

# OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

## INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The complexity of the current threat environment will continue to encompass a range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues.

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including title 10 (Armed Forces), title 32 (National Guard), title 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), title 41 (Public Contracts), title 42 (Atomic Energy), title 46 (Shipping), and title 50 (War and National Defense).

The jurisdiction of the committee, pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force reservations and establishments.
2. Common defense generally.
3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy, and State Merchant Marine Academies.
7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force.

14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.
15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.
16. Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction and general oversight function, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools pursuant to clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

## OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the individual military service secretaries and chiefs of staff; combatant commanders; other officials of the Department of Defense and the military departments; officials from the intelligence community; and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and other officials of the Department of Energy. To conduct such oversight and threat assessment, the committee will invite a diverse range of views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Further, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek a wide perspective of views of service members and their families to include Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. The committee will continue to conduct robust oversight, investigate matters, and address inequities within the jurisdiction of the committee. Certain issues and activities will require more extensive review. Investigatory work that may support the oversight responsibilities of standing subcommittees will be conducted in a coordinated manner. Each subcommittee will conduct oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction in accordance with the committee's rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The oversight agenda, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill, as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 117th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies. In this context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will continue to emphasize the examination of relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting the Department

of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices. To this end, the committee will provide oversight of issues of inequities, including systemic challenges to diversity and inclusion and equitable access to resources to achieve national defense goals.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the Armed Forces, the committee believes that a qualifier is once again necessary with regard to the ability to plan comprehensively and predict all oversight activities. Much of the committee's most demanding oversight will be, by definition, event-driven and not subject to prior planning. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the committee's entire oversight agenda. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into legislative action. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

In addition to the above, the following specific areas and subjects are identified for special attention during the 117th Congress.

## POLICY ISSUES

### National Defense Strategy, National Military Strategy, and Related Defense Policy Issues

The committee will monitor how the Department of Defense addresses complex security demands through the formulation and implementation of the National Defense Strategy, the National Military Strategy, and other strategic guidance. The committee will evaluate how the Department identifies and prioritizes strategic objectives toward meeting those demands and how it applies resources toward achieving its prioritized objectives. The committee will conduct oversight regarding vital Department of Defense capacities and functions, including readiness, doctrinal development, planning, organization, training and exercises, education, materiel inventories, production, facilities, leadership, and personnel, are appropriately aligned to support strategic requirements. In its oversight, the committee will take a comprehensive approach to evaluating the strategic risks confronting the United States and to assessing the factors that compound or amplify strategic risks as well as the factors that contain or reduce them. The committee will examine the assumptions inherent to the Department's strategic guidance and planning for balancing strategic risk and for matching resources with strategic objectives. The committee will evaluate ongoing operational demands within the context of a broad strategic framework as well as how those operational demands will affect the strategic risks associated with future challenges. The committee will also endeavor to reinforce the civil-military balance in the Department's formulation and implementation of strategy and national defense policy.

### Deterrence

The committee recognizes that U.S. defense posture must effectively deter actors posing strategic challenges to the United States, its allies, and partners. In particular, the committee will focus on efforts to ensure that the United States, in concert with allies and partners, is properly postured and pursuing appropriate policies to deter military threats and to counter efforts by such actors to weaken our shared values, undermine our systems of government, threaten international norms, and disrupt the cohesion of our alliances and partnerships.

The committee will continue to oversee the Department's global efforts to bolster military deterrence against Russian aggression and malign activity. This will include oversight of a range of posture, force structure, force readiness initiatives, and other efforts aimed at achieving and maintaining an effective, sustained deterrent posture against Russian hostility; measures to enhance cohesion of U.S. alliances and partnerships; and efforts to support the ability to respond to attempts to undermine U.S. values and democratic norms. At the same time, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure that concerns about strategic

stability, miscalculation, and misunderstanding are properly accounted for as a component of deterrence against Russia.

China continues its efforts to modernize its military, leverage its influence, and undermine the rules-based international order. China frequently employs its capabilities in a manner that erodes security norms and increases the risk of conflict, particularly in the South China Sea, East China Sea, and along the border with India. The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Department's response to China's activities, including its efforts to invest in its military forces and extend its reach. At the same time, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Department of Defense's military posture, force structure, and force readiness efforts, and plans to enhance capabilities, forward presence, posture, logistics, and training and exercises to deter and counter acts of aggression and protect vital U.S. and ally and partner interests.

North Korea continues to pose a threat to the Korean Peninsula, the United States, U.S. forces, allies, and partners in East Asia. North Korea continues to advance its weapons programs, including its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile capabilities. As such, with respect to East Asia, the committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and force readiness initiatives; infrastructure and force realignments, including agreements with regional allies; and bilateral and multilateral training and exercises.

The Government of Iran continues to conduct destabilizing activities in the Middle East region that pose challenges to the United States, its allies, and partners. The committee will conduct oversight to determine how the Department plans to deter Iran's malign activities without escalating toward conflict and pursue a sustainable regional posture and partner engagement in accordance with the Department's global priorities.

Alliances and partnerships are essential to advance U.S. national security objectives, promote global security, preserve regional stability, deter adversaries, uphold and strengthen shared values, and address common security challenges. The committee will conduct oversight of Department of Defense activities related to enduring alliances, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other ongoing partnerships to ensure that they are supported and utilized in a manner that enhances these goals. The committee will continue to oversee and, where appropriate, encourage the Department of Defense's efforts to strengthen its partnerships and cooperative efforts to ensure global stability and security.

### *Strategic Deterrence*

With regard to strategic deterrence, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of nuclear deterrence policy and posture. This oversight will include examining adversaries nuclear developments; the role of nuclear weapons and purpose of nuclear deterrence; options, such as arms control, to reduce the risk of miscalculation that could lead to nuclear war in a crisis and reduce the risk of a

nuclear arms race or a lowered threshold to nuclear weapons use; options to maintain credible nuclear extended deterrence; and the impact of proposed new nuclear weapons capabilities and policies on regional and strategic stability and on deterring adversaries.

The committee will also conduct oversight of issues both within the space, conventional prompt strike, and missile defense portfolios that contribute to strategic deterrence, particularly in regards to alignment of acquisition objectives within the military services, Missile Defense Agency, and Space Development Agency, with any potential impacts to strategic deterrent policies and priorities of the Department of Defense.

### Irregular Warfare, Emerging Threats, and Countering Violent Extremist Organizations

The committee will conduct oversight as the Department of Defense addresses irregular threats in concert with other Government agencies. Malign actors employ both military and non-military means to accomplish their strategic national objectives. Hybrid warfare tactics applied across the spectrum of conflict by threat actors undermine the national security interests of the United States, our allies, and our partners.

During the 117th Congress, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the posture and policies of the Department are properly structured, resourced, and aligned to effectively deter acts of terror and counter violent extremist organizations that threaten the United States, its allies, and partners. This includes examining the planning for and execution of counterterrorism operations, efforts to strengthen the capabilities and practices employed by partners and allies to counter such violence, and the detention policy related to counterterrorism activities undertaken by the Department. The committee will also conduct rigorous oversight of unique operational authorities to enable operations to deter violent extremist activity and counter irregular efforts by certain adversaries.

The committee recognizes that countering violent ideology spread by al-Qaida, ISIS, and other extremist groups requires a coordinated interagency and international approach. The committee will examine the role of the Department of Defense in addressing this challenge alongside other U.S. departments and agencies and foreign partners.

U.S. and coalition forces continue to conduct operations against the ISIS as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. The committee will continue to assess the sufficiency of authorities, resources, equipment, basing, and personnel to support the Operation Inherent Resolve missions and policy objectives. The committee will maintain congressional oversight of the effectiveness of the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip programs and any additional follow-on programs.

The committee appreciates the complexity of the security landscape in Iraq and the Syria. The committee will examine the presence and influence exerted by

external actors in Syria and U.S. objectives in the region regarding ISIS, regional security, and stability.

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan with a focus on the security situation, the posture of deployed U.S. forces, the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces, and U.S. objectives in Afghanistan as well as the region. The committee will continue its oversight activities on the U.S.-led Operation Freedom's Sentinel counterterrorism mission and any changes to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Resolute Support Mission train, advise, and assist mission based on the reduction of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Additionally, the committee will examine the regional security environment with a focus on Pakistan and the Central Asian states.

Further, the committee will oversee implementation of provisions relating to reducing civilian casualties included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) and the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) and examine ways to further reduce civilian casualties resulting from military operations.

The committee will also continue to examine the legal basis for the President's military actions against ISIS, other terrorist groups, and regional actors. The committee will examine the President's use of aspects of the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40) and the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243) relevant to its jurisdiction.

Additionally, committee oversight will include limited authorities provided to the Department to support to foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals engaged in supporting or facilitating ongoing irregular warfare operations by U.S. Special Operations Forces. The committee will examine the prudent and appropriate use of this limited authority as well as scrutinize related operational authorities.

Further, the committee will conduct rigorous oversight of sensitive military operations outside of the United States to ensure that sensitive military operations conducted outside of the United States and outside of Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan are in line with national security strategy and policy, as well as supported and coordinated as appropriate with interagency partners.

The committee will also evaluate special operations forces current and future force posture and deployment cycles, training programs, and capability modernization efforts to ensure platform efficacy in semi- and non-permissive environments in order to better understand how special operations forces will compete in future threat environments.

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of military operations in the information environment, including oversight of U.S. Special Operations Command, which maintains responsibility to develop and train military information support operations personnel and activities, across all mediums, including cyberspace. Such oversight will include legal, operational, and funding authorities.

The committee will also examine ways to strengthen interagency collaboration and cohesion for effective strategic communications in support of U.S. national security.

In addition to maintaining oversight of the authorities and activities related to the conduct of irregular warfare by special operations forces, the committee will also conduct rigorous oversight related to the culture and climate of special operations. Following two decades of regular application of special operations forces to execute myriad number of global missions, the committee is aware of the psychological and physical toll on the operator and impacts on morale. The committee will conduct oversight over any potential gaps or deficiencies in the ability of the Command to create a healthy, sustainable, and professional force.

The committee will continue to monitor the progress made by U.S. Special Operations Command to ensure a force representative of the gender, racial, and religious fabric of the United States. The committee will also focus on the steps taken to ensure the integration of women into previously closed positions of special operations forces and assess the sufficiency of these efforts to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all members of special operations forces.

#### Defense Industrial Base, Critical Technology, and National Security Information

The committee will continue oversight of the health and resiliency of the defense industrial base. The committee will pay particular attention to sectors of the industrial base that involve emerging and critical technologies. Committee oversight will ensure that the Department is responsibly using its authorities to develop, acquire, field, and sustain cutting-edge solutions, including from nontraditional defense contractors. The committee will utilize recent industrial base assessments and the experience responding to COVID-19 to identify and mitigate risks, and to encourage the Department to build on successful acquisition approaches.

The committee will review the Department's strategic approach to protecting national security information in executing the expansion of the capacity and capability of the defense industrial base. The committee will also continue oversight of the Department's efforts to protect critical technology and national security information while maintaining respect for civil liberties and a robust research environment. Further, the committee will oversee efforts to develop a strong science and technology workforce, including emphasis on innovation, science, technology, engineering, and math in academia.

The committee will examine the Department's efforts to improve cybersecurity standards, to ensure compliance with those standards by all stakeholders in the defense industrial base, and to neutralize counterintelligence threats. The committee will also oversee cybersecurity and supply chain security initiatives.

In each of these lines of oversight, the committee will emphasize the importance of collaboration with allies and partners.

#### Organization and Management of the Department of Defense

The committee will review the organization of the Department of Defense and oversee its management. The committee will: carefully review organizational changes, work to enhance organizational performance and to promote efficient and cost-effective practices throughout the Department of Defense enterprise, work to enable specific Department of Defense mission sets and to ensure that they are optimally aligned within the Department's organizational structure, and apply strict managerial accountability standards to the Department's leadership. In overseeing the Department's organization and management, the committee will endeavor to preserve and enhance the Department's civil-military balance.

### Financial Management

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness and fiscal responsibility in a dynamic budgeting environment. With the expiration of the discretionary spending caps found in Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), as modified by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-23) and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-37), the committee confronts an environment of increased fiscal uncertainty, with concomitant challenges for budgetary and programmatic oversight.

The Comptroller General of the United States has consistently identified the Department of Defense's financial management as a high-risk area since 1995. The Department of Defense has made some progress in modernizing its financial management capabilities, but arcane and obsolete financial management systems and processes continue to struggle with the immense task of tracking and accounting for Department assets. The management of that challenge, and the financial management systems, organizations, and processes that are tasked to address it, requires significant and sustained congressional oversight.

The committee will continue to review efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan, as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84). The Inspector General of the Department of Defense conducted the first agency-wide financial audit of the Department in fiscal year 2018, and has continued to conduct such audits annually. The Department has shown steady progress in identifying and addressing challenges to its goal of an unmodified audit opinion, but remediation and corrective actions continue to require a high level of senior leadership attention and oversight, both from Congress and the Department. The committee will continue to oversee the Department's efforts to achieve an unmodified audit opinion, including corrective actions and process improvements.

The committee will monitor the interdependencies between the FIAR plan and investments in business and financial systems modernization programs as the Department works to correct the weaknesses in its financial statements. Both the Department and Congress depend on the objective tools provided by proper financial management processes and statements in order to make informed decisions.

## Homeland Defense

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the missions and capabilities of U.S. Northern Command and the Department of Defense's Homeland Defense and Global Security directorate. The committee will review and conduct oversight with regard to integration into response planning and exercises and requests for support from other departments, to include the costs and implications to the military readiness of those requests. The committee will also review Defense Support of Civil Authorities and the execution of the Department's policies and procedures. The committee will continue to review the Department's support to civilian law enforcement, the COVID-19 pandemic fight, and domestic relief operations.

## Acquisition

The committee will continue efforts to improve the efficiency, flexibility, and streamlining of the Department of Defense acquisition system to support a more responsive and resilient approach to national security. In undertaking this effort, the committee will solicit diverse input from the Department and other outside experts. Through its oversight function, the committee will monitor the efforts of the Department to implement statutory changes and recommendations of commissioned reports. The committee will also continue to ensure equity, integrity, transparency, and accountability in the acquisition process.

The committee will oversee efforts to lower barriers to enhance the Department's ability to take advantage of innovative technologies, leverage efficiency through data analytics, meet demands by scaling to need, and partner with a wide range of businesses, including small, medium, and small disadvantaged firms. The committee will oversee efforts to address the need to attract, inspire, and retain a highly-skilled acquisition workforce, including professionals with the experience and ability to recognize the benefit of new technology capabilities. The committee will also examine the policies related to industrial base incentives, including for infrastructure improvements and participation in the Department's supply chain. Finally, the committee will also oversee the Department's efforts to leverage its buying power to advance national security sustainably.

## Intelligence

The committee recognizes the threats presented by our competitors, primarily China and Russia, but also Iran and North Korea, through activities in the gray zone. These activities include malign influence campaigns, active measures, economic espionage, and political coercion; which occur below the threshold of armed conflict and yet can realize strategic effects.

The committee will examine how the Defense Intelligence Enterprise (DIE) is postured to analyze and address these new and trending threats, while balancing intelligence support to established National Defense Strategy priority challenges

and ongoing counterterrorism operations. The committee is particularly interested in how the DIE is countering disinformation and false narratives from our adversaries and competitors. The committee will assess the extent to which the DIE has adopted policies and procedures to more rapidly assemble and release focused intelligence to expose malign behaviors, particularly as unclassified data injected into the public domain.

The committee will scrutinize current and planned modernization activities, including developments in machine learning and artificial intelligence across the Defense Intelligence Enterprise as a means to create current, informed foundational intelligence to support military operations and advanced weapons systems, including an examination of the strategy and plans for Project Maven and MARS. As the Defense Intelligence Enterprise increasingly relies on commercially available data, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure that any acquisition, storage, or use of U.S. sourced data does not infringe on Fourth Amendment rights of U.S. persons.

Additionally, the committee will conduct rigorous oversight of the roles and responsibilities of the security arm of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, including an examination of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency's priority missions: counterintelligence; protecting critical technology; personnel vetting; and insider threat management. The committee will probe the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency on Trusted Workforce 2.0 and the personnel security clearance vetting process. The committee also looks forward to the results of the ongoing Government Accountability Office's review of Personnel Vetting Reform.

In addition to conducting oversight of intelligence capabilities, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure the Defense Intelligence Enterprise recruits, retains, and develops the best and brightest workforce from all segments of our society. Policies that promote diversity and inclusion are paramount to ensuring that the Defense Intelligence Enterprise is able to attract the broadest base of talent to solve the most complex challenges. The committee looks forward to understanding what the various components of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise are doing to ensure diversity of thought at all levels and throughout the enterprise.

Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of title 10, U.S. Code, and Department of Defense title 50, U.S. Code, activities in accordance with the committee's jurisdiction. The committee will continue to coordinate as appropriate with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on matters related to Department of Defense intelligence and counterintelligence activities in the course of oversight and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

### *Information Operations*

In addition to presenting challenges to U.S. national security, the global information environment provides an opportunity to gain an advantage in military

planning and operations, as well as to achieve strategic U.S. objectives through a whole-of-government approach.

Information is crucial to military operations as the global information environment continues to evolve and grow. Both state and non-state actors seek to exploit this domain and spread disinformation to sow discord in our society and undermine confidence in democratic institutions, including the political process, the press, and other foundational societal structures, including the U.S. military.

In the 117th Congress, the committee will focus oversight on legislation established by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) and the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), which expanded the strategic activities and established leadership regarding information operations. The establishment of a Principal Information Operations Advisor to act as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all aspects of information operations and the requirement that service members receive training on the danger of disinformation are critical areas of evolution as the Department of Defense continues efforts to develop an updated comprehensive strategy for successful operations in the information environment.

The committee will continue to examine the Department's initiatives to strengthen interagency collaboration and cohesion for effective information operations to support the United States' military and strategic objectives. Also, the committee intends to pursue complementary lines of oversight effort outlined in additional sections.

## READINESS

### Maintenance and Training

The military services are developing new operational concepts and seeking to invest in modernization, replacing legacy weapon systems with next generation capabilities. As they do this, the committee will focus on how legacy platforms are being sustained through their retirement, how training requirements are changing to support new capabilities entering the force, and how the sustainment infrastructure and enterprise will be postured to support these next generation weapon systems and capabilities.

The committee will conduct oversight of Navy shipyard maintenance availabilities to ensure they are performed on budget and schedule; Army force generation and large-scale training exercises; Marine Corps amphibious training; and aircraft sustainment and training across the military services. The committee also recognizes the importance of training for the broad range of future missions the military may face, from gray-zone conflict to high-intensity conflict. The committee will conduct oversight of how the military services adapt training concepts, maintenance plans, and analytical tools to ensure personnel and equipment are adequately prepared to meet these threats.

Finally, the committee notes the importance of prioritizing long-term readiness and believes that it can be best achieved by emphasizing the training on and maintenance and sustainment of weapon systems that the Department has already made substantial investments in developing and procuring. To that end, the committee will examine the Department's investments to support training and sustainment of existing weapon systems and how their actual availability and mission capability rates compare to service requirements.

### Logistics

The Department of Defense continues its efforts to implement the National Defense Strategy, adjust force structure and posture concepts, and invest in modernization of the force. The committee remains concerned with the perceived lack of focus within the Department on the capabilities and capacity of the current logistics enterprise required to project and sustain a military force in a contested security environment. These concerns will only be exacerbated as the Department moves toward a more distributed force posture concept, especially in regions such as the Indo-Pacific. To this end, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department's efforts toward contested logistics, including: capability, capacity, and readiness of strategic airlift and surge sealift; capability, capacity, and readiness of tactical airlift and sealift; contested logistic aware weapon systems development and procurement; procurement, storage, transportation, and distribution of fuel; prepositioning of equipment and supplies in forward locations; locations and infrastructure to support permanent, rotational, and surge forces; and maintenance and repair capabilities for equipment and weapon systems.

## Life-Cycle Sustainment

The committee will focus on the Department's initiatives to reduce the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment while ensuring the Department is appropriately considering life-cycle support and sustainment requirements when it develops acquisition strategies for each program. The committee will also hold the Department accountable for improving its estimates of total weapon system life-cycle costs to better inform sustainment strategies. Finally, the committee will continue to monitor the military services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations, and will also monitor progress toward reconstitution of prepositioned stocks.

## Organic Industrial Base

Our Nation's organic industrial base is vital to achieving and maintaining warfighting readiness across all domains. The military services' arsenals, depots, air logistics complexes, and shipyards provide long-term sustainment through programmed maintenance and conduct repair and modernization upgrades. These facilities and their skilled workforces provide a national-level insurance policy against unforeseen strategic contingencies. The committee is concerned about the current state and future health of the organic industrial base as a result of an extended period of fiscal uncertainty, increasing maintenance and sustainment requirements, workforce attrition and recruiting challenges, and an emphasis on modernization initiatives at the expense of investments in maintaining legacy weapon systems.

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the extent to which the Department's organic industrial base is viably positioned for long-term sustainability and possesses the workforce and technologies needed for efficient operations to meet the Nation's current and future requirements. This will include oversight of how the military services plan to recruit, train, support, and retain the future industrial base workforce. In addition, the committee will conduct oversight into the use of new technologies such as additive manufacturing, predictive maintenance, robotics, and artificial intelligence as pathways to improve maintenance activities, management of spares inventory, and supply chain operations. The committee will also continue oversight of depot, arsenal, and shipyard operations and management, the use of performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, and the military services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems.

The committee will continue its work to oversee funded but unfinished maintenance work (carryover) in order to improve workload planning and incentivize sound depot management. The committee will also conduct oversight of the Department's investments in the organic industrial base to ensure they continue to maintain a level of capability to meet the needs of the Armed Forces. Finally, the committee will ensure that the military services are funding and

implementing infrastructure optimization plans to improve operations and modernize aging infrastructure at the depots, arsenals, and shipyards.

## Civilian Personnel

The Federal civilian workforce of the Department of Defense plays a critical role in advancing national security, contributes unique skillsets to the Department's mission, and serves as a force multiplier for the uniformed military force. The Department employs more Federal civilians than any other Federal agency and these personnel perform disparate and essential missions across the globe. The committee will focus on providing the Department with the proper tools to invest in and support a strong civilian workforce that contributes effectively to the success of the Department's mission.

The majority of Department of Defense civilian personnel policies are governed by requirements set forth in title 5 of the U.S. Code and corresponding regulations under the purview of the Office of Personnel Management. Although the Committee on Armed Services does not have jurisdiction over title 5 of the U.S. Code, it has in recent years provided numerous extraordinary hiring and management authorities tailored to specific segments of the Department of Defense civilian workforce. Many of these authorities are temporary and will expire in the next few years. The committee will conduct oversight to evaluate the effectiveness of these authorities and to ensure that they are used appropriately and comply with merit-based competitive personnel policies.

The Department meets its manpower requirements through a mix of military, civilian, and contractor personnel. It is critical for the Department to ensure the appropriate mix of different types of employees to provide flexibility, continuity, and a base of talent across the force. The committee will ensure that the Department assesses the impact of any potential reductions to the civilian workforce on cost, operational effectiveness, borrowed military manpower, workload, lethality, and readiness. The committee will also conduct oversight of the Department's efforts to promote a civilian workforce that reflects the diverse population of the United States. Further, the committee will carefully examine the use of contractors within the Department and ensure that the Department improves its data collection on the use of contractors and the associated costs to the taxpayer.

Finally, the committee will continue its oversight of the timeliness, quality, and cost of processing Federal security clearance applications and of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency's transition to government-wide continuous vetting to ensure the trustworthiness of clearance-holders.

## Energy and Environment

Energy is a key readiness enabler for the Department of Defense. Energy resilient installations and increased efficiency provide cost savings and guard against mission failure. A robust operational energy program enhances operational effectiveness of the military and improves our national security posture through the

mitigation logistics challenges in contested environments. Therefore, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department and military services' efforts to address resiliency gaps and improve energy efficiency on military installations and for military operations.

In addition, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department and military services' environmental management. The committee believes more attention is required to monitor the Department's efforts to address the impacts of climate change on training and installation resilience. The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Department's efforts with respect to emerging contaminants including adherence to Federal, state, and local compliance requirements and the phase-out of per- and polyfluoroalkyl compound-containing fire-fighting agents. The committee will continue to provide oversight of the military services' efforts to remediate existing contamination both on and off Federal lands with particular attention paid to locations where contamination may be affecting local populations. Additionally, the committee will oversee Department efforts to leverage technological innovation and implementation of best practices to minimize adverse environmental impacts and thereby reduce future cleanup costs. The committee intends to continue to monitor activities of the Department to ensure that military training is in full compliance with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws.

#### Military Construction, Facilities Sustainment, and Real Property Management

The committee will review the Department of Defense's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and to ensure prudent long-term military construction investments that are resilient to natural and man-made threats. The committee will also oversee the Department's investments in facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization, as well as the Department's utilization of authorities such as emergency and contingency construction. The committee will continue to oversee the execution and implementation of requirements from the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) and the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) that will enhance installation resiliency and increase transparency.

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain over \$750.0 billion in infrastructure. The committee is concerned that continued poor requirements development, and inadequate planning and design result in poorly coordinated investment decisions and sub-optimal facility construction. The committee will provide increased oversight of investments made outside of the United States and its territories. The committee will seek to apply best practices across the Department of Defense to efficiently develop and maintain the military services' ranges, facilities, and infrastructure.

#### Housing for Military Families and Unaccompanied Service Members

The committee will continue to provide increased oversight of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) program. The committee will monitor the execution and implementation of requirements from the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) and the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) that reformed the MHPI program. In particular, the committee will monitor investments related to maintenance and sustainment of housing developments, the financial health of individual projects, communication with tenants, and ensure that best practices are being uniformly adopted to ensure that housing is free of environmental hazards.

The committee is concerned about chronic under-investment in unaccompanied service-member housing. Accordingly, the committee will conduct increased oversight of the investments in sustainment and restoration of existing unaccompanied housing as well as the replacement of facilities that are no longer viable.

## MILITARY PERSONNEL AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

### Military Manpower and Force Structure

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue to assess the military's manpower requirements to meet its current and future global military commitments. Specifically, the committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels, skill sets, and force structure to ensure they support the National Defense Strategy. During the 116th Congress, the end strength increased for each military service to meet demands and growth in specialized fields such as cyber, intelligence, pilots, and maintainers. In the 117th Congress, the committee will examine trends in overall total force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention, morale, and benefits and compensation. The committee will continue its oversight of military recruiting, particularly the quality and diversity of the recruits needed to fulfill the specialized end-strength requirements and ways to address those potential recruits that may possess violent extremist views.

### Military Benefits and Compensation

During the 117th Congress, the committee will scrutinize any proposals from the Department of Defense or other organizations calling for any changes to military compensation and other benefit programs. Specifically, there will be close scrutiny of the 2020 Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC). The QRMC and any other proposals must ensure they are thoroughly assessed with respect to their positive or negative impacts to the All-Volunteer Force. Specifically, the expected Department of Defense proposals to reform the Reserve Component call-up duty status authorities will overhaul the way a Reserve Component service member is activated. The committee's oversight in this area will concentrate on the proper implementation of the new authorities to ensure that the pay and benefits for Reserve Component including the new Space Force Reserve Component members are not adversely affected.

### Military Health System

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of military health policies of the Department of Defense. The Department will be charged with both supporting the readiness requirements of the warfighter and delivering a robust military health benefit, all while creating efficiencies and implementing cost savings initiatives that may alter the composition of the existing Military Health System. The committee will examine military medical manning requirements, TRICARE benefit delivery, wounded warrior programs, resiliency, opioid policy, and ongoing reform efforts that are transitioning Military Treatment Facilities and other organizational structures from the military service departments to the Defense Health Agency. The committee will also continue to monitor the

implementation of the Genesis Electronic Health Record, as well as other health-related collaborations between the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. The committee will also take particular interest in implementation of Military Healthcare Reform as directed by the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) and the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232). Also, the committee will monitor the Department of Defense's implementation of the Stayskal Act as directed in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92). Finally, the committee will seek a better understanding of environmental health challenges that may be related to burn pits, mold, lead paint, contaminated water, and other potential exposure issues.

### Military Personnel Policy

During the 117th Congress, the personnel policies of the Department of Defense will remain under considerable scrutiny as the military services compete to recruit, manage, and retain the best and brightest men and women. The committee will continue to give close examination to proposals from the Department of Defense and other organizations calling for any major changes to personnel policies including recruiting, promotions, career paths, or changes to military retention and other policy programs in order to assess the impact of any proposed changes on the viability of the All-Volunteer Force. The committee will provide oversight of the implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion policy requirements from the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) as well as the implementation of the President's Executive Order. Additionally, the committee will monitor how the Department of Defense's policies are structured to prepare service-members and veterans for the possibility of being targeted by extremist organizations during their service and after they leave military service.

### Uniform Code of Military Justice

The committee will continue to provide oversight of military justice, specifically the role of the commander in prosecutions. The committee will also continue its robust oversight of the Department of Defense's sexual assault prevention and response programs with a focus on implementation of best practices for prevention programs. Additionally, the committee will put renewed focus on the oversight of the Department of Defense's policies and procedures for combatting extremism within the ranks.

### Military Family Readiness

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue to focus on the support provided to families of service members, particularly during deployments. The committee will assess the methods used by the military services to identify the

needs of military families and to identify the programs and policies that can be implemented or modified to improve their quality of life. As end strength grows across the Armed Forces, the committee will examine the Department of Defense and military service family support programs to ensure the programs are adequately resourced to support an increase in family members. In addition, the committee will continue its oversight on the quality and availability of services at Department of Defense child development centers and the implementation of new requirements to bring uniformity to the Exceptional Family Member Program across the military services.

#### Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs and Military Resale Programs

The committee believes the cost-efficient sustainment of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and military resale programs (commissaries and exchanges) is required to protect quality of life in military communities. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end in conjunction with major reforms, yet to be accomplished that were begun in the 114th Congress, to ensure the viability of these programs. Additionally, the committee believes that MWR and military resale programs must remain competitive with private sector entities to ensure that service members and their families benefit fully from these programs. The committee will monitor current practices and policies to ensure that MWR and military resale programs are employing the full range of strategies available to private sector competitors to inform authorized patrons about the benefits associated with these programs and encourage their participation. Finally, the committee will monitor and oversee the changes required by the commissary reform plan with an emphasis on maintaining this valuable benefit without interruption.

#### Prisoner of War and Missing in Action

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the Department of Defense's Prisoner of War/Missing in Action activities. Specifically, the committee will focus on the operations of the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency to ensure they are meeting the requirement that the accounting effort achieve at least 200 identifications annually.

#### Arlington National Cemetery

The committee will continue its oversight from the 116th Congress of Arlington National Cemetery. The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) directed the Secretary of the Army to establish revised eligibility criteria for interment at Arlington National Cemetery to ensure that the cemetery remains an active burial ground well into the future. The committee will monitor the criteria and changes to burial policy as they are structured.

## MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

### Overview

During the 117th Congress, the committee will conduct oversight of military equipment modernization strategies and programs and assess the effectiveness of those strategies to mitigate threats in the near- and long-term from near-peer and peer competitors. The committee's efforts will continue to focus on full-spectrum, combat-effective lethality and survivability through near-term modernization efforts that utilize acquisition reform initiatives to better streamline the development and fielding of solutions to the warfighter in a timely and efficient manner. The committee will devote attention to the military services' implementation and utilization of new, innovative agile acquisition reform authorities to recapitalize, upgrade, or enhance the performance of current and future combat systems. Concurrently, the committee will conduct oversight on the military services' ability to aggressively control development and procurement costs, implement reasonable, executable, and accountable sustainment strategies that preserve system affordability, as well as manage strategic risk in critical areas of the U.S. defense industrial base.

The committee, through diligent oversight and legislative action, will implement actions and provide resources to help mitigate cost growth and schedule delays of modernization programs. The committee will assess the need for legislative action, if required, by: late determination of programmatic requirements; unjustified requirements growth and failure to properly mitigate requirements changes; insufficient analyses of alternatives; concurrency in test and evaluation master plans; military services proceeding prematurely with development of immature technology; poor cost estimating; inadequate funding profiles; over-estimation of potential production rates; program instability; and, improper use of new and agile acquisition reform authorities.

### Armored Vehicle Modernization

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' evolving plans to improve the capability and extend the operating lives of its current heavy and medium-weight armored combat vehicles, as well as lay the foundation for successful development, production, and timely fielding of its next generation of these systems. The committee will specifically monitor management and performance of these programs: research and development of the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle, the M1 Abrams tank, the M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, the family of Stryker Combat Vehicles, the family of Amphibious Combat Vehicles, the Light Armored Vehicle, the M109A7 Paladin Integrated Management, the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle, the Army's mobile protected firepower, and Active Protection Systems for combat vehicles.

### Tactical Wheeled Vehicles

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' sustainment and modernization of their current and future tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) fleets, including their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, as well as other engineer and bridging vehicles. The committee will specifically oversee management of these programs: Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, Infantry Squad Vehicle, Palletized Load System, Heavy Equipment Transporters, Line Haul Tractor Trailers, and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle. The committee will give particular interest to the Department of Defense's identification and management of risk in the TWV industrial base.

### Rotorcraft Programs

The committee will focus oversight efforts on rotorcraft modernization, force structure, and readiness, with an emphasis on how the military services are managing plans to accelerate development of next generation rotorcraft platforms while satisfying requirements to upgrade current rotorcraft platforms. Committee oversight will focus on, but not be limited to, the following rotorcraft programs: UH-60 Black Hawk utility rotorcraft, AH-64 Apache Attack rotorcraft, CH-47 Chinook heavy lift rotorcraft, UH-1 Huey utility helicopters, AH-1 attack rotorcraft, the CH-53K heavy lift rotorcraft program, the MH-60 Seahawk rotorcraft program, the MH-139 utility helicopter, Combat Rescue Helicopter, the TH-73A trainer helicopter replacement program, and the Future Vertical Lift (FVL) development program.

The committee will also focus oversight efforts on the need for advanced aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving threats, as well as monitor the Improved Turbine Engine program designed to improve lift capability on the AH-64, UH-60, and FVL platforms.

### Communications and Network Programs

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the research, development, and procurement of tactical battlefield communications networks. Specifically, the committee will conduct oversight of the Army's plans for future battlefield network research and development programs, the Army's Tactical Network Modernization roadmap, and efforts on the incremental development and fielding of the Integrated Tactical Network and other tactical radio programs.

### Fixed-Wing Training and Tactical Aircraft and Related Munitions

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue efforts overseeing the size, composition, capability, and capacity of the Department of Defense's tactical and training aircraft force structure and acquisition programs. The committee will continue engaging the Department to understand its aircraft force-mix strategy and composition regarding procurement of significantly advanced 4th, 5th and 6th generation tactical aircraft to replace existing tactical aircraft to ensure

that mission areas related to air superiority, interdiction, and kinetic support to ground forces maintain combat effectiveness and lethality requirements. The committee will engage with the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps to understand the strategies to mitigate any potential tactical aircraft inventory shortfalls that would impact the Department's ability to meet the tenets and implementation of the National Defense Strategy. The committee will monitor the Department's efforts to improve capabilities and reliability among the existing fleets of aircraft to maintain, and where necessary, gain sufficient force-structure capacity and lethality that complements next-generation aircraft. The committee will continue to monitor the impact on aviation readiness related to procurement of initial spare or repaired parts, depot-standup activities and supplies and critical information necessary to meet warfighter requirements. In addition, the committee will have particular interest in the Air Force's newly implemented Digital Century Series acquisition strategy for aircraft and munitions. The committee will also continue monitoring Air Force and Navy execution of efforts for mitigating physiological episodes that were experienced by pilots operating various tactical and training aircraft.

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F-35 program, particularly with regard to affordability issues and concerns related to program life-cycle cost, production and fielding schedules, aircraft and support system performance, and sustainment strategy planning and execution. The committee will also focus efforts on the F-35's performance during the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation phase, Technical Refresh 3 hardware and Block 4 software development, and the follow-on modernization program known as Continuous Capability Development and Delivery. The committee's area of focus on the F-35 will include but not be limited to production efficiency, software development and testing related to the operational flight program and mission data files, addressing F135 engine problems and repair capacity, the Autonomic Logistics Information System development and transition to the Operational Data Integrated Network, fielding and integration into operational F-35 units, depot stand-up, and supply chain management required to support concurrent production and operational maintenance and sustainment requirements.

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue engaging the Department of Defense to understand testing and war-reserve material requirements and subsequent production strategies to support and maintain sufficient inventories of air-launched preferred and precision-guided conventional missiles and munitions at an acceptable operational risk level. The committee will continue focusing its attention on the Department's identification, assessment, and strategies for effective management of risk in the associated defense industrial base and issues related to diminishing manufacturing sources, obsolescence issues, sole-source supply of components and major sub-systems, and production capabilities needed to support both annual production and occasional surge requirements for preferred and precision-guided conventional missiles and munitions.

## Individual Soldier and Marine Equipment

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the research, development, and procurement of soldier and marine individual equipment, in addition to other complementary personal protective equipment programs. Focus areas will continue to include, but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction (“lightening the load”) in individual equipment; development and procurement of the Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binocular; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army's next generation squad weapon system; procurement and fielding of enhanced performance small caliber rounds; improved combat helmets to help mitigate traumatic brain injury; development of female-sized personal protective equipment; and the development and fielding of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System.

## Long Range Munitions, Ammunition, and Ammunition Industrial Base

The committee will continue to conduct oversight on the Army and Marine Corps Long Range Precision Fires and munitions modernization efforts, as well as other ammunition and ammunition industrial base concerns. Specifically, programs of interest to the committee include development, production and divestiture of "smart" munitions; "critical munitions"; and "conventional" ammunition programs. The committee will also continue to examine the management of the ammunition industrial base, specifically issues involving safety practices and production standards, supply chain concerns, and development of alternative ammunition production materials and sources.

## Air Force and Army Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs

The committee will focus oversight activities on cost, schedule, and performance of tactical manned and unmanned aerial (UAS) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems. The committee will examine the ISR enterprise for sufficient capacity, satisfaction of military collection requirements, timeliness and redundancy of dissemination architecture, and modernization of analysis and exploitation capabilities for video and imagery. The committee will also scrutinize the Department of Defense's ISR policy development and implementation.

In particular, the committee will evaluate the Army and Air Force long-term ISR architecture modernization and next-generation acquisition strategies, the supporting analyses behind programmatic decisions, and the management of risk across ISR collection capabilities and capacities, and the corresponding resources to process, exploit, and disseminate raw data and finished analysis. The committee will monitor improvements made to ISR transmission and down-link architecture that provide rapid delivery of collected information supporting timely and effective defense operations.

The committee's oversight efforts will focus on, but not be limited to, the following ISR programs: RQ-4 Global Hawk UAS Block 30 and Block 40, MQ-9 Reaper UAS, MQ-1C Gray Eagle UAS, the Future Tactical UAS program, legacy E-8 JSTARS, E-3 AWACS, the family of RC-135 aircraft, U-2 Dragon Lady, and the Advanced Battle Management System.

### Electronic Warfare Equipment and Modernization

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Department of Defense's developing Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) strategy and associated electronic warfare (EW) systems. The committee will examine how the Department is identifying requirements, developing policies, and establishing the necessary governance structures to manage the EMSO enterprise. The committee will also evaluate the Department's ability to address emerging EMSO and EW threats and the military services' progress in developing and fielding next-generation capabilities to counter these threats. The committee will assess airborne EW systems, including the EC-130H Compass Call aircraft, the EC-37B Compass Call re-host aircraft, the Navy's Next Generation Jammer airborne electronic attack capability, and the Army's Multi-Function EW-Air, as well as ground-based EW capabilities including the Terrestrial Layer System.

### Bomber Force Structure

During the 117th Congress, the committee anticipates that the Air Force will continue to propose significant investments for engineering, manufacturing, and development of the B-21A Raider long-range strike bomber aircraft. While many details regarding the specific requirements and capabilities of the new bomber remain classified, the committee will maintain oversight of the new bomber acquisition program to ensure that the Air Force develops an affordable aircraft to timely meet future requirements and partially recapitalize the long-range strike bomber fleet.

As Global Strike Command's bomber road map continues to solidify, the committee will monitor how the Air Force chooses to invest and modernize its current fleet of bombers to ensure they can continue to effectively respond to current and future threats.

### Aerial Refueling Aircraft

During the 117th Congress, the committee will review the Air Force aerial refueling aircraft modernization, recapitalization and retirement plans for the KC-10A, KC-46A and KC-135R/T.

Currently, the Air Force requires 479 air refueling tankers to meet the National Military Strategy but only possesses 393 KC-135R/T and 50 KC-10A tankers for a total of 443 legacy tankers. The addition of 42 KC-46A aircraft toward the future buy of 179 KC-46A will start replacing the legacy tanker fleet once the

Remote Vision System on the KC-46A is fixed and the aircraft becomes operational. The committee is monitoring the KC-46A program closely. The committee will also monitor how the Air Force plans to modernize the KC-135R/T and conduct aerial refueling operations in a future contested airspace.

The committee will also review the MQ-25 program as the Navy seeks to develop an unmanned aerial vehicle that provides aerial refueling to the carrier wing. The committee will also monitor the possibility to add additional capabilities to the MQ-25 should the Navy chooses to pursue them.

### Airlift Programs

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue to assess the risk in the Air Force's current plan to maintain the intratheater airlift aircraft inventory required by the Mobility Capability Requirements Study that was required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91). While pleased with Air Force efforts to modernize Air National Guard and Reserve C-130H aircraft with Avionics Modernization Programs, propulsion and propeller upgrades, the committee will continue to review the C-130H modernization program to ensure it is capable of meeting airlift requirements. The committee is committed in supporting technologies that increase capabilities, increase reliability and decrease overall life cycle costs.

The committee will continue oversight of all airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 117th Congress to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained to meet mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense.

### Surface Warfare Programs

The Department of the Navy must grow the fleet of surface combatants in order to support the National Security Strategy. The fleet must be capable of operating in contested areas such as the South China Sea. The committee will provide oversight of the composition, capacity, and capabilities of the surface fleet. The committee will also assess the large and small surface combatant requirements to ensure oversight of the force structure and the associated weapons and sensors employed on the surface force with a specific emphasis on Frigate capabilities. The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Littoral Combat Ship and specifically look at what they will play in the future fleet. Further oversight of the amphibious forces will also be pursued to include amphibious assault in a contested environment, integration of advanced data capabilities and how these ships will be utilized to support expeditionary advanced basing operations. The committee will continue its oversight of the DDG-51 Arleigh Burke class Destroyer program and its transitions to the Flight III variant that will incorporate the new air and missile defense radar. The committee will also monitor the requirements associated with the new large surface combatant DDG(X). In addition to the manned platforms, the committee will review options for the Navy to augment the surface force structure

with both unmanned and potentially optionally manned platforms. Finally, the committee will review the combat logistics forces and the Maritime Security Program to ensure sufficient capacity is available to support national security objectives.

As part of this oversight, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: ensuring stable requirements; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems and open architecture; and industrial base capacity, process, and facility improvements at the shipyards.

### Undersea Warfare Programs

The ability to operate freely at sea is one of the most important enablers of joint and interagency operations, and sea control requires capabilities in all aspects of the maritime domain. There are many challenges to our ability to exercise sea control, perhaps none as significant as the growing number of nations operating submarines, both advanced diesel-electric and nuclear propelled. Exercising sea control in the undersea domain is essential to maintaining the freedom of navigation in support of U.S. maritime interests. The committee will continue to review the undersea domain to ensure warfare dominance. Specifically, the committee will review short- and long-term options to reverse the decline in the attack submarine force structure as well as options to augment the undersea fleet with unmanned underwater vehicles. The committee will also assess whether sufficient resources and technological maturity are available for the recapitalization of the ballistic missile submarine force. The committee will continue to closely monitor the Virginia class acquisition program and will encourage the Navy to take all necessary measures to ensure we have a stable build rate of no fewer than two submarines per year. Additionally, the committee will monitor the development of the requirements associated with the follow-on attack submarine to the Virginia class. Finally, the committee will assess the weapons and sensors employed in the undersea domain to retain maritime dominance, to include the capacity and capabilities of unmanned undersea vehicles.

As part of this oversight, the committee will place specific emphasis on the efficacy of multi-year procurement, rigorous assessment of requirements, and management of an expanding undersea industrial base capacity.

### Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue oversight efforts on the size, composition, capability, and capacity of the Department of Defense's maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft force structure. The committee continues to monitor the recapitalization of the remaining P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft with the P-8 Poseidon aircraft. The committee continues to assess the risk in the Navy's current plan to maintain and procure the MQ-4 Triton.

The committee will monitor the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye Airborne Early Warning Command and Control aircraft as it gains inflight air refueling capability and continues to replace the E-2C Hawkeye.

During the 117th Congress the committee will also review advanced unmanned capabilities provided by the MQ-8B/C Firescout and new MUX/MALE for the Marine Corps.

### Strategic Nuclear and Conventional Forces

The committee will provide oversight of the U.S. nuclear policy, posture, and programs; extended deterrence policy; arms control activities; and nuclear force structure requirements. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of nuclear weapon employment and declaratory policies, force structure, arms control agreements, and modernization plans. In addition, the committee will continue oversight of nuclear command and control and strategic conventional strike programs. The committee will also continue to monitor the development of foreign nuclear programs and U.S. nonproliferation programs. Across all activities, the committee will pay particular attention to conducting oversight of nuclear enterprise personnel issues, including to ensure a world class, diverse workforce.

The committee oversees the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and nuclear policies and programs of the Department of Defense to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. The committee will ensure that the United States maintains a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear arsenal to address current and future threats. The committee will conduct oversight of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's nuclear modernization and sustainment plans.

In particular, the committee will oversee funding levels and requirements for the nuclear deterrence mission and nuclear enterprise, including relevant nuclear delivery platforms and their associated warheads to ensure resources are provided and allocated effectively and efficiently across Department of Energy and Department of Defense. With regard to the Department of Defense, the committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize U.S. nuclear forces and the supporting complex for decades into the future, including but not limited to the Ground-based Strategic Deterrent system, the Long-Range Standoff cruise missile, and missiles associated with the new Columbia-class submarine. The committee will also place particular emphasis on investments in nuclear enterprise programs that fall under the purview of the Department of Energy, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship programs, stockpile management programs, cost savings and efficiency initiatives, safety and security, and progress on the nuclear clean-up activities.

In addition, the committee will continue oversight of the nuclear command and control programs that underpin a reliable nuclear deterrent. The committee

will also continue oversight of strategic conventional systems, such as the Common Hypersonic Glide Body program.

The committee will continue to monitor the National Nuclear Security Administrations Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation activities. The threat of nuclear weapons-grade material, technology, and know-how remains a threat to the United States, particularly in light of new technological developments that may complicate the cost and the ability to detect such activity. The committee will focus on U.S. capabilities related to detection of proliferation to ensure their sustainability, and international cooperation on safeguarding and reducing the use of nuclear-weapons grade materials. The spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons-usable materials remain a grave threat to the United States, and as such, the committee is committed to ensuring oversight over these critical activities and leveraging new technologies and opportunities as they arise.

### Missile Defense

The committee oversees the Department of Defense's efforts to develop, test, and field layered missile defense capabilities to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and allies and partners against missile threats.

The committee will continue to place emphasis on cost-effective and reliable missile defenses that contribute to strategic stability. The committee will continue to oversee U.S. homeland missile defense development, developmental and operational testing, cyber security to protect ballistic missile defense system data, force structure and inventory requirements, continued integration of "left-of-launch" capabilities, and science and technology investments (in areas such as boost-phase intercept, space sensor layer, and continuous improvements to discrimination). The committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize U.S. missile defenses, including but not limited to Ground-based Midcourse Defense, the Next Generation Interceptor program, and Layered Homeland Defense. The committee will also monitor progress of the Department of Defense Conventional Prompt Strike program as a potential "left-of-launch" capability and related policies that minimize the risk of ambiguity and miscalculation.

The committee will continue to oversee implementation of the 2019 Missile Defense Review by the Department of Defense and opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners to defend against ballistic and cruise missiles.

The committee will continue to provide oversight of the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies of the Missile Defense Agency and military services as they relate to integrated air and missile defense.

The committee also intends to continue overseeing the Army's Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense System modernization efforts, including the Patriot weapon system, the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor (as that program transitions

to a rapid prototyping effort), and efforts to improve interoperability of Army and Ballistic Missile Defense System capabilities.

### National Security Space

The committee oversees the national security space policies and programs of the Department of Defense, including combat support agencies and elements of the Department of Defense that are also part of the intelligence community. The committee will place attention on current and projected foreign space threats and development of effective deterrence policies for space. The committee will also assess the Department's space security and defense programs to include space situational awareness, space protection, space control, resilience, operationally responsive space activities including capabilities for rapid constellation reconstitution and replenishment and use of commercial capabilities and international cooperation. The committee will initiate efforts with the Department of Defense in developing a policy framework to address how best to achieve rules-based order in space with allies, partners and adversaries.

The committee will also focus on improving the organization and management of the Space Force, and related policies that support maintaining and improving the nation's space advantage, address new threats in space, elevate the focus within the Department on space as a warfighting domain, and create a culture that recognizes the importance of space for national security.

The committee will continue oversight of national security space activities in support of warfighter operations and plans; improvement of space acquisition strategies that provide necessary warfighter capability while reducing cost and technical risk and supporting the industrial base; maintaining cost-effective and competitive assured access to space; efforts to address gaps in space capabilities for key warfighter needs; investments in science and technology to improve the capabilities of space systems; efforts to appropriately leverage commercial space capabilities; improvements of the synchronization between satellite, ground, and terminal acquisition programs; and efforts that develop and sustain an expert space workforce.

### Military Operations in Cyberspace Activities and Information Technology

Military operations in cyberspace have become increasingly important as state and non-state actors seek to exploit the information environment to achieve political, military, and economic objectives. Cyber operations by threat actors below the level of conflict, such as Russian cyber intrusions to undermine democratic institutions or exfiltration of controlled unclassified information from the defense industrial base by cyber actors affiliated with the People's Republic of China, pose a dynamic challenge to U.S. national security. The Department of Defense, when appropriate, must be prepared to address cyber threats across the spectrum of operations and in all types of conflict.

Significant progress in Congress' oversight over military operations in cyberspace has been enacted with the last two National Defense Authorization Acts, and the committee will leverage this progress in new actions for the 117th Congress. The committee will ensure that the Department of Defense adheres to both the spirit and intent of recently enacted legislation to ensure that Congress can conduct rigorous oversight. The committee will also ensure that new initiatives driven by legislation are thoroughly examined and acted upon to guarantee the United States' persistent advantage in cyberspace, including the expansion of tier one cyberspace operations organizations as part of the Cyber Mission Force and Cyber Operations Forces.

The ability of the United States to maintain a comparative advantage in cyberspace is dependent on its ability to expand the Nation's cyber-proficient workforce through support and investment in primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. While the committee applauds efforts to date, significant work is required to harmonize and rationalize how these investments are executed. The committee will push the Department to inventory its existing programs and harmonize as appropriate.

The committee remains concerned that cyberspace operations have long been considered a component divorced from the wider operational picture. To enable future success, the committee will continue in its efforts to break down stovepipes and push for greater integration between cyberspace operations and operations conducted in other recognized warfighting domains.

### Science and Technology

The committee will ensure that the Department of Defense fosters a robust and balanced science and technology (S&T) ecosystem comprised of agencies; offices; laboratories; federally funded research and development centers; university affiliated research centers; academic partnerships; test and evaluation entities; and partnerships with the private sector, including small businesses; in order to deliver the best capabilities to the warfighter in the near-, mid-, and long-term. Specifically, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department's S&T activities to ensure planning and execution of investments are aligned with national strategies and other interagency efforts to maintain technological superiority. This includes examination of the Department's S&T annual investments and trends over time; the Department's efforts to advance technologies aligned with the National Defense Strategy (NDS) and the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering's (USD(R&E)'s) eleven modernization priorities; and how R&E, the military services, and the many innovation organizations in the Department advance these modernization priorities while protecting important science and technology investments.

The committee will continue to oversee performance of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Defense Innovation Unit, and Strategic Capabilities Office, as well as other service-specific innovation centers and

partnerships with private industry to ensure coordination, synchronization, transition of technology, and prudent use of fiscal resources. Further, the current global COVID-19 pandemic only underscores the importance of the subcommittee's oversight of S&T investments in countermeasures to adversary capabilities and emerging threats, such as infectious diseases, biotechnologies, and climate change.

The committee will examine the Department's S&T strategy and doctrine, concepts of employment, and other organizing concepts pursued by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense. This includes examination of how capabilities contribute to new security strategies; how they are supported by rigorous technical analysis and relevant concepts of employment; and how the Department will develop plans to transition matured technologies to the field. The committee will review how the Department is strategically developing policies on how the U.S. should use and deploy future technologies, such as the rapid technological advancements outlined in the NDS, as well as the R&E modernization priorities, and how these emerging capabilities will contribute to new security strategies, as was directed in in the 116th Congress in section 232 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92).

In the 117th Congress the committee will continue to examine the Department's level of use of the dozens of congressionally provided authorities together intended to improve the Department's S&T facilities, infrastructure, and access to small businesses, academia, and the tech sector. Congress has provided these authorities over a number of years in order to ensure that the Department and the country have the innovation base and technical workforce needed to maintain and strengthen the country's technological advantage. The committee will also continue its focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. Providing and maintaining infrastructure, both digital and brick and mortar, is paramount to attracting the best talent, and in the 117th Congress the committee will oversee the implementation plans for use of authorities and improvement of S&T infrastructure as was directed in the 116th Congress.