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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

STATEMENT OF
LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOUGLAS A. SIMS II
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
JOINT STAFF, J3
BEFORE THE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

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Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member McCollum, Distinguished Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. I appreciate today's opportunity to update you on the U.S. military efforts to help the Ukrainian people in their continued fight against the Russian invasion.

Today marks the 369th day since Russian forces invaded and began their illegal and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine. As we meet today, the current situation between Ukraine and Russia is generally static with both sides employing heavy amounts of artillery, resulting in minimal changes as to territorial control of territory and significant numbers of casualties.

I am prepared to discuss particulars of Ukrainian disposition, but generally, and as you have seen reported in open sources, the most active portion of the battlefield is around the town of Bakhmut. As I have briefed before, over the past two months the Russians, with assistance from the Kremlin-backed paramilitary group, Wagner Group, have fought savagely to defeat Ukraine's defenses. Employing extreme amounts of artillery and waves of thousands of partially trained, mobilized soldiers and personnel contracted from prisons, the Russians have made incremental gains at great human expense.

Ultimately, the fighting has replicated the conditions the world saw during the First World War. Key to changing this paradigm is creating Ukrainian Armed Forces capable of breaking this state of fighting.

In this regard, the concentration of U.S. effort has been focused on combining equipment and munitions with people and training. The intent and efforts of the U.S. Military are designed to

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generate combat credible forces capable of combining fire and movement to achieve battlefield maneuver and increase the overall capabilities of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Importantly, this training effort is not solely the work of the U.S. Armed Forces but a unified approach with U.S. Allies and Partners. Collective training is on-going throughout Europe and is dramatically increasing Ukrainian combined arms proficiency.

All told, since January, the U.S. Armed Forces have trained over 1,000 Ukrainians, bringing the total trained by the U.S. to just over 4,000 troops. As I speak, Ukrainians are training in multiple locations in Europe, working with trainers from the U.S., our Allies, and our Partners.

Key to our ability to conduct this training has been the combined effort to increase maneuver related equipment, the U.S. provision of Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Strykers, and Paladin howitzers combined with similar vehicles, and tank contributions from our partners and allies. Both of which are notably increasing the maneuver capability of the Ukraine's Armed Forces.

In addition, the U.S. continues to supply critical munitions and individual equipment from howitzer ammunition to medical and cold weather gear.

Finally, and critically important to Ukraine's ability to continue to defeat Russian efforts to destroy civilian infrastructure, U.S. Armed Forces will soon complete the training and equipping of Ukraine's first Patriot Battery. As you know, our Air Defense experts are providing key training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and we are confident the Ukrainians will employ Patriots with the

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same expertise they are currently demonstrating with their current Air Defense capabilities.

Thank you for what this Committee and this Congress have done and continue to do to provide oversight and resources in support of Ukraine as they continue the fight against the illegal and unprovoked large-scale invasion of Ukraine. I look forward to your questions and the discussion today.

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