 as commander of both NORTHCOM and NORAD, "relies on cohesive
11 strategies, integrated planning, and collaboration across
12 the whole of government." I completely agree with that, and
13 with your assessment, and believe this also applies to
14 executing SOUTHCOM missions as all.

15 So, my question for you, General, how do your commands
16 collaborate with several intergovernmental agencies,
17 including the Department of Homeland Security, Missile
18 Defense Agency, and the Cyber and Infrastructure Security
19 Agency in executing your missions? And how do you
20 coordinate with these agencies and deconflict efforts to
21 ensure the successful defense of our homeland while
22 certainly maintaining a Left-of-Launch framework?

23 General Guillot: Senator, our partnership with DOD,
24 other combatant commands and the interagency is critical to
25 us. The way we approach it is we have well over a hundred

1 liaison officers, usually very high ranking, highly placed
2 and trusted from their home agencies that work in our
3 headquarters and participate in every one of our morning
4 updates, Intel and operations updates, commander's updates,
5 as well as all of our planning efforts.

6 And then for the combatant commands, we meet regularly,
7 we talk regularly, and just for example, in this southern
8 border the responsibility is widely shared between us,
9 SOUTHCOM, NORTHCOM, and TRANSCOM, and the commanders. And
10 at all levels of our command, we integrate daily in a number
11 of different planning groups and sessions.

12 Senator Peters: Wonderful. Question for both of you,
13 you both know about the importance of artificial
14 intelligence systems and the pivotal role that they play in
15 informing commanders' decisions by providing predictive
16 analysis, real-time decision support and enhanced
17 situational awareness in a future conflict.

18 Earlier this week, we received a classified briefing
19 from CENTCOM Commander General Kurilla who shared those
20 views as well. So, my question to each of you is, given the
21 rapid advancements in AI, how do you see AI shaping the
22 future of commanders' decisions-making ability, defensive
23 operations, and weapons integration for both SOUTHCOM and
24 NORTHCOM? And how can we be helpful in your efforts to
25 accelerate the use of these new technologies?

1 General Guillot: Senator, the use of AI is becoming
2 more and more important in NORAD and NORTHCOM. We currently
3 use some capabilities in helping us look at imagery and find
4 assets or activities with imagery using AI to help alert our
5 intel analysts. Anything in the future that you'll see from
6 us incorporating artificial intelligence certainly will
7 always have what we call the man on the loop. We will
8 always have men and women that are QC-ing it, but we're
9 finding that we can go through reams and reams of
10 information much quicker.

11 And I think that I should point out, we're also looking
12 to see what the adversary is doing with AI and how we might
13 be vulnerable to them and their use of AI in our defensive
14 capabilities.

15 Senator Peters: Thank you, Admiral?

16 Admiral Holsey: And Senator at SOUTHCOM, we're in the
17 process now of sending some of our senior leaders through
18 training to actually learn more about AI so we can continue
19 to use it. Another thing, we're doing it at South Joint
20 Interagency Task Force South, we actually have AI marine
21 machine learning battle lab.

22 We're able to take 15 years of data based off a ship
23 size. You think about a drug smuggled ship size, location,
24 time of year, expected route, and now we can use that
25 predictably to locate our assets to interdict them and

1 that's been very successful. And we'll continue to look for
2 some more support to get after that even faster.

3 Senator Peters: Great. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Chairman Wicker: Thank you. Senator Peters. Senator
5 Duckworth.

6 Senator Duckworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman

7 [Laughter.].

8 Chairman Wicker: I'm sorry, I should recognized
9 Senator Rosen first.

10 Senator Duckworth: I am more than happy to.

11 Chairman Wicker: The first mistake I've made.

12 Unanimous consent to my left. Senator Kelly.

13 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Senator Rosen, thank you,
14 Senator Duckworth. Really appreciate it. So, General
15 Guillot, and for both of you, Admiral, you as well, so both
16 NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM have been tasked with supporting a
17 border security and immigration enforcement mission. And
18 while I agree that our immigration system's broken and that
19 we have to do more to secure the southern border, I'm
20 concerned about the effect of these missions on our military
21 readiness.

22 So, general Guillot, last week, over a hundred migrants
23 were flown to India on a C-17, costing the American taxpayer
24 approximately \$2.5 million dollars, and using up the limited
25 flight hours allocated to that aircraft. Using military air

1 costs around \$28,000 an hour or so, for a C-17, that's four
2 times as much if ICE would've chartered a flight.

3 So, given the strain on strategic airlift assets, are
4 you concerned that continued use of C-17s and C-130s, and C-
5 130s are less expensive, but still there are readiness
6 issues with that? Are you concerned that using these for
7 deportation flights could impact availability for higher
8 priority missions?

9 General Guillot: Senator, we work closely with the
10 transportation command that operates these flights and are
11 always looking to see if there are the authorities to
12 contract that capability.

13 Senator Kelly: Do you know what missions were dropped?
14 And Admiral Holsey, same for you. Do you know if we dropped
15 any missions to be able to support the flights to India or
16 GTMO?

17 Admiral Holsey: I do not know, sir.

18 General Guillot: And, Senator, I'm not aware either.

19 Senator Kelly: And are you aware what the chain of
20 custody looks like for detainees as we transfer them?

21 Admiral Holsey: As far as right now, the DHS has the
22 chain of custody for the detainees as far as those coming to
23 GTMO.

24 Senator Kelly: So that's not a military responsibility
25 at all?

1 Admiral Holsey: No, sir.

2 Senator Kelly: All right. And then, Admiral, I've got
3 a question. We talked a little bit in my office about this
4 yesterday. We're in the midst of a global strategic
5 competition with China and China continues efforts to
6 influence politics and societies in the Western Hemisphere
7 in our neighborhood, and they use economic engagement to
8 gain access and influence in countries in Latin America and
9 in the Caribbean.

10 So, what's your assessment of the security situation in
11 Panama, and what is your strategy to deter CCP influence in
12 the region without contesting Panama's control over the
13 Panama Canal?

14 Admiral Holsey: So, Senator, just like all places
15 around the world now, China continues to gain their economic
16 and infrastructure influence. And so we know they have some
17 controlling interests in ports on both ends of the canal.
18 We know that they have infrastructure projects as well. My
19 role as the SOUTHCOM commander is to defend the Panama Canal
20 in time of crisis or contingency. And I intend to do that.

21 Senator Kelly: And do you agree that working with our
22 partners would be part of this strategy?

23 Admiral Holsey: Yes, Sir, it is.

24 Senator Kelly: And our partners, meaning the
25 Panamanians?

1 Admiral Holsey: Yes, sir. The Panamanians are key to
2 working with us. In fact, right now we have an exercise
3 called Panamax we do every year. And that's an exercise
4 where we work with the Panamanians and our allies and
5 partners in the region to do a scenario where we defend the
6 Panama Canal. And just recently, the Panamanian President
7 mentioned that he wants to do Panamax in Panama. So, that's
8 a change, right? So, we'll continue to work with allies and
9 partners continue to work with Panamanians as we go forward.

10 Senator Kelly: And can you describe a little bit what
11 that exercise would look like in Panama?

12 Admiral Holsey: Yes, sir. So, we think about
13 nefarious actors trying to create an explosion on something
14 in the canal or stop up the canal. So again, as we're
15 working in the approaches to the canal, so it's whole,
16 entire thing to include cyber activity as well. So again,
17 in every exercise we do throughout the region, there's
18 always some cyber component. And so, we continue to work
19 that.

20 Senator Kelly: So, we do have a strategy and this
21 exercise being part of the strategy to counter the PRCs
22 influence in the region as it is today.

23 Admiral Holsey: Yes, sir. And to be clear, I think I
24 go back to a statement I made earlier about presence, right?
25 Any presence in the region, presence means power, presence,

1 blocks out the PRC. And so, I'll continue to do that.

2 Senator Kelly: All right, thank you. And thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 Chairman Wicker: Thank you. Senator Kelly. General
5 and Admiral, Senator Kelly was not the first to mention the
6 cost of Mill Aris as compared to the cost of a charter
7 flight to your knowledge are those figures correct?

8 General Guillot: Senator, to tell you the truth, I
9 don't have knowledge of that because those are all run
10 through U.S. transportation command. I don't have access to
11 those numbers.

12 Chairman Wicker: Okay, but you'll get that to us, will
13 you not?

14 General Guillot: Senator chairman, of course. I'll be
15 very transparent.

16 Chairman Wicker: And how about you, Admiral?

17 Admiral Holsey: And I don't know the figure senator
18 but we can work to get that.

19 Senator Kelly: Mr. Chairman, if I could just make one
20 comment.

21 Chairman Wicker: Absolutely.

22 Senator Kelly: Just from experience, about 21,000
23 pounds an hour of fuel for C-17, 737 is about 5,000 pounds
24 per hour for fuel costs. So just in fuel costs, it's about
25 four times.

1 Chairman Wicker: Okay. Thank you. But you'll follow
2 up. The witnesses will follow up. I think we now have
3 Senator Banks.

4 Senator Banks: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. General
5 Guillot, the President's executive order to establish the
6 Iron Dome for America stresses the need for both weapons to
7 shoot down enemy missiles and also the satellites to track
8 them. The EO called for the "acceleration of the deployment
9 of the hypersonic and ballistic tracking sensor layer."

10 If NORTHCOM is going to have an effective iron dome for
11 the U.S. homeland, how important is it that we expand our
12 fleet of ballistic and hypersonic missile tracking
13 satellites and space-based sensors?

14 General Guillot: Senator, expanding those capabilities
15 would be imperative to having a successful shield over the
16 North American continent.

17 Senator Banks: You expand on that, why that's
18 important.

19 General Guillot: First and foremost, Senator, we have
20 to detect anything that we want to defeat. And so, the
21 HBTSS that you described is the first capability that we
22 think will reliably and accurately track hypersonic missile.

23 We have some capability already that can detect
24 intercontinental ballistic missiles, but those are fairly
25 easy to track because their ballistic profile, whereas the

1 hypersonic are both maneuverable and much faster. So
2 getting the space-based capability to detect and track those
3 that could cue defeat mechanisms in the end is imperative.

4 Senator Banks: How fast do we need them?

5 General Guillot: How fast do we need the capability?

6 Senator Banks: Yes.

7 General Guillot: Immediately.

8 Senator Banks: Thank you for that. Admiral, some of
9 my colleagues have said that the U.S. military operations to
10 defend the neutrality of the Panama Canal would be
11 unprecedented or illegal. Do you agree with that?

12 Admiral Holsey: Senator, that's more of a policy
13 discussion. I think Department of State is better equipped
14 to handle that.

15 Senator Banks: So, no opinion on whether or not
16 that's-- if you were ordered to defend the Panama Canal that
17 would be legal to do so.

18 Admiral Holsey: So, my job as commander is to provide
19 options to the President, sir.

20 Senator Banks: Fair enough. Mr. Chairman, that's all
21 I've got. I yield back.

22 Chairman Wicker: Thank you very much. Senator Rosen,

23 Senator Rosen: Thank you, Chairman Wicker, Ranking
24 Member Reed for holding this hearing. I'd like to thank
25 General Guillot and Admiral Holsey for testifying today and

1 for your service to our country. We really appreciate you.

2 I want to talk a little bit about Guantanamo Bay. So,
3 Admiral Holsey, the administration has announced it's using
4 our naval base at Guantanamo Bay to house undocumented
5 individuals detained in the United States. And although I
6 have deep concerns about this cruel and misguided policy,
7 including about whether we can trust that ICE is not
8 detaining American citizens, legal permanent residents, TPS
9 recipients, dreamers, or children in these facilities.

10 But Admiral Holsey, understanding that you are only
11 implementing policy decided to be by others, how is DOD
12 planning to pay for the transport and care? And more
13 importantly, what are the divisions of the missions and the
14 responsibilities between DOD and ICE? Are military
15 personnel charged with the guarding, carrying, feeding of
16 people, or Guantanamo base? Are you paying to get them
17 there? And are you staffing when they are there?

18 Admiral Holsey: So, Senator, we're not paying for them
19 to arrive. I guess TRANSCOM would probably be able to
20 answer that question there. As far as our role is to
21 provide safe, humane treatment of those in the facility. To
22 be clear, we've done this mission before, from a migrant
23 standpoint, I plan every year for a mass migration scenario.
24 So, it's kind of a modification to the existing mission, and
25 again, to bring them on board. The role of the military

1 forces there is to provide supplies, food care, shelter
2 medical support at this time.

3 Senator Rosen: Well, I guess we have a lot of things
4 to worry about in that, whether it impedes our readiness
5 from a readiness perspective, having to take care of
6 migrants takes you away from your mission. But I'll move on
7 because we only have three minutes.

8 I want to talk to you, Admiral Holsey, now about
9 critical language skills, because the Department of Defense
10 is increasingly making investments on countering the
11 people's Republic of China. We know there are a major
12 threat to us. And are there any concerns regarding a lack
13 of language expertise needed for countries in SOUTHCOM area
14 of responsibility, especially considering the involving
15 situation at GTMO, the potential need for more Spanish
16 speakers?

17 And how will the elimination of some of these diversity
18 initiatives impact your ability to recruit and retain
19 linguists, people who speak all of the different languages,
20 speak Chinese to enable your critical mission?

21 Admiral Holsey: And to be clear Senator, we're a war
22 fighting organization. So, our most fundamental duty is
23 supported within the Constitution, ensure the safety and
24 security of the American people. We look for talent
25 throughout.

1 And so, I think right now, as I look at the critical
2 skills, language skills in the SOUTHCOM or throughout my
3 entire headquarters, I have several multilingual people.
4 And then we've been able to hire folks as well. We'll
5 continue to do that and that's kind of my point to be made
6 there.

7 Senator Rosen: Well, we just want to be sure you're
8 not hampered in doing that because it is critical to have
9 those language skills. I want to move on and talk about
10 with general Guillot, psych guarding, domain awareness. You
11 know, our competitors continue to feel advanced capabilities
12 across domains that have the potential to threaten the
13 homeland.

14 In light of these threats, NORTHCOM and NORAD have to
15 ensure the system providing the homeland with domain
16 awareness are survivable, adaptable, and modern. In
17 addition, the systems must be hardened as they're going to
18 be subject to an array of cyber-attacks during any
19 contingency. I'm encouraged by your efforts to modernize,
20 but what steps are you currently taking to harden our
21 command-and-control nodes, particularly in the cyber domain,
22 so that we're able to effectively share operational picture
23 during a potential conflict?

24 General Guillot: Senator, as you alluded to, the most
25 persistent and present threat that we face in the NORTHCOM

1 area of responsibility every day is in the cyber domain,
2 with hundreds or maybe even thousands attacks or attempted
3 attacks on our networks.

4 So, the way we harden that is primarily through cyber
5 protection teams, that we have that first look at our unique
6 NORAD and NORTHCOM computer systems and networks, and then
7 across the DOD network in partnership with Cyber Command to
8 make sure that those are protected.

9 And then when you go outside of that ring, we look at
10 critical infrastructure for capabilities that not only help
11 the American citizens, but also help the DOD. And then it's
12 four partners we have there, or three others in addition to
13 NORTHCOM, CYBERCOM, the FBI, and CISA. And we worked very
14 well with them to monitor the cyber domain to ensure that
15 all of those systems are protected.

16 Senator Rosen: Thank you.

17 Chairman Wicker: Thank You. Senator Rosen. Senator
18 Tuberville.

19 Senator Tuberville: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Gentlemen, thank you for being here, and thanks for your
21 service. Good visiting with you, both of you. You got
22 tough jobs.

23 General, you talked in your opening statement about the
24 cooperation and the coming together of our adversaries.
25 What do we need to do and what do you need to do for the

1 next three or four years to protect our country from those
2 coalitions that are coming together, possibly for a threat
3 to us?

4 General Guillot: Senator, first, we need to continue
5 to work on our ability to detect their activities. Not only
6 are they working together, but even independently, they're
7 increasing their own capabilities and they can affect us
8 from further ranges than they could in years past,
9 individually, and certainly combined, that just magnifies
10 that challenge.

11 And so, our ability to detect them from all domains,
12 undersea all the way to space is the first. So we can watch
13 what they're doing and have awareness of what they're doing.
14 And then after that is just presence, not only with the U.S.
15 forces, but within our command. Anything that we can do
16 with the Canadian forces to show that we can, one, detect
17 them and two respond to them in order to deter their
18 activities, would be the second emphasis that I have.

19 Senator Tuberville: That's the other question I want
20 to ask you, as we speak how is our working relationship with
21 our Canadian partners up North?

22 General Guillot: Senator, on a military-to-military
23 basis, it's outstanding. It's NORAD. It's a binational
24 command, and so they're partnered with the United States at
25 every level of the command. And we talked earlier about the

1 first time ever, the Chinese and the Russians flew together
2 in the Arctic, our intercept of that was with U.S. and
3 Canadian fighters that were completely integrated.

4 So, at the mil-to-mil level in NORAD, it's excellent.
5 And then also between NORTHCOM and CJOC, the Canadian Joint
6 Operations Command, there's several times where we have
7 Russian or Chinese ships out in the Arctic that are being
8 patrolled by the Canadians out of U.S. bases to build that
9 strength and relationship we have.

10 Senator Tuberville: Yeah. Speaking of the Arctic, do
11 we actually have an icebreaker that works now?

12 General Guillot: The Coast Guard has one that was just
13 repaired, but unfortunately it was out of service for a
14 period of time over the last few months.

15 Senator Tuberville: We obviously need to add to that.
16 I would imagine. Admiral, you and I talked about
17 Saildrones, which were made in my great state of Alabama.
18 And can you give us this group a kind of a rundown of what
19 you think about saildrones, your experience and the need
20 probably for more all over the world? We have them in the
21 Indo-Pacific, and we have them in the Caribbean and your
22 experience with saildrone?

23 Admiral Holsey: Yes, Senator. Over the last couple
24 years, we've seen a decrement in navy assets in the region.
25 And one thing that Navy has done with this new hybrid fleet

1 out of NAVSOUTH, we've been able to incorporate saildrones
2 into our mission sets. They provide great domain awareness.

3 And right now, we're doing operation Southern Sphere
4 where at this point, we'll have saildrones in the Caribbean
5 and in the Eastern Pacific, along with other unmanned assets
6 to counter drug fight, right? So, it gives me more maritime
7 domain awareness, and it helps our partners as well because
8 we're trying to bring them into this piece and so have a
9 better understanding.

10 One thing our partners continue to ask for is domain
11 awareness, intel sharing. So again, having those assets in
12 the region for a lack of other assets is making a difference
13 for me.

14 Senator Tuberville: what main reason are they used
15 for, as we speak for, drug runners?

16 Admiral Holsey: So right now, it's maritime domain
17 awareness, so overall surveillance, right? So, they actually
18 have the capability to patch back to our MOC, our Maritime
19 Operations Center, in NAVSOUTH. So again, they can pick up
20 contacts and it completes the picture, right? And the
21 information can sell. So, if you spread these assets out,
22 they can cover more domain as opposed to just one ship. Y

23 Senator Tuberville: As we speak, how many do you have
24 Operatable in the Caribbean?

25 Admiral Holsey: So right now, I have eight operational

1 in the Caribbean and three in the Eastern Pacific and more
2 flowing in. So, I have a total of 20 here in the next
3 couple days.

4 Senator Tuberville: That's great. Well, we appreciate
5 what both of you do and anything we can do to help let us
6 know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Senator Tuberville.
8 Senator Duckworth.

9 Senator Duckworth: Yay. It's my turn. Thank you.
10 Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Reed. The number of troops
11 assigned to the Board of Mission continues to grow. We've
12 had this discussion today, but I want to emphasize it, with
13 the total expected to reach at least 3,600. And I think
14 General, you testified that it'll be maybe even upwards
15 getting closer to 5,000 potentially. This number includes
16 some of our most experienced infantry and support units.

17 Are we really preparing for great power competition
18 with the communist PRC? Or are we asking our Marines to lay
19 Constantino wire at the border? Are we asking our pilots to
20 be combat ready, or are they supporting deportation flights?

21 As we consider the ways that responding to these
22 missions in NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM impacting the military's
23 ability to focus on the primary mission of great power
24 competition and war fighting, we need to also factor in
25 uncertain, but rapidly increasing costs of DOD support at

1 Guantanamo Bay.

2 On January 29th, President Trump green lighted the
3 expansion of the Migrant Operations Center, or MOC, at
4 Guantanamo Bay. And as you're likely where this expansion
5 comes with the range of costs that will impact the overall
6 budget, everything from medical care and sanitation to
7 education for migrants, as well as expenses tied to
8 deploying military personnel to GTMO.

9 Admiral Holsey, could you provide a breakdown of the
10 timeline and projected construction costs for increasing
11 Gitmo's capacity to 30,000 people as outlined by the
12 President's directive?

13 Admiral Holsey: Senator at this time we're doing a
14 phase approach. So right now, we're going to have a
15 capability for about 2,500 cots, and that plan's going to go
16 up if we continue to phase it in. And we haven't decided
17 that yet, I'm waiting further direction. So, at the initial
18 point, I don't have a cost estimate of what would take for
19 30,000. So right now, we're still in the -- phase of it.

20 Senator Duckworth: Well, you have a presidential
21 directive, have you not started planning to fulfill that
22 directive?

23 Admiral Holsey: So right now, again, it's a stage
24 approach, a tailor approach, right? So right now, we won't
25 necessarily go, we don't know. We're working with DHS to

1 understand the flow of migrants. So, we're not going to go,
2 we won't go to 30,000 unless we know that migrant flow will
3 come. So, we're waiting at this point.

4 Senator Duckworth: Well, as that planning process
5 moves forward, can you get me those data, figures?

6 Admiral Holsey: Yes, Senator

7 Senator Duckworth: Thank you. The Fiscal Year 2017
8 MILCON actually a project for mass migration complex was
9 actually for 13,000 migrants, and it cost \$33 million in FY
10 2017, just as a comparison. It stands to reason that an
11 expansion to more than double that capacity nearly 10 years
12 later would mostly, most certainly cost much more than the
13 \$33 million that was projected to cost in Fiscal Year 2017.

14 In addition to facilities costs in 2019, the commander
15 of detentions estimated that it cost more than a hundred
16 thousand dollars for each guard, each guard's nine-month
17 deployment to GTMO cost taxpayers a hundred thousand
18 dollars. Admiral Holsey, do you have, as you're doing this,
19 do you have an estimate for the personnel costs associated
20 with this effort, even for the first 2,500?

21 Admiral Holsey: No, we do not yet. But I can say that
22 the cost of running GTMO at this point, just the facility
23 the last several years been approximately hundred million
24 dollars.

25 Senator Duckworth: \$100 million dollars per year?

1 Admiral Holsey: Yes, for the JTF-GTMO facility along
2 with the rotational enforcers that comes in.

3 Senator Duckworth: And how many detainees are there?

4 Admiral Holsey: Currently, there are 30 detainees, and
5 15 war detainees, and then approximately, 68 other detainees
6 -- so not detainees, but migrants from the DHS.

7 Senator Duckworth: So, to house 118 detainees there
8 and to maintain GTMO, it's costing taxpayers \$ 100 million
9 dollars currently. And we're going to project to go up to
10 \$30 million?

11 Admiral Holsey: For the GTMO facility.

12 Senator Duckworth: Just the facility, so the cost
13 would be much higher than that. What is the source of
14 funding for the expansion of the MOC?

15 Admiral Holsey: So, right now, as the forces flow in,
16 the services are bearing the initial cost for the initial
17 flow, and so that's where it's at right now, the services.

18 Senator Duckworth: So, it's coming out of the services
19 pockets. What priorities will be left unfunded as a result
20 of this shift in priorities?

21 Admiral Holsey: I can't answer that, ma'am. I think
22 we have to ask the services.

23 Senator Duckworth: Okay. I would also like to address
24 accountability on the DOD flights. Admiral Holsey, what is
25 being done to ensure that risk mitigated is mitigated for

1 pilots and what security measures are in place to manage the
2 personnel on board?

3 Admiral Holsey: Right now, the DHS actually, or is
4 controlled those flights along with TRANSCOM probably have a
5 better understanding of the flow of migrants to what they do
6 on the aircraft.

7 Senator Duckworth: So TRANSCOM is responsible for the
8 safety of the crew of the aircraft on those flights?

9 Admiral Holsey: Yes, ma'am.

10 Senator Duckworth: I do think that we need to run this
11 down, and if the DOD does not take ownership of migrants
12 boarding their aircraft, who onboard the aircraft is
13 responsible for the passengers?

14 Admiral Holsey: Again, I would say that TRANSCOM has a
15 plan in place and TRANSCOM would better have that the
16 understanding of how they protect their aircraft in flight.

17 Senator Duckworth: A lot of unanswered questions.
18 Thank you, Admiral,

19 Chairman Wicker: Indeed, and Senator Duckworth, this
20 is part of our oversight responsibility, and so I appreciate
21 the members participation today. This concludes the open
22 portion of today's hearing. I'd like to thank our witnesses
23 for their testimony. For the information of members,
24 questions for the record will be due to the committee within
25 two business days of the conclusion of this hearing.

1 We will commence the closed portion of this hearing in
2 Senate Security in 15 minutes. We have until 11:45 a.m.

3 [Whereupon, at 11:30 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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