

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON BALLISTIC
MISSILE DEFENSE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN
REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND THE
FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Washington, D.C.

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2 POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
3 REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE
4 PROGRAM

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Wednesday, April 13, 2016

U.S. Senate
Subcommittee on Strategic
Forces
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:34 p.m.
in Room SR-222, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Jeff
Sessions, chairman of the subcommittee, presiding.

Committee Members Present: Senators Inhofe, Sessions
[presiding], Fischer, Sullivan, Lee, Manchin, Donnelly,
King, and Heinrich.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JEFF SESSIONS, U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM ALABAMA

3 Senator Sessions: The committee will come to order.

4 Senator Donnelly is on the way and will be here in a
5 few minutes, but I will go ahead and start with some of my
6 opening comments. I do not think there will be anything
7 particularly controversial.

8 The Strategic Forces Subcommittee meets today to
9 receive testimony on ballistic missile defense policies and
10 programs in review of the defense authorization request --
11 there he is -- for fiscal year 2017 and the future years
12 defense program.

13 We are joined today by Mr. Brian McKeon, Principal
14 Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, to provide the
15 policy and strategy foundation for our missile defense
16 programs.

17 As Commander of U.S. Northern Command, Admiral William
18 Gortney is the principal military officer responsible for
19 conducting the defense of the homeland against ballistic
20 missile strikes and has done a good job in that, Admiral.
21 And thank you for your service. I do not know. Maybe you
22 can tell us if you are going to be leaving us, but we
23 appreciate your service. It has been tremendous for the
24 United States of America.

25 Vice Admiral James Syring has been the Director of the

1 Missile Defense Agency for the past two and one-half years
2 and has done a remarkable job improving the reliability and
3 effectiveness of our homeland and regional missile defense
4 systems.

5 And finally, we are joined by Lieutenant General David
6 Mann, the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Space and
7 Missile Defense Command and the head of the Strategic
8 Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated
9 Missile Defense.

10 Today the United States and its deployed forces enjoy a
11 good measure of protection against ballistic missiles of all
12 ranges. However, the Army and Navy service chiefs warned in
13 2014 in a letter to the Secretary of Defense that, quote,
14 the growing challenges associated with ballistic missile
15 threats that are increasingly capable continue to outpace
16 our active defense systems and exceed our services' capacity
17 to meet combatant commanders' demand. Close quote.

18 Likewise, Mr. McKeon, you told Congress that, quote, as
19 North Korea and potentially Iran makes progress on ICBM
20 class missile technologies, we must be prepared to address
21 new, more complex threats in the next decade. Close quote.

22 In other words, despite considerable progress, there is
23 still more to do with respect to both homeland and regional
24 missile defense systems. Yet, while the military need for
25 missile defense continues to increase, funding for the

1 for. In 2008, their entire budget virtually was research,
2 development, test, and evaluation. So you can see the
3 erosion of MDA's research and development budget is more
4 significant than I had realized, frankly. And I would note
5 I am not prepared to criticize, Secretary McKeon, the fact
6 that MDA is now doing procurement and other things. It
7 might be good. However, it seems to be coming straight out
8 of their research budget, which I think is something we need
9 to be aware of as we go forward.

10 The future years request continues the overall trend of
11 reducing both MDA funding and the R&D share of that funding.
12 MDA top line for the year 2021 is 8 percent below the fiscal
13 year 2016, another 8 percent drop, and the R&D share of that
14 funding declines to under 70 percent for the first time.

15 So I hope to explore with the witnesses the implication
16 of these trends and what they mean for addressing ballistic
17 missile threats in the next decade and beyond. Without
18 sufficient funding for the advanced technologies and new
19 approaches to missile defense, I am afraid the United States
20 may not stay ahead ballistic missile threats, at least not
21 in a cost-effective manner, which in this budget environment
22 is certainly critical.

23 In any event, these are issues that the next
24 administration will have to address in its review of
25 ballistic missile defense policy and funding.

1 So I turn to Ranking Member Donnelly for his remarks.
2 And thank you, Senator Donnelly, for your good work on this
3 committee and the interest and extra time you have taken to
4 stay on top of the many issues we deal with.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. JOE DONNELLY, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 INDIANA

3 Senator Donnelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want
4 to thank Senator Sessions for holding this hearing.

5 Let me also thank today's witnesses for testifying. We
6 very much appreciate your time and the work you do in the
7 service of our Nation.

8 Protecting our country, our forward-deployed troops,
9 and our allies around the world is of the utmost importance.
10 I spent a week in the Middle East last month visiting
11 Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, Iraq, and Spain to discuss the
12 threat posed by Iran's ballistic missile program and to
13 review U.S. and allied missile defense systems in the
14 region. In light of the provocative behavior we have seen
15 from both Iran and North Korea in the past 6 months, I
16 believe our investments in this area are as important today
17 as they have ever been.

18 I am pleased at the improvements we are making in the
19 reliability and effectiveness of our missile defense
20 systems. I credit that in large part to both the bipartisan
21 support in Congress for robust missile defense funding and
22 MDA's committed ability to prioritize investments where they
23 are most needed.

24 That needs to continue. We need investment in things
25 like the redesigned kill vehicle and improved sensor and

1 discrimination capabilities to improve the ability of our
2 systems to defeat incoming threats. While we must proceed
3 with urgency, we have to learn from the mistakes of the past
4 and be sure we are conducting smart simulation and testing
5 on these systems before we commit to buying and fielding new
6 technologies.

7 If there is one message that I carried back with me
8 from the Middle East last month, it is that while we
9 continue to improve our homeland defense systems, we cannot
10 take our eye off the ball when it comes to protecting our
11 deployed troops and reassuring our allies and partners
12 overseas. Our Aegis ships and THAAD and Patriot batteries
13 are in high demand from our combatant commanders and our
14 allies. We need to consider how best to allocate these
15 systems and effectively train the warfighters who will
16 operate them to provide the protection that is needed in
17 today's budget constrained environment. The critical part
18 of that calculus will be how to best build the capabilities
19 and capacity of our allies, particularly Israel, and
20 maximize the integration and interoperability of our missile
21 defenses with partner nation forces.

22 Again, thanks for coming today, and we look forward to
23 this dialogue.

24 Senator Sessions: Very good.

25 Secretary McKeon, if you have a statement and your

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

4 Admiral Gortney: Senator Sessions, Ranking Member
5 Donnelly, and distinguished members of the committee, it is
6 an honor to be with you here today.

7 North America is increasingly vulnerable to a vast
8 array of evolving threats to include highly capable national
9 powers. This complexity and volatility of our strategic
10 environment demands that we advance and sustain the
11 capabilities to protect our homeland.

12 At NORAD and NORTHCOM, we look at threats to the
13 homeland from those most dangerous to most likely. On the
14 most dangerous, the nation states, Russia, China, North
15 Korea, where on North Korea, the peninsula is more unstable
16 than it has ever been since the armistice, and of course,
17 Iran.

18 Many of our potential adversaries are pursuing advanced
19 weapons development not seen in decades. Individually they
20 pose serious threats to our national security and the
21 international community. Collectively they represent a vast
22 spectrum of complex and volatile threats that I believe will
23 only continue to grow and threaten the homeland if we
24 hesitate to act decisively.

25 Our BMD architecture is designed primarily to defend

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Senator Sessions: Next, Admiral Syring.

1 STATEMENT OF VICE ADMIRAL JAMES D. SYRING, USN,
2 DIRECTOR, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

3 Admiral Syring: Thank you, Chairman Sessions, Ranking
4 Member Donnelly, distinguished members of the subcommittee.
5 It is an honor again to testify before you today.

6 We request support of our fiscal year 2017 budget which
7 is necessary, as I will speak to in detail, to increase the
8 capacity and capability of fielded homeland and regional
9 defense systems.

10 With the escalation of the threat from North Korea and
11 Iran, to include increasingly aggressive ballistic missile
12 testing, we are working hard to find more cost-effective
13 ways to do the missile defense mission. We need your
14 continued strong support to improve the reliability of our
15 homeland defense systems and modernize our ground systems.

16 We are moving forward with the redesigned kill vehicle
17 program. All the ground-based interceptor upgrades and
18 emplacements remain on track to achieve 44 interceptors by
19 2017. In fiscal year 2017, we plan to conduct two intercept
20 flight tests to more fully demonstrate performance of the
21 GMD system against ICBMs.

22 Among our planned homeland defense improvements to
23 identify and track lethal objects, we will begin
24 construction in 2017 of the long-range discrimination radar
25 in Alaska. To stay on schedule, it is critical that we

1 receive full funding for the phase 1 of the military
2 construction in fiscal year 2017 for the radar equipment
3 shelter.

4 On the regional defense side, in fiscal year 2017, we
5 continue to enhance the capability of the Aegis BD system
6 and deliver additional SM-3 IBs. We delivered Romania to
7 the warfighter at the end of 2015, and we remain on track to
8 deliver the Aegis Ashore site in Poland by the end of 2018
9 to improve European NATO defenses against medium and
10 intermediate range missiles.

11 Finally, on the advanced technology front, we need to
12 stay ahead of the threat by discriminating and killing
13 reentry vehicles with a higher degree of confidence in all
14 phases of flight.

15 Today we are focusing on directed energy, which I
16 believe is a game-changer. Our work on laser scaling to
17 achieve greater efficiency and lighter weight will enable a
18 low-power laser demonstrator in 2021 to determine the
19 feasibility of destroying enemy missiles in the boost phase
20 of flight.

21 And finally, equal to any threat we face around the
22 world, we are very aware of the growing cyber threat and
23 working aggressively to ensure the Nation's missile defenses
24 are resilient and able to operate in this highly contested
25 environment. We are taking steps to ensure the

1 cybersecurity infrastructure and the latest security
2 upgrades and everything else that needs to happen with the
3 system, supplier level and our acquisition processes, is
4 accounted for. We have rigorous cyber and supply chain risk
5 management inspection programs. We have red team efforts
6 ongoing to examine everything about our system from the
7 trusted supply chain to the fielded operational capability.
8 I cannot underscore the importance of this more.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the
10 committee's questions.

11 [The prepared statement of Admiral Syring follows:]

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1 And I know you were recently up in Alaska, and I apologize
2 for not having the opportunity to accompany you. But I am
3 wondering if you could provide any insights or observations
4 from your time at Clear and Fort Greely and some other
5 locations. I would love to, in another setting, get a
6 download from you on your trip. But any that you care to
7 offer the committee and educate all of us on Alaska would be
8 welcome right now.

9 Admiral Syring: Yes, sir. We went to all three. We
10 went to three areas. We went to Kodiak. We went to Clear
11 and we went to Fort Greely. And I talked to the community
12 about the radar that is coming to Clear, which will be
13 fielded by 2020, took their questions. Very supportive of
14 what we are doing.

15 But more importantly for me and the military and
16 Admiral Gortney is the strategic importance of that radar in
17 the middle of the State and what it will provide him in the
18 future for this discrimination capability that is absolutely
19 required to stay ahead and keep our advantage against the
20 threat that we see coming. And the strategic location of
21 Alaska is why we are there. Very important.

22 I think General Mann talked about Fort Greely. I am a
23 material developer, support part of that with Admiral
24 Gortney and General Mann. Great work going on there.

25 And then finally, down at Kodiak we visited the range

1 facility down there for future test opportunities that we
2 might see coming and is there a way to more affordably test
3 in the future there, for example.

4 Senator Sullivan: Thank you.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Senator Sessions: Thank you.

7 Very briefly, Admiral Syring, for Senator Sullivan's
8 benefit perhaps, but why is geographically Alaska a special
9 place for missile defense?

10 Admiral Syring: Sir, I will try to keep it
11 unclassified, if I can. I will get kicked under the table.
12 But the trajectories that we are concerned about make it an
13 ideal spot for the threats to Alaska and to the United
14 States and to Hawaii.

15 Senator Sessions: Thank you.

16 Senator King?

17 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Admiral Syring and perhaps for the Secretary as well,
19 would we be adding capabilities that would be significant by
20 deploying THAAD in South Korea and/or Aegis? And, Mr.
21 Secretary, the policy implication is how would China react
22 to such?

23 Mr. McKeon: Senator King, as I think you probably
24 know, we have announced that we have opened consultations
25 with our Korean partners about deploying THAAD to the

1 ground in Poland and finish that by the end of 2018. We do
2 not have any other plans or requirements for Aegis Ashore at
3 the moment, nor have we had any requests for it from foreign
4 partners.

5 Senator King: But it is a nice capability.

6 Mr. McKeon: It is a nice capability and it is
7 advancing. We will put a more advanced missile in the site
8 in Poland that is still under co-development with our
9 partners in the Government of Japan.

10 Senator King: You mentioned the Government of Japan
11 and Poland. How are our allies contributing to this
12 process, much of which is designed to defend them? Are we
13 getting cooperation and money from our allies on these
14 systems?

15 Mr. McKeon: Well, in Japan, they are investing quite a
16 bit on the co-development of the standard missile 3-2-A, and
17 they have got their own Aegis capable ships. And we have
18 put a couple of radars there, the TPY-2 radars. In Europe,
19 Romania and Poland are, obviously, offering and contributing
20 the sites. Turkey is hosting a TPY-2 radar. The Spanish
21 Government is hosting our Aegis BMD ships in Rota. And then
22 other governments are contributing in different ways. The
23 French have their own system. Other NATO partners have
24 Patriots and have deployed them in Turkey. So I cannot say
25 that all 28 NATO partners are contributing to NATO missile

1 obviously, very well aware of language that came in the NDAA
2 last year. And we have started the work on siting and
3 looking at the options in terms of where SBX, for example,
4 can be home-ported. And in the follow-on analysis, where
5 are the sites on the east coast that could help in terms of
6 sensor capability? Sir, that work is going on in parallel
7 with the Department's work that has gone on the sensor AOA
8 worldwide, and I can tell you this point of what are we
9 going to do with an Atlantic radar is part of that
10 discussion.

11 And it is true today that there is no money in the 2017
12 budget, but I think you will see the Department come through
13 this question before 2018 comes over on what are we going to
14 do to meet the intent of the language to include a
15 discussion, sir -- I will let Admiral Gortney jump in here
16 -- on what is his ability to surge SBX if the Iranian threat
17 did escalate.

18 Senator Sessions: It is problematic that there is no
19 money in the whole 5-year plan. Admiral Gortney?

20 Admiral Gortney: Yes, sir. We have the ability to
21 move SBX if we need it. But the higher priority right --

22 Senator Sessions: Now, the move of SBX -- this is not
23 the Alaska --

24 Admiral Gortney: No, sir.

25 Senator Sessions: This will be a new system. This

1 gates together in terms of where do we think the knowledge
2 points are over the next year to prove where we need to be
3 for a full program. We do not have a full program requested
4 for an MOKV yet. Until I work through that and see where
5 the companies are at level of maturity over the next 12 to
6 18 months, that will help me get my mind around when are we
7 ready and what is the schedule for it.

8 Senator Donnelly: Then lastly, Admiral Gortney, when I
9 talked to the Chinese, they talked about how little
10 influence they have over North Korea, that it seems to be
11 getting less in their mind. And I am wondering how much of
12 that is fluff and how much of that is real. And I was
13 wondering if you could fill us in a little bit.

14 Admiral Gortney: I think it is safe to say that the
15 influence that China used to have they no longer have with
16 the current leader. At this level, I would like to leave it
17 at that.

18 Senator Donnelly: Thank you.

19 Senator Sessions: Senator Sullivan?

20 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just two
21 quick follow-up questions.

22 One is kind of a broader on really education for the
23 committee and those watching. We talk a lot in acronyms and
24 technology.

25 Admiral Syring or Admiral Gortney, can you describe,

1 particularly given the North Korean evolving threat and even
2 the ICBM pursued by the Iranians, why the LRDR makes sense
3 and why that is so important strategically for the country,
4 what that is doing in really kind of a follow-up to the
5 chairman's question on that issue? That is one.

6 And then I will ask a final one after that.

7 Admiral Gortney: It is absolutely critical, and it is
8 why Admiral Syring's investments in sensors is so important.
9 One of the ways we are going to achieve getting on the
10 correct said of the cost curve is to drive our effectiveness
11 up. So with better sensor discrimination, I may have the
12 ability to shoot fewer missiles, or as the threat evolves, I
13 will have a better idea to discriminate what the threat is
14 doing, what a maneuvering warhead is doing to then drive the
15 probably of kill of our existing warheads. So you cannot
16 kill what you cannot see, and we need to see better.

17 Senator Sullivan: So it drives up our ability to kill
18 any incoming missile?

19 Admiral Syring: Both simple and complex.

20 Senator Sullivan: Looking at the budget request, from
21 what I can see, there seems to be about a \$74 million
22 shortfall in the BMD midcourse defense account where last
23 year, the President's budget was expected and where PB-17 is
24 today. Am I reading that correctly? And if so, what
25 accounts for that shortfall?

1 Admiral Syring: The request was down slightly from
2 last year from what we were expecting in 2017. Part of that
3 was driven by part of the share of the \$300 million cut that
4 flowed down. It took part of that in that line.

5 Also, I would say, sir, there were refined estimates
6 from the companies on what it would take to do what they are
7 going to do. Obviously, we do not do 100 percent of
8 everything that is offered. This is a matter of what do we
9 need to do to do the mission-critical work that is important
10 for the program.

11 Senator Sullivan: So that budget shortfall is not
12 something that you or we as the oversight committee should
13 be concerned about?

14 Admiral Syring: No, sir. We and you have adequately
15 funded the GMD program with a big nonrecurring spike last
16 year, and all of those efforts are ongoing this year. I am
17 comfortable with where we are.

18 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Senator Sessions: Mr. Secretary, so the first chart
20 again shows a 14 percent overall decline in funding for MDA.

21 If you will put back the second chart there. This
22 chart reflects an additional troubling trend in that in
23 2008, 98-99 percent of the budget went to R&D, whereas in
24 2016, that number had dropped -- 2015 it went up a little in
25 2016 and begins to drop again in the 5-year submission we

1 got this year. It dropped down to 19 to a little over \$5
2 billion there, which is a little more than half. So you
3 drop about 40-45 percent of your R&D spending.

4 Tell us what is happening. First of all, MDA
5 originally, Admiral Syring, was not designed to be a
6 procurement agency. It was designed to produce the
7 technology that would be paid for by the services who would
8 use it. Is that correct?

9 Admiral Syring: That is correct.

10 Senator Sessions: And so now you are purchasing some
11 of it.

12 What I had not ascertained fully was a lot of that is
13 coming out of your R&D budget. So that is a pretty
14 troubling thing. What does that put us on track for for the
15 next several years, the next 5 years?

16 Admiral Syring: Mr. Chairman, I was just thinking the
17 answer. Let me just provide, I think, some context because
18 I have studied the exact problem in terms of we are
19 absolutely spending more on procurement than R&D, and there
20 is certainly much less than there used to be.

21 What I have done, for historical context, is gone back
22 and looked at the 2005-2010 time frame when everything in
23 MDA was R&D, including the fielding of the entire ground-
24 based midcourse defense system. And what we have done with
25 that and Aegis in particular is done the R&D and now shifted

1 those to procurement. So that is why you see --

2 Senator Sessions: So now you would say that you
3 probably incorrectly included the deployment on the system
4 in Alaska as R&D when it really was procurement?

5 Admiral Syring: Sir, I was not here. We had a mandate
6 and had the charter to deliver capability as soon as
7 possible from the President to get this in the ground at
8 light speed.

9 Senator Sessions: I remember that. The deal was,
10 Senator Sullivan, that North Korea proposed a threat, and we
11 decided to accelerate the process to actually get these
12 things in the ground. We believed they would work and we
13 would prove it as time went by. And I think it would have
14 worked had we had to use it at that time. And I think it is
15 probably more effective today than then.

16 But anyway, so how do you explain this now?

17 Admiral Syring: So there was also a big airborne laser
18 program in that R&D as well that never fielded. It did its
19 mission. It proved that we could shoot down a ballistic
20 missile with a laser. But that did not become a program.
21 So that was R&D.

22 So there are some big drivers here in terms of where
23 that R&D went prior to when you start seeing the blue. What
24 you see here is you see us finishing the design, finishing
25 the testing of the SM-3 and now procuring it quickly because

1 there is a regional combatant commander requirement that
2 they need ships, they need missiles, they need batteries,
3 they need missiles for THAAD. And that is what has
4 happened. Certainly the programs that I spoke about are
5 going to be negotiated with the services on when do I
6 transfer -- which is the question. When do I transfer these
7 programs to the services similar to what I did with Patriot?
8 That is the question.

9 General Mann: Senator, I would like to add, speaking
10 for the Army, we are in consultation with MDA on the
11 transfer of some of these different programs just to make
12 sure that MDA is able to get after exactly the emphasis that
13 you alluded to. So we are working closely with MDA on how
14 we can transfer some of this, when appropriate, to the Army.

15 Senator Sessions: Briefly before I go to Senator
16 Sullivan, what programs are on track to be transferred from
17 MDA to the Army or other services?

18 General Mann: Right off the top, THAAD is one of the
19 programs that we are looking at and also --

20 Senator Sessions: THAAD is included in the MDA budget
21 now?

22 Admiral Syring: That is correct.

23 General Mann: Yes, sir. As well as the TPY-2, those
24 sensors that we have globally we are looking at. Right now,
25 some of those are manned by contractors, and as we put in

1 place life support capabilities, we will transfer that to
2 soldier-run. And that will also be assumed by the Army.

3 Senator Sessions: Senator Sullivan?

4 Senator Sullivan: Let me just ask one more follow-up
5 question related to the chairman's question. In that chart,
6 very simple, which is should our missile defense budgets be
7 flat or really going down when there is no doubt that the
8 threat is going up. I will pose that to all four of you.
9 It seems to me we have no doubt the threat is increasing.
10 And I appreciate what the administration was focused on with
11 kind of a rapid deployment. But right there, you are
12 looking at either a declining budget or at best a flat
13 budget, which does not seem to make sense.

14 You know, Admiral Gortney, your testimony, which I
15 really appreciate -- you were talking about staying in front
16 of the curve. But I am not sure that is staying in front of
17 the curve when we know the threat side is going like this.

18 Senator Sessions: Could I just follow up with that?
19 The fiscal year 2017 MDA budget request is \$300 million
20 below what the President anticipated last year in the 2016
21 5-year budget. So this is about \$300 million, Secretary
22 McKeon, less I believe than what we anticipated last year
23 would be the President's request.

24 Admiral Gortney, I will let you answer that question.

25 Admiral Gortney: I am out of my lane a little here

1 since I am lucky enough to only own the trigger.

2 But I think what you are seeing up there is reluctance
3 of investing dollars against the capability using the
4 current technology that we are using, that even though we
5 are investing in it and we are investing dollars,
6 capability, platforms, burning up OPTEMPO, PERSTEMPO of the
7 low-density, high-demand, it is not able to outpace the
8 threat.

9 Senator Sullivan: But if that were the case, would we
10 not still want an increased budget and maybe have you
11 weighted towards R&D? Right there, that is just all --

12 Admiral Gortney: I am in vehement agreement with you,
13 sir. But I am just trying to explain why I think we are
14 seeing what we are seeing because on our current process,
15 our current strategy, the current technology lacking the R&D
16 investments that MDA is making to see if we can get on the
17 correct side of the cost curve, reliability, better sensors,
18 multi-object kill vehicle, an airborne laser that really
19 works would make those dollars more effective. I am just
20 saying I think reluctance to fund a program correctly, given
21 the technology that we are using. And I am not sure if I am
22 articulating it clearly.

23 General Mann: Senator, if I could just add to this.
24 In addition to new technologies in R&D investments and
25 whatnot, I think it is important that we note that we are

1 also looking at current capabilities and what can we do to
2 maximize the current fleet that we have on the team, whether
3 it is Patriot, the Patriot modernization plan. So it is
4 more than just leap-ahead technologies. Yes, we are focused
5 on that, but we are also trying to make sure that we are
6 looking at the current capabilities and how can we make that
7 even more effective. And we talked about the sensors, the
8 sensor upgrades, the discrimination side of the equation.
9 So I think it is important that we recognize the fact that
10 it is more than just new R&D programs. It is also how can
11 we be more effective with what we have already.

12 Senator Sullivan: Mr. Secretary, Admiral, any final
13 thoughts on a declining or flat budget and a clear,
14 increasing threat?

15 Mr. McKeon: I would say a few things, Senator
16 Sullivan.

17 First, stepping back and looking at the overall DOD
18 budget over the last 6 to 8 years, there has been a decline
19 due to the change in the fiscal environment and the limits
20 of the Budget Control Act. I do not know the number off the
21 top of my head, but I think the last budget Secretary Gates
22 submitted around 2011 or 2012 projected an over \$600 billion
23 budget for the Pentagon in fiscal year 2016. And our base
24 budget last year was \$520 billion.

25 Senator Sullivan: I think there is no doubt that the

1 Congress and the BCA were part of the issue. But I do not
2 think that is what is driving that chart right there.

3 Mr. McKeon: Well, sir, in terms of the overall top
4 line, I think across the Department, every program has
5 suffered a little bit because of the BCA limits and we are
6 still staring at them out in the out-years of our current
7 FYDP. You all have given us a couple years of relief under
8 last year's agreement, but in 2018 to 2021, we have got \$100
9 billion in our program that is \$100 billion above the BCA
10 limits. So we are very worried about that in a broad sense.

11 Senator Sullivan: Some of us are as well too.

12 Mr. McKeon: Yes. No, I appreciate that.

13 Secondly, I would say we are not only thinking about
14 terminal defense of our ground-based midcourse systems or
15 THAAD, as we have talked about, we are looking at new
16 technologies and other capabilities militarily in addition
17 to missile defense to deal with the threat of missiles from
18 either North Korea or Iran. Some of that we would have to
19 talk to you in a different venue about.

20 And then the last thing on the procurement I would talk
21 about a little is MDA has different procurement authorities
22 to buy things faster than the services. Now, you could
23 obviously give the services acquisition authority for
24 missile defense that would speed things up if we were to
25 shift procurement to the services, but I think part of the

1 reason you see a lot of that procurement that MDA has done
2 is because they have got this faster acquisition authority
3 that was a demand signal from both the President and the
4 Congress.

5 Admiral Syring: Senator, I would just reiterate that
6 this is today, and we are into some very important concept
7 studies right now with directed energy in particular and the
8 importance of that demonstrator to get going to inform a
9 much wider, more expansive R&D program. That is one
10 example. MOKV, the multiple-object kill vehicle, is very
11 important for us to get through the next 12 months on
12 feasibility from the contractors, and then the R&D requests
13 will go up. There are things here on the technology side
14 that you will see come. The last one would be a space-based
15 system of some sort to help us with tracking and
16 discrimination worldwide.

17 There are R&D programs that are not shown here yet that
18 we will, through the Department, work and come forward with
19 as they compete with everything else in the Department. But
20 this is not the end. I do see the R&D requests for the
21 future of MDA ramping up once I am to the point of proposing
22 mature concepts that I know will deliver on time and within
23 the budget that we have.

24 And, sir, I think it is a shift for us in terms of --
25 Mr. Chairman, you made the point of deliver a capability

1 very fast with what we were given back in the 2000-2005 time
2 frame, and we did that. And they put interceptors into the
3 ground.

4 Today I do not -- and I endorse entirely the threat on
5 where it is going. At the same time, we as the program
6 executors must be very careful about just throwing money at
7 the problem and must be very deliberate on maturity of the
8 technology and the progression of the system engineering and
9 the architecture and the component testing and analysis that
10 supports a program before I bring it forward and ask for
11 billions of dollars. That is where we are at. And it is
12 not decades away, sir. It is in this FYDP that we will be
13 to the point to make the case to the Department and make the
14 case over here on the next technology in many of the areas
15 that we talked about.

16 Senator Sessions: All right. Well, thank you.

17 One more question on the airborne laser system. Will
18 you have sufficient money this year to do what you would
19 like to do with regard to advancing that program?

20 Admiral Syring: Sir, the request that we have on the
21 low-power laser demonstrator, if supported, will get us
22 started down that path to do a competition for that platform
23 in 2017. And then some partner will win. Two partners will
24 win. We will down-select one eventually, and we will get to
25 a flight in 2020 with a final demonstration in 2021.

1 Senator Sessions: All right.

2 Thank you very much. It has been an excellent
3 afternoon, and we value your insight and professionalism.
4 We are adjourned.

5 [Whereupon, at 4:07 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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