

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak about a few critical technologies which should be prioritized by the Committee in the Fiscal Year 2027 NDAA, and by the Department of War at large.

The United States faces a growing number of unique security threats. Our nation-state adversaries including China, Russia, and North Korea, are developing and producing hypersonic missiles or other advanced kinetic weaponry at a rate dangerous to the U.S. and our allies. These weapons, which move at speeds of Mach 5 or faster, can evade traditional interceptors and pose a direct threat to our Naval, Air, and Ground forces.

While the United States and the House of Representatives have prioritized next-generation missiles in recent NDAs and Appropriations bills, we should not lose focus or become complacent. To ensure America remains competitive, we must ensure our industrial base has the capacity and tools needed for developing these hypersonic weapons. We must provide funding for testing the missile bodies in wind tunnels designed to simulate Mach 5, or even Mach 8 speeds, and leverage real-world testing environments to ensure superior performance. I urge this Committee to continue pushing for expanded funding for wind tunnel testing, as well as the development and manufacturing of hypersonic missiles and hypersonic missile defense capabilities.

To support the manufacturing of next-generation interceptors and next-generation missiles, to include hypersonics, we must ensure that we have necessary technology to maintain our munition stockpiles. Additive manufacturing, including laser powder bed fusion technology, is a proven option to 3D print missile parts or munitions at a more efficient rate than traditional casting, becoming potentially more cost effective and bearing more product. As this committee evaluates acquisition reform and increasing our procurement of munitions, additive manufacturing should be considered a strong alternative.

To this point, The Department of War has completely reshaped how we support our warfighters through procurement, in addition to incentivizing private industry to innovate new technologies without necessarily an ironclad contract in front of them. As conflict continues in Ukraine, and various civil wars in Africa persist – Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear or CBRN warfare poses a current and future risk to our warfighters. The DoW and this Committee need to continue investing in CBRN detection equipment, especially with entities that have developed technology to allow military personnel to detect and engage with CBRN threats from a distance. Projects that research and develop detection capabilities to be mounted on drones or unmanned vehicles will take unnecessary risk out of the equation for our courageous warfighters.

The Department of War has identified 6 critical technology areas, including hypersonics and biomanufacturing. This is necessary progress, and I would love to see scaled advanced manufacturing as a future addition to this list.

I commend each of the committee members for the work they do in contribution to American national security. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I would be happy to work with the Committee to ensure these priorities are included in the 2027 NDAA.