

STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE

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**ON FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REQUEST FOR
MISSILE DEFENSE AND MISSILE DEFEAT PROGRAMS**

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Introduction

Chairman DesJarlais, Ranking Member Moulton, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, it is an honor to appear before you today on behalf of the nearly 12,500 men and women of the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC) and the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense (JFCC IMD) as it transitions to U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) Joint Task Force Gold (JTF-Gold). We are at the forefront of executing the National Defense Strategy's number one priority: the defense of the U.S. homeland. We safeguard the Nation and empower the joint force by providing lethal capability and trained and ready forces at the critical nexus of space, high-altitude, and air and missile defense.

Threat

Events over the last year clearly show our competitors are growing in capability and capacity, particularly in the areas of space and missile systems. In the forefront, ballistic missile threats will continue to increase in complexity, accuracy, and combat effectiveness. Competitors' ballistic missiles are more mobile, survivable, reliable, and accurate with longer ranges. Their developing hypersonic glide vehicles and increasing technical and operational countermeasures will challenge our current missile defense systems. Adversaries are fielding more advanced missiles in greater numbers to not only deter the U.S. from intervening in regional conflicts but also to target our homeland.

Our adversaries are also developing more advanced space systems while putting more of these systems on orbit. As advancements in numbers and capabilities grow in the areas of ISR, communications, navigation, C2, and missile warning satellites, they

also continue to develop counterspace capabilities to hold our critical space assets at risk. Continued Russian and Chinese research and development on electromagnetic warfare, directed energy, and kinetic weapons threaten our critical space assets and continue to advance. Iran and North Korea have both also demonstrated jamming capabilities, posing a challenge to militaries using space-enabled services.

As described in last years' National Security Strategy and the recently released National Defense Strategy, these growing adversary capabilities—in both the missile and space realms—threaten the United States' vital national interests and the greater interests of the American people.

Warfighting Team

To meet those threats, USASMDC has long continued to evolve, pioneering new capabilities and creating new advantages. Our command operates under the vision of ONE TEAM!—that achieves our shared objectives via collaboration, feedback, assessment, and smart adaptation to continue demonstrating value, accomplishing our mission as ONE TEAM of empowered, innovative, ready, and resilient professionals; providing trained and ready forces for space and missile defense missions; and integrating new and existing space, missile defense, and high-altitude capabilities to create all-domain advantages for the Army, the joint force, and our Nation.

We are a multifaceted, multi-component warfighting team comprised of two Army air and missile defense commands, the Army's only space brigade, a forward-looking Technical Center, and our Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence (CoE). We are globally synchronized to provide indispensable space and missile defense capabilities with an incredibly effective synergy between our operational forces and our

institutional capabilities. Our team facilitates access to vital space-based resources, advances cutting-edge technology, expands space interdiction capabilities, and defends the Nation against aerial threats.

The Mission

USASMDC serves as a warfighting headquarters that provides ready combat forces to deter aggression, defend the homeland against aerial threats, and dominate land operations. We leverage continuous transformation to develop and deliver integrated space, missile defense, and high-altitude capabilities that improve mobility and lethality.

Our mission is twofold between what we do operationally as a warfighting command today and what we build institutionally as we prepare for tomorrow. Operationally, our no-fail mission is defending the homeland as the Army's command responsible for defending the U.S. from air and missile attack. We do that through the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, which protects against long-range ballistic missiles, and through JTF-Gold in support of next generation missile defense architecture. We also provide global warfighting forces through our assigned operational space and air defense forces: the globally-deployable 32d AAMDC; the 263rd AAMDC, focused on the National Capital Region and homeland defense; and the 1st Space Brigade. All of these units provide unique, high-demand capabilities to combatant commanders worldwide. Institutionally, we define the requirements for the future force as our CoE determines what the Army's future space and missile defense Soldiers and units need to win, writing the concepts and defining the requirements for new equipment, organizations, and training. Our CoE also leads our Space and Missile Defense School. The Space and

Missile Defense School develops a cadre of skilled space and missile defense professionals for the Army, Joint, and Allied forces. It graduates expert operators and planners who are prepared to secure the high ground and support the warfighter in multi-domain operations. We also develop and test new technologies through our Technical Center, which is the Army's engine for innovation in this field. They develop, test, and prototype the next generation of space, high-altitude, and missile defense technologies to ensure our Soldiers maintain overmatch. USASMDC also provides support to space research and exploration via our NASA detachment of Army astronauts and space operations officers detailed to the Johnson Space Center, providing critical expertise and leadership to their human spaceflight program.

Our unique synergy between our operational and institutional arms allows us to field cutting-edge technology directly into the hands of Soldiers and gain direct, near-immediate feedback, allowing the delivery of prototypes and capabilities as quickly as possible. This is true transformation in contact, which ensures our Soldiers have the critical equipment they need, when they need it, with maximum functionality, and with plenty of opportunities for feedback along the way.

Combatant Command Support and Roles

As the ASCC to USSPACECOM, we are the Army's primary force provider for space operations, preparing and delivering trained and ready space professionals to the joint force, principally via our 1st Space Brigade. We also provide friendly force tracking and space control electronic warfare (SCEW) and contribute to space domain awareness.

As the ASCC to USNORTHCOM for air and missile defense (AMD), our no-fail mission is the direct defense of the U.S. homeland. Through our 100th Missile Defense Brigade, we provide the Nation's primary capability to defend against intercontinental ballistic missile attacks. USASMDC also provides USNORTHCOM with expert planning and real-time situational awareness. The recent assignment of the 32d and 263rd AAMDCs represents the most significant transformation in our command's history. While we have always managed specialized brigades, the command and control of two division-level warfighting formations requires a headquarters purpose-built for a new scale of operational planning and sustainment, and we are working tirelessly to grow into this new role.

As the ASCC to USSTRATCOM, we provide critical reach-back support to the Headquarters Department of the Army and Army subject matter experts in areas such as long-range hypersonic weapons. This support ensures seamless integration and expertise in advanced defense technologies and strategic operations. Furthermore, USASMDC's Ronald Reagan Space and Missile Test Range supports the developmental and operational tests of both current and future strategic weapons, such as the Sentinel ICBM program.

I am also the Army's integrated air and missile defense Enterprise Integrator and the senior commander for Fort Greely, Alaska, in close coordination with U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

This past year, through Continuous Transformation, the responsibilities of our organization have grown exponentially, ranging from an increased role in the defense of our homeland to transforming into a warfighting headquarters. The threat landscape

continues to evolve and as part of the Army Continuous Transformation, we continue to transform into a more lethal force, capable of dominating on an ever-changing battlefield.

Globally Postured Forces

To execute this critical mission, our command is composed of several key formations:

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, an Army National Guard organization from Anderson, South Carolina, is integral to our global posture. They function as the deputy area air defense commander for 1st Air Force and USNORTHCOM. Its elements deploy to USNORTHCOM's area of operation, conducting joint and combined theater air and missile defense to support designated operations. They have Soldiers protecting the National Capital Region, as well as those "deployed in place" as part of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, which operates the ground-based midcourse defense system.

The 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, headquartered at Ft. Bliss, Texas, is a theater-level, multi-component organization. As an echelon-above-corps unit, the 32d AAMDC plans, coordinates, and executes joint air and missile defense operations and serves as a global force provider. It commands four subordinate air defense artillery brigades, representing a significant portion of our Nation's theater air and missile defense capacity.

The 1st Space Brigade, the Army's only space brigade, is the cornerstone of our effort to ensure the warfighter's freedom of action in the space domain. The brigade's professionals provide the space-based capabilities that enable our forces to shoot,

move, and communicate with precision and reliability. Their mission includes integrating space operations, space interdiction, and electronic warfare and conducting space control planning in support of combatant command priorities.

The Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence serves as our architect for the future force. It designs, develops, and delivers global space, high altitude, and strategic missile defense capabilities. The CoE is also charged with training and educating Army space and missile defense forces, managing our specialized space operations officers (FA40), and conducting the critical studies, analysis, and modeling that inform our command's core missions. The CoE is also vital for the development of force structure to include the space companies inside the multi-domain commands; the space support elements in the theaters, corps, and divisions; the soon-to-be-stood-up Theater Strike Effects Group in USARPAC.

After a total review of the Army, only two functional areas were identified for growth and one of the two was Army space operations, which has led to the creation of the 40D Tactical Space Operations Specialist MOS and the plan for a dedicated Army Space Operations Branch. These efforts will increase the depth of space knowledge and operational impact across the total Army force to include the Reserves, National Guard, and Active Component and will ensure our Soldiers have the career support and leadership path needed to succeed both personally and professionally.

USASMDC's Technical Center, as part of the Army science and technology enterprise, supports the total force and enables multi-domain lethality—focusing on the essential tasks of research and development as well as test and evaluation. They drive

some of our most important sectors of expertise in directed energy, hypersonic defeat, and multi-domain non-kinetic effects.

On Kwajalein Atoll, USASMDC manages the Ronald Reagan Space and Missile Test Range through its Technical Center. For decades now, this uniquely situated complex has proven itself as key terrain for operational testing of strategic capability, developmental testing of defensive systems, space domain awareness, satellite characterization, hypersonic missile defense testing, and multi-domain training.

Joint Task Force-Gold

Operating under the authority of USNORTHCOM and co-located with the USASMDC at Peterson Space Force Base, JTF-Gold represents a unified front. We bring together our Nation's finest Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guardians, and dedicated Department of War civilians into an integrated team dedicated to homeland defense against the full spectrum of aerial threats—be they ballistic, cruise, or hypersonic.

As the JTF-Gold Commander, I am responsible for the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy (DOTMLPF-P) integration of the Nation's next generation missile defense architecture, supporting our area air defense commander, USNORTHCOM, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Our core function is to weave together the intricate web of sensors, interceptors, and command-and-control systems into a cohesive, layered defense and synchronize them across the vast and complex homeland defense battlespace. However, JTF-Gold is also ready to do the indispensable heavy lifting of executing the logistics, sustainment, site engineering, and coordination with site stakeholders.

JTF-Gold is in a constant state of vigilance, conducting detailed planning, rigorous analysis, and continuous activities that are necessary to ensure the seamless function of our missile defense enterprise. This task force ensures that every component of this architecture—from sensor to shooter—operates not as a collection of individual parts, but as a single, synchronized system-of-systems.

The synergy between USASMDC linked together with JTF-Gold is a force multiplier. By leveraging USASMDC's deep institutional expertise and established infrastructure, JTF-Gold can ensure that emerging, next-generation capabilities are not developed in a vacuum but directly aligned with the operational realities and urgent requirements of the joint warfighter, ensuring they are effective upon delivery.

Conclusion

Esteemed members of this committee, everything we do at USASMDC and JTF-Gold is on behalf of the American people. Our global team—comprised of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guardians, and dedicated civilians—is committed to the vital mission of protecting our homeland. They and their families make incredible sacrifices to ensure our Nation's safety.

Guided by my priority to transform this command into the warfighting headquarters the Nation requires, we are aggressively transitioning to take on our new, no-fail missions, pioneer new defense technology, advance our capabilities and capacity, and continue to secure the homeland. The aerial threat is evolving, and with the support of Congress, we are postured not just to meet it but to defeat it.