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Opening Statement (As Prepared)
Chairman Donald Norcross
Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces:
*"Markup of H.R. 7900 - National Defense Authorization
Act for Fiscal Year 2023"*
June 9, 2022

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Welcome everyone to this Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee markup of H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

I want to start by once again thanking our Ranking Member, Mrs. Hartzler, and her staff for their bipartisan cooperation in building this subcommittee mark. The long-standing bipartisan tradition of this subcommittee is always something in which we can take pride.

Our purpose this morning is consideration of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee's recommended legislative provisions and directive report language for adoption and referral to the full committee, subject to amendment.

To inform our markup today, the subcommittee has focused throughout the year on:

- Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps tactical strike-fighter aircraft programs to reduce operational risk, remedy aircraft performance deficiencies, and support a sufficient capability and capacity to meet current and future requirements.
- Continued attention to the Department's manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft and how we are meeting Combatant Command requirements for these systems.
- Continued oversight of the Army's ambitious modernization strategy and the Marine Corps' new force design with its supporting modernization priorities.
- Noteworthy this year is that we've made real progress in our oversight of modernization and safety in the nation's conventional ammunition industrial base — an area of particular emphasis for Ranking Member Hartzler and myself.

And, of course, this recommendation addresses many other policies and programs of subcommittee and Member interest.

The recommendations before the subcommittee carefully manage how we equip and modernize our land and air forces, reduce risk in our defense industrial base, and increase needed oversight of large, complex, and expensive development and acquisition

programs.

An issue of great concern this year is the impact of inflation on the buying power of the military across its readiness and modernization programs.

As with every budget request, the Department of Defense must make an economic assumption and try to account for inflation among its programs.

We know, however, that inflation does not impact the aviation, automotive, telecommunication, munitions, or any other industrial sector the same.

The Department has built its request using assumptions based on years of experience — but this year is going to be a challenge.

Just the same, it is up to Congress to exercise independent judgment regarding the risk of inflation as it relates to this budget request and, therefore, risk to our national security.

This discussion about the impact of inflation on our consideration of the budget request will come up again during our full committee markup of this bill and report. I look forward to Members sharing views on this.

Finally, I want to thank our subcommittee staff for their hard work: PSMs Bill Sutey, Heath Bope, Carla Zeppieri, Liz Griffin, Kelly Repair, and our Clerk, Payson Ruhl.

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