

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

115TH CONGRESS

OVERSIGHT PLAN

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives that requires that, not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee of the House shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress.

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OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR 115TH 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 expand the range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues of great scope and complexity.

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, and Air 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.
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13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air 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 2018 and fiscal year 2019 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 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. In addition, the committee will invite the views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Finally, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek the views and perspectives 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. Each subcommittee with assigned topical or programmatic responsibilities conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules. Certain issues and activities requiring more extensive, lengthy, and in-depth review are assigned to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. This subcommittee works with the relevant subcommittees (and/or full committee) in a coordinated manner to undertake the necessary oversight.

The oversight agenda below, 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 115th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay particular 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.

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, such as the recent operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and responses to catastrophic events. 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 as reflected in past comprehensive efforts such as: providing for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat-related disabilities; the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433); the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-355); the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and related reform of the management of the national security programs of the Department of Energy; the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-366); the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007 included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181); the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-23); the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition Act of 2010 (IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010), as included in the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383); the Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act of 2011, as included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81); and the application of additional sanctions against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as included in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-39). In the 113th Congress, the committee's focused oversight of the sensitive military operations of the Department of Defense led to the introduction of the bipartisan bill H.R. 1904, the Oversight of Sensitive Military Operations Act, in May 2013, much of which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-76).

In the 114th Congress, the committee undertook a significant defense reform effort aimed at improving agility within the Department of Defense, increasing the quality of care and support for service members, and getting more

defense for the dollar. Across both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328), six major defense reform packages were enacted into law: compensation and benefits, military healthcare, commissaries, Uniform Code of Military Justice, acquisition, and organization and management of the Department. The committee will continue to emphasize defense reform in the 115th Congress. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

As previously noted, the committee has dedicated significant oversight to the examination of the implications of the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) for national defense and defense sequestration. The committee will continue to assess the effects of declining defense resources and sequestration on the readiness of the force and the risk associated with executing the national defense strategy. While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67) and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74) provided some relief to defense by increasing the BCA discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2014 through 2017, fiscal year 2018 will see a return to the BCA caps and defense sequestration. The committee shares the concern of the National Defense Panel that the BCA, on top of previous cuts to defense dating back to 2009, will “lead to a high risk force in the near future,” have “caused significant shortfalls in U.S. military readiness and both present and future capabilities,” and have prompted allies and adversaries alike “to question our commitment and resolve.” The committee continues to oppose the sequester of national defense funding, and will continue to conduct oversight in the 115th Congress to highlight the consequences for the military, the defense industrial base, and national security. While the committee will work to ensure that the damage to U.S. national security is mitigated to the greatest extent possible, it will also engage the Administration on opportunities to revisit Public Law 112-25.

POLICY ISSUES

National Defense Strategy, National Military Strategy, and Related Defense

In the 115th Congress, the committee plans to continue its focus on the readiness, capability, and capacity of the U.S. Armed Forces to defend national interests, on supporting the authorities and resources necessary for ongoing military operations, and on improving the agility and efficiency of the Department of Defense. The committee will continue to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities through a robust and comprehensive oversight program and through the development and passage of the annual defense authorization act.

The committee recognizes that the current threat environment, as characterized by Dr. Henry Kissinger in January 2015, is “more diverse and complex” than at any point since the end of the Second World War. Terrorism, including the spread of violent extremism by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, instability in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, regional aggression by

the Russian Federation, destabilizing actions by the People's Republic of China in the South and East China Seas, developments in nuclear and missile capabilities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the continued spread of lethal and disruptive technologies, will continue to threaten U.S. national security interests. These events and other security developments across the globe also serve to highlight the continued need for the U.S. military to be postured and ready to defend national interests and address security challenges, wherever and whenever they may arise.

The committee expects that the Administration will conduct a series of national security and defense reviews to inform its development of a new National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy, consistent with the requirements contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328). These new strategies may also lead to changes in the National Military Strategy, which was last updated by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2016. The committee will review these strategies; evaluate the alignment of the strategies to the security environment; examine the assumptions underpinning them, including the force sizing construct; and assess the force posture, capabilities, and resources necessary to execute the strategies. The committee will also evaluate the risk associated with executing the strategies at current resource levels, to specifically include evaluating the impact that defense cuts and sequestration may have on strategy execution.

The committee also plans to continue its oversight of: ongoing military operations where U.S. forces are in harm's way, including ongoing global counterterrorism operations; strategic reassurance and deterrence activities in Europe and the Indo-Asia-Pacific; and Department of Defense investments in readiness, capabilities, and infrastructure to ensure the U.S. Armed Forces remain capable of addressing current and emerging conventional and unconventional challenges. The committee intends to accomplish this oversight through the conduct of hearings and briefings; engagements with defense leaders, military commanders, diplomats, academics, and private sector experts; and congressional delegation visits to military installations and U.S. forces serving abroad.

Readiness and Posture of the Force

The committee believes that, as a matter of principal, the military should be fully ready, trained, and equipped for the missions it is asked to do. These missions range from conducting counterterrorism and low intensity operations across the globe to possessing a credible conventional and nuclear deterrent against near-peer challengers. Yet, as the committee found through its oversight in the 114th Congress, full spectrum military readiness has suffered because of a continued high operational mission tempo and cuts in defense spending, which have led to a force that is too small and is being asked to do more with less.

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to prioritize its oversight of the readiness and posture of the U.S. Armed Forces. The committee

expects the Department of Defense, under the new Administration, to update the National Defense Strategy and adjust resource levels and allocations to fulfill the strategy. The committee will evaluate the strategy-resource alignment, and assess whether the U.S. military is sized, shaped, and postured to execute the strategy. Building upon its oversight in the 114th Congress, the committee will also seek to improve full spectrum readiness by focusing on specific areas such as training, equipment maintenance and modernization, end strength, and infrastructure.

The committee also recognizes that, over the past 15 years of conducting counterterrorism operations, the U.S. military has largely operated uncontested in the air, sea, space, and cyberspace domains. However, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, all possess varying degrees of anti-access and area denial capabilities in those domains. Therefore, the committee's oversight will also include examination of U.S. military power projection abilities, operational concepts, joint training and exercises, and command structures, necessary to deter conflict and compete with potential adversaries that possess advanced military forces.

Russian Federation

The committee recognizes the security challenges posed by the Russian Federation in Europe, the Middle East, and across the globe. Russia possesses sufficient military and nuclear weapons capabilities to pose an existential threat to the United States. It has undertaken cyber and other unconventional actions against the United States and European nations. Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has violated long-standing international rules and the preservation of territorial integrity and sovereignty. Russia's continued aggression towards Ukraine began in 2014 with the illegal annexation of Crimea, and it has maintained ongoing support to separatists in the Donbas region and shown a willingness and capability to engage in unacknowledged hybrid warfare there and elsewhere in Europe. In the greater Middle East, Russia has increased its influence, intervening militarily in the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic to bolster the regime of President Bashar Assad and to conduct missions against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant located in Syria. Russia has also begun to engage with the Taliban in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Collectively, these examples demonstrate the global influence Russia seeks to wield and the threat it presents to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and other European partners, and to the wider global community.

The committee will continue to examine Russia's global influence campaign as well as its conventional, nuclear, and unconventional military capabilities and capacities. In particular, the committee will pay close attention to Russian use of information operations, cyber attacks, propaganda, and intimidation measures against the United States and its allies and partners. The committee will continue to assess U.S. defense policy and military investments in posture, capabilities, and

readiness to maintain a credible deterrent against Russia and to reassure European allies and partners. The committee will also examine NATO military capabilities, and the contribution that NATO countries make, to deter and defend against Russian aggression.

The committee also recognizes that Russia has failed to comply with several arms control treaties important to European stability and security. Since December 2007, Russia has ceased implementing its obligations to the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, which included annual notifications and data on military forces and basing. In 2014, the Administration formally declared Russia in violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The committee will consider the implications for U.S. defense policy, planning, and investments resulting from this violation and from Russia's changes to its military doctrine.

People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China continues its unilateral efforts to assert regional influence, particularly in the South and East China Seas, while also continuing its military modernization in areas such as anti-access and area denial capabilities, power projection, nuclear forces, space, cyber, and other advanced technology areas. The committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, capability needs, and readiness in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to protect U.S. national security interests and are prepared to keep pace with advancing threats, including China's military modernization effort.

As the stability and security of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region remains a core U.S. national interest, the committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and engagement initiatives in the region, including naval, air, and land-based assets; forward pre-positioning; infrastructure realignments; and training and exercises. The United States has many allies and partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, and the committee will continue to focus on strengthening important international relationships and cooperative efforts in the region.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains a threat to stability on the Korean peninsula and to the United States. North Korea continues to advance its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, to include firing a submarine-launched ballistic missile and taking steps towards fielding its road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile that poses a direct threat to the United States, and expanding its asymmetric capabilities, as exemplified by its destructive cyber attack on Sony Pictures. The committee will continue to monitor and oversee the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, capability needs, and readiness in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to

protect U.S. national security interests, particularly against North Korea's increasing threat.

As the stability and security of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region remains a core U.S. national interest, the committee will continue to closely oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and engagement initiatives in the region, including forward pre-positioning; infrastructure realignments; and training and exercises. Specific examples include: the realignment of U.S. forces based in Japan; key operational control transition and realignment initiatives between U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea; the U.S. deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-ballistic missile system in South Korea; and trilateral defense cooperation efforts between the United States, South Korea, and Japan. The United States has many allies and partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, and the committee will continue to focus on strengthening important international relationships and cooperative efforts in the region.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The committee will examine the military-related capabilities, policies, and actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including those of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps and Iran's Quds Force. Particular focus will be given to any Iranian military-related actions directed against the United States and U.S. forces, as well as against its allies and partners in the region. The committee will continue to examine Iran's malign activities, including its support to terrorist organizations, its use of proxies and Shia militant groups, and its facilitation of lethal aid to these groups.

The committee will also continue to monitor Iran's nuclear program. Such monitoring includes close oversight of Iran's development of ballistic missiles, nuclear capabilities and any such capabilities with applicability to a nuclear weapons program, and any proliferation of missile and nuclear technology. The committee intends to continue to monitor the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the P5+1 (the United States, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French Republic, and the Federal Republic of Germany) and Iran, including Iran's compliance with the commitments agreed to under the JCPOA.

The committee's continued assessment of Iran's military-related capabilities, intent, and strategic orientation will shape its oversight of U.S. defense policies, posture, planning, and operations in the greater Middle East, and support its investment decisions regarding the capabilities and force structure necessary to support U.S. military requirements in the greater Middle East.

Countering Terrorism, At Risk and Failing States, Countering Violent Extremism
and Illicit Trafficking

Since the September 11, 2001 attacks, countering terrorism has been a central focus and mission of the Department of Defense. At great sacrifice, U.S. Armed Forces have deployed to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Yemen, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere around the globe to deal repeated and significant blows to Al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and other terrorist groups. While these terrorist groups have been degraded, they have not been destroyed. They remain potent, ruthless, and continue to spread a radical jihadist ideology that has inspired deadly attacks in the United States and across Europe. The committee recognizes that ISIL, Al Qaeda, and their affiliates and associates will continue to pose a direct threat to American lives and American interests, and that U.S. forces will be conducting counterterrorism operations at varying levels of intensity, for the foreseeable future.

The committee will conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over terrorism issues. The committee will continue to monitor terrorism threats and examine counterterrorism policies, strategies, and operations, including any changes made by the new Administration. It will also pay particular attention to the military force posture; special operations capabilities; intelligence, information operations, and cyber capabilities; role of allies and partners; and resources necessary to carry out an effective counterterrorism strategy.

The committee also recognizes the need to counter the violent extremist ideology spread by ISIL and other terrorist groups, and that such a challenge requires an interagency and international approach. The committee plans to examine the role of the Department of Defense in addressing this challenge and how the Department engages with other U.S. departments and agencies and foreign partners.

The committee also recognizes that these terrorist groups leverage at risk and failing states, particularly in the greater Middle East and Africa, to expand their presence, to conduct operational planning, and to serve as launch points for attacks against the United States, its allies and partners, and U.S. interests. The committee will therefore also continue to focus on efforts to build partner nation counterterrorism and conventional warfare capabilities to counter these threats at the regional and local level. Improving security and stability in volatile regions that cannot adequately govern themselves or secure their own territory will remain a top priority for the committee.

Lastly, the committee will continue to examine the legal basis for the President's military actions against ISIL. To date, President Obama has cited his Article II authority under the U.S. Constitution as well as certain statutory authorities, including 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). The committee will examine those aspects of the AUMF relevant to its jurisdiction to be well postured should the 115th Congress consider any new authorization for the use of military force against ISIL.

Operation Freedom's Sentinel

The committee will conduct robust oversight of the U.S. military effort in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to specifically include oversight of the three U.S. military missions associated with Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS): conducting counterterrorism operations against Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL); training, advising, and assisting the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF); and providing force protection of U.S. personnel and facilities. The committee will continue to assess the authorities, resources, equipment, basing, and personnel to support the OFS missions and policy objectives. Additionally, the committee will examine the regional security environment, including efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to deny safe havens to Al Qaeda, the Haqqani Network, and other jihadist organizations. The committee will also monitor other critical efforts in Afghanistan, such as the effectiveness of the ANDSF, and its ability to sustain operations and institutional requirements. Finally, the committee recognizes that the Administration is likely to review current U.S. policy on Afghanistan and the committee will be prepared to assess any changes to Department of Defense efforts that the Administration might make.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The committee will continue its oversight of the broad range of security issues involving the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, including review of the use of Coalition Support Funds, which are provided to reimburse Pakistan for its support to U.S. military operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will monitor the security and stability of Pakistan, including the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, Pakistan's on-going and future nuclear weapon projects, and its willingness and operational capacity to combat key terrorist groups, such as Al Qaeda, the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban, the Haqqani network, and other terrorist organizations. Moreover, the committee will evaluate the terrorist activity emanating from the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and will conduct oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to combat that threat.

Operation Inherent Resolve

The U.S. and coalition forces continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as part of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). Presently, U.S. and coalition operations include: an air campaign that is focused against ISIL in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic; training, equipping, advising, and assisting Iraqi Security Forces and, in a more limited role, partnered forces on the ground in Syria; and force protection of U.S. forces and facilities deployed in support 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 Iraq Train and Equip and the Syria Train and Equip programs, particularly given past concerns about their effectiveness.

The committee recognizes that the security landscape in Iraq and Syria has become more complex and that the humanitarian crisis in those countries more dire. The committee will examine the presence and influence exerted by other actors in Syria, particularly the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Republic of Turkey, and the implications for U.S. objectives regarding ISIL and regional security and stability. Furthermore, the committee will continue to examine the flow of foreign fighters to and from the region, and the linkages between ISIL and actors who conduct directed or inspired terrorist attacks in the U.S. and elsewhere. Additionally, the committee will monitor the political and sectarian dynamics in both Iraq and Syria, which have, in part, fostered the context and political climate for ISIL to expand and grow. It will also closely monitor the stability of the countries in the region of Iraq and Syria and any growth or expansion of ISIL in the region, and continue to oversee the security assistance authorities and resources provided through the annual defense authorization act to address these challenges.

Finally, the committee recognizes that the Administration is undertaking a review of the current U.S. policy on defeating ISIL in Iraq and Syria, and the committee will be prepared to assess any changes to Department of Defense efforts that the Administration might make.

Republic of Yemen

The security situation in the Republic of Yemen will continue to be a significant focus for the committee. The committee will maintain its oversight of the U.S. military's counterterrorism activities in Yemen and the status of coalition efforts to counter Houthi rebels in Yemen, including U.S. support to the coalition and compliance with the laws of armed conflict and other related international norms. Additionally, the committee will monitor any provocative actions by the Houthis against U.S. naval vessels in the region and oversee any required changes in U.S. military posture, capabilities, and resources to address such threats. The committee will also monitor the capability, capacity, and strategy of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to conduct transnational terrorist attacks and oversee the associated U.S. counterterrorism efforts against AQAP.

Africa

The committee will maintain its oversight of Department of Defense activities in Africa. Additionally, the committee will continue to examine the Department's coordination within the interagency to ensure the range of the Department's activities occurring in Africa contribute to U.S. national security objectives. As the Department's efforts to train and equip African partners to

provide regional security continue, the committee will increase its focus on the Department's execution of the programs, the development of defense institutions in African nations, and the ability of African partner nations to absorb and sustain the assistance provided. The committee will pay particular attention to the effect that security cooperation reform measures adopted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) will have on the Department's programs and activities in Africa. Further, the committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts, in coordination with other U.S. Government agencies, to develop the security conditions necessary to advance governance and stability on the continent.

In North Africa, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of the evolving security situation caused primarily by the tenuous political environment in the State of Libya and the effect of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, the Islamic State, and other jihadist groups in this region. The committee will pay particular attention to the relationship between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq and Syria and the terrorist organization's presence in the region.

In East Africa, the committee will continue to provide oversight of the Department's efforts to counter threats and to prevent transnational attacks on the United States, its allies and partners, or its interests. In particular, the committee will remain focused on the security situation in Somalia, U.S. support to African Union Mission in Somalia forces, and the development of Somali forces to provide security. Moreover, the committee will continue to monitor the ideological, strategic, and operational coordination and conflict between Horn of Africa groups, such as Al Shabaab, and other terrorist organizations.

In West Africa, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's efforts to counter threats throughout the region. In particular, the committee will focus on threats emanating from the Republic of Mali and in the Lake Chad Basin region. The committee will also pay attention to the continuing ideological, strategic, and operational evolution of organizations such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, and the Islamic State West Africa Province, and also will explore the geographic overlap and operational interaction with other terrorist groups on the continent.

In Central Africa, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's activities to transition its support of the Uganda Peoples' Defense Force and other national militaries to counter the Lord's Resistance Army and apprehend or remove Joseph Kony.

Central and South America

The committee will examine the issues affecting U.S. security in Central and South America, including illicit trafficking, transnational organized crime, political turmoil, and instability that pose a potential threat to the U.S. homeland. The committee is particularly concerned about instability in Central America.

The committee will oversee the execution of Department of Defense security assistance programs throughout the hemisphere, specifically in the Republic of Colombia, as it continues to improve its national security and begins implementation of the peace accords signed in 2016. Additionally, the committee will focus on the growing economies in the region, such as the Federative Republic of Brazil, which is the region's largest and fastest-growing economy, and will examine their influence both in the Western Hemisphere and across the globe. The committee will monitor any changes to U.S. policy regarding the relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of Cuba, and any potential impacts on Department of Defense policies and operations. The committee will also continue to monitor potential threats from global terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, who have increasing influence in the region.

The committee recognizes the importance of the United States' relationship with its Central and South American neighbors and the ability of these partners to bring safety and security to the hemisphere.

Detainee Policy and Related Matters

The Department of Defense continues to be the custodian of law-of-war detainees held at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The committee will continue to monitor transfer and release policies and practices pertaining to those detainees, as well as proceedings pursuant to the Military Commissions Act (Public Law 109-366; Public Law 111-84), which established the legal framework governing military tribunals to try certain detainees for alleged war crimes. The committee will also conduct oversight of detention policy for future captures and related issues.

Cyberwarfare

As cyberspace becomes increasingly important as a domain of warfare, the Department of Defense will need to mature its policies, doctrine, and capabilities to execute offensive operations. The committee will continue to oversee the changing policy and authority framework to ensure that cyberwarfare capabilities can be executed as a standalone capability, or fully integrated into an operational plan in concert with other conventional capabilities. That will include ensuring that there is a clear understanding of rules of engagement, as well as how international legal frameworks, like the laws of war, apply in these instances. In addition to developing proper funding authorities that may be required for offensive operations, the committee will also oversee interagency coordination and deconflicting areas of overlap. The committee will increase its oversight on evolving deterrence concepts and the ways in which cyber may be changing the traditional understanding of the escalation ladder. The committee will also monitor the development of international norms of behavior and international regulatory regimes.

Technology Erosion, Technological Superiority, and the Third Offset Strategy

In the 115th Congress, the committee plans to continue its examination of technology trends by nation-states and non-state actors, and the diffusion of technology, to assess the impact and risk to U.S. superiority in key warfare domains. The committee recognizes that U.S. military technological superiority is no longer assumed, and that investments in new and advanced capabilities, development of new operating concepts, and improvements in the agility and adaptability of the Department of Defense, will be required to maintain this superiority.

Through its oversight at the full committee level, and within the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department's technology initiatives and investments, including those within the Strategic Capabilities Office and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The committee also intends to continue monitoring the Department's Third Offset Strategy development efforts, and sees it as a useful vehicle for focusing the Department on how to deter and counter the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. Additionally, the committee will continue to make legislative improvements to the defense acquisition process and to the organization of the Department, as discussed elsewhere in this plan, to get new capabilities deployed to the warfighter that better match the speed of technological change.

The committee will also seek opportunities to participate in wargames to understand the technological and operational challenges facing the military, and is encouraged by the Department's increased emphasis on wargaming and on strategic initiatives to better understand Russian and Chinese military thinking.

Addressing Emerging Threats

Terrorism, unconventional warfare, insurgency, adversarial use of technology, and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation are some of the emerging threats that challenge national security and global peace and stability. These threats require the Department of Defense to work effectively and efficiently with other Federal agencies and the governments of other nations. The committee will conduct oversight of numerous cross-cutting Department of Defense activities central to addressing these emerging and unforeseen threats, including the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, security force assistance, and building partnership capacity (BPC).

The committee will focus attention on how the Department of Defense addresses these broad threats in its strategic planning processes, how resources are arrayed to meet these threats, and how existing authorities are consistent with operational requirements. As discussed below, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) contained comprehensive reform of security assistance and BPC authorities; the committee, therefore, expects to closely monitor

and evaluate the implementation of these reforms to ensure they are consistent with emerging threats and national security objectives.

The committee will also focus attention on the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) activities. The CTR program has changed since authorized in the Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-228; also known as the Nunn-Lugar Act). Originally focused on securing and dismantling weapons of mass destruction and their associated infrastructure in former Soviet Union states, the CTR mission has expanded to a global focus on protecting against WMD, including an increased emphasis on chemical and biological weapons, and improving detection capabilities.

The committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities (given the key role special operations forces play in this area), will continue its oversight of the full range of emerging threats to national security and U.S. military forces, the capabilities, and the authorities needed to respond. Additionally, the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces will continue to review and assess the effectiveness of NNSA DNN's strategy and activities to counter the threat of the global proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Intelligence

In the 115th Congress, the committee will examine the organization, functions, operations, intelligence collection, and analysis output of the defense intelligence community to ensure the highest possible quality intelligence support to the warfighter. The committee will consider the organization and management of the elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the intelligence community and their roles in the defense and national intelligence enterprise. In the course of examining defense intelligence plans, programs and policies, the committee will balance current threats with the need to rebuild intelligence capabilities to address potential threats, reform the defense intelligence enterprise organization to better meet current and future warfighter requirements, and restore the decisive advantage defense intelligence provides to commanders and the policy community.

The committee will continue to coordinate when appropriate with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence and counterintelligence matters of the Department of Defense, and intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Department of Energy in the course of oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

Security Cooperation

The committee will conduct thorough oversight of security cooperation and building partner capacity (BPC) in the 115th Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) contained

comprehensive reform of the authorities, funding, programs, and oversight of security cooperation. The committee will monitor and evaluate the implementation of these security cooperation provisions, including during the development of guidance through the initial congressional notification process and while the programs are in progress, to ensure that they are properly executed and consistent with national security objectives.

AGILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Overview

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to place a high priority on defense reform to create greater agility, accountability, and responsiveness within the Department of Defense, and to get more value for the tax payer dollar. The committee will continue to take legislative action to improve the defense acquisition system. It will also oversee the implementation of the significant body of legislation contained in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) covering: acquisition; compensation and benefits (including healthcare and commissaries); the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and personnel, organization and management.

Throughout the 115th Congress, the committee expects to conduct numerous hearings and briefings; engage experts from across defense, academia, and the private sector; travel to military installations, industry facilities, and other relevant sites; and conduct independent research and analysis to inform additional legislative reforms.

Organization and Management of the Department of Defense

As part of the committee's emphasis on defense reform, it undertook significant oversight and legislative action in the 114th Congress to improve the organization and management of the Department of Defense in order to ensure that it is properly postured to meet the complex and evolving security threats of the 21st century and to maintain U.S. technological superiority.

In the 115th Congress, the committee plans to continue its oversight and legislative action in this area. A key priority will be monitoring the implementation of legislation contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) requiring the Department to streamline its management headquarters and reduce headquarters activities and personnel, and in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) requiring a reduction in military general and flag officers and in senior executive service personnel. Additionally, the committee plans to oversee the implementation of organizational changes to the Office of the Secretary of Defense contained in Public Law 114-328 to elevate research and engineering, better focus acquisition and sustainment activities, and improve oversight and management of the

Department's "fourth estate." This may include taking further legislative action to clarify authorities, organizational structure, and provide additional policy guidance. The committee will also seek opportunities to build upon the reforms to the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433) that it undertook in the 114th Congress to provide further organization and management agility and adaptability necessary to address longer-term national security challenges.

Acquisition and Regulatory Reform

The committee will continue its ongoing effort to improve the agility of the Department of Defense acquisition system and the environment (i.e., human resources, culture, statutes, regulations, and processes) driving acquisition choices in the Department, industry, and Congress. In undertaking this effort, the committee solicited input from industry, academia, the Department, and others during the 113th Congress, and continued to engage these stakeholders during the 114th Congress. The committee also continued with a series of hearings, briefings, and roundtable discussions in the 114th Congress to receive testimony from key acquisition leaders and experts. The committee addressed many of the identified shortcomings in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

The committee remains concerned that the Department's conventional acquisition system is not sufficiently agile to support warfighter demands. On average, major defense acquisition programs operate for 9 years before yielding new capabilities. Requirements determination, budgeting, and contracting can each take another 2 years or more before programs begin. Meanwhile, technological change has been rapidly generating new, and often unforeseeable, innovations. Global threats are evolving even more quickly, with adversaries leveraging new technologies to exploit gaps in our military capabilities. The conventional acquisition system simply does not enable capabilities to be delivered to warfighters fast enough. The committee has concluded that the current acquisition system costs too much, takes too long, and the troops simply do not get enough out of it.

The committee notes that this persistent lack of agility derives in part from the basic incentives embedded in the requirements, acquisition, budget, and oversight processes. Weapon system requirements must be set anticipating technology that will be available after years of development, so requirements are naturally optimistic. Optimism carries with it substantial technical risk, which leads the acquisition system to make short-term, cost-savings decisions that reduce flexibility and increase long-term costs. Budget timelines and oversight committees require the military services to provide detailed budget justifications, even though such details then limit the military services' ability to pursue new technological innovations after funds are appropriated. Then in response to acquisition shortcomings, both Congress and the Department have imposed new layers of

bureaucratic management and special authorities to circumvent the conventional acquisition process.

While the committee recognizes that there are no "silver bullet" reform packages that can immediately fix the current acquisition system in a holistic manner, the committee intends to take the inputs it has received to facilitate its efforts in this area in the 115th Congress. The committee recognizes this effort will be an iterative process that will result in direct oversight and will be embedded in the committee's regular work throughout the 115th Congress.

Financial Management

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness in this era of declining budgets. Funding levels have been stagnant for national defense over the last 5 fiscal years, and under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), base funding for fiscal year 2018 will be \$2.0 billion lower than levels provided for in fiscal year 2017 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74).

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's inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and tangible assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight.

The Department's inability to produce auditable financial statements undermines its efforts to reform defense acquisition processes and to realize efficiencies. Without these objective tools, neither the Department nor Congress can verify that greater value is being created.

The committee will continue to review efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan as the Department moves to accomplish auditable financial statements by September 30, 2017, as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84). The committee will monitor the interdependencies between the FIAR plan and the funds being spent on business systems modernization programs as the Department works to correct the weaknesses in its financial statements.

Civilian Personnel

The committee will continue to oversee the development of the Department of Defense's workforce strategy for its civilian personnel and other initiatives aimed at ensuring that the Department has the human capital required both now and in the future to expertly, capably, and cost-effectively achieve its national security missions. In particular, the committee will monitor the impact of several new but temporary authorities in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) designed to provide the Department with increased agility and flexibility in hiring and managing its workforce. Finally, the committee will focus extensive oversight on workforce sourcing decisions, transparency, and personnel system reform efforts.

READINESS

Manpower Sufficient in Quantity and Quality to Meet Global Commitments

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to assess the basic question: What does the Nation need in terms of the quantity of manpower and the quality of that manpower to meet its current and future global military commitments, without undue risk to the Nation? In this context, the fiscal year 2017 budget request proposed to continue the reductions to the end strengths of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. At the same time the committee is concerned that the military services remain fully engaged in stability operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, advisory and training missions in the Republic of Iraq, engaged with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and in numerous smaller engagements throughout the world. Reflecting that concern, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) stopped the personnel reductions and sets the stage to reverse the trend. The committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels and force structure to ensure they meet the National Military Strategy. This oversight will seek to provide the Active, Guard, and Reserve Forces sufficient manpower levels to sustain varying scales of activation, while maintaining deployment ratios at or above Department of Defense objectives. Within this focus, the committee will examine trends in overall total force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention, morale, benefits and compensation.

Force Readiness

The committee will hold force readiness as one of its highest priorities and will continue its oversight in this area, focusing not only on the readiness of deployed personnel supporting ongoing operations worldwide, but also on the ability of the military services to generate ready and trained forces for unforeseen contingencies, including full-spectrum combat missions, should the need arise. The continued drawdown of force strength in all of the military services, the ongoing conflict in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and regional aggression by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China exacerbated already acute readiness challenges. For the military services, this meant continuous overseas deployments and little opportunity to conduct deferred maintenance on major end-items or undergo long-neglected training for high-end threats. Therefore, the committee will closely monitor the impact of end strength reductions on force readiness as well as the progress the military services make in training for full-spectrum operations. In particular, the committee will monitor aircraft accidents and availability, as emerging issues in this category of equipment could be the first indicators of a larger readiness crisis. This oversight will include identified shortages in critical specialties such as pilots, aircraft maintainers, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel, among others. Further, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's

efforts to restore readiness in key combat support areas such as logistics, prepositioned stocks, and contracted service support.

Maintenance and Training

The committee notes that continuous high operational tempo for current operations, as well as a lack of stable and adequate funding resulting from the Budget Control Act (Public Law 112-25), leave insufficient time and resources to adequately repair and refit ships, aircraft, and combat vehicles. The shift in training from primarily counterinsurgency missions to full-spectrum combat operations adds more requirements to already stressed units. Therefore, the committee will closely monitor the military services' training and maintenance recovery plans to ensure that they are realistic, adequately manned and resourced, and improve the Department of Defense's ability to achieve its mission requirements. In particular, the committee will oversee the readiness of just-deployed and next-to-deploy units, whose readiness was often sacrificed in order for deploying units to be properly manned, equipped, and trained. Finally, the committee will closely watch the recovery of the military services' aircraft maintenance and training plans.

Weapon Systems Life-Cycle Sustainment and Reset

The committee will focus on reducing the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment by ensuring the Department of Defense is developing, procuring, and modernizing weapons systems and equipment with consideration of life-cycle support and sustainment requirements and cost. The committee will also hold the Department accountable for improving its estimations of total weapon system life-cycle costs to better inform sustainment strategies, such as the cost effectiveness of acquiring technical data from original equipment manufacturers to allow future changes in sustainment path. Furthermore, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's corrosion control efforts and will monitor resourcing of corrosion prediction and prevention efforts with a focus on increasing the service life of weapons systems while reducing long-term sustainment costs. 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 complete reconstitution of prepositioned stocks.

Depot, Shipyard, and Arsenal Capability

A vital component to maintaining warfighting readiness across multiple domains is our Nation's organic industrial base. The arsenals, depots, air logistics complexes, and shipyards provide long-term sustainment through programmed maintenance as well as the critical capability to conduct repair and modernization upgrades as necessary. These facilities and associated skilled workforce provide a

national-level insurance policy against the unknown strategic operating environment. The committee is concerned about the future health of the organic industrial base during a period of fiscal uncertainty and increasing maintenance and sustainment requirements. After 15 years of sustained combat operations and subsequent equipment reset that resulted in peak workload years, the organic industrial base is beginning to see trends of increasing workload following steady declines since 2010. As the organic industrial base works to achieve workload stability, the committee will provide oversight into their process improvement initiatives to ensure ships, aircraft, and ground equipment return to the warfighter on-schedule. The committee is concerned that the Department of Defense lacks a comprehensive and integrated strategy to ensure U.S. military depots and arsenals are viably positioned for long-term sustainability and have the workforce, equipment, and facilities for efficient operations to meet the Nation's current requirements, as well as those through the next set of challenges. This includes, but is not limited to, oversight of how the workforce is matching capabilities and skills to emerging requirements as well as how they are recruiting, training, and preparing to retain the future workforce. The committee will conduct oversight into the use of new technologies such as additive manufacturing, robotics, and artificial intelligence as pathways to improve management of spares inventory and supply chain operations. The committee will 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. Inconsistent and unpredictable funding associated with the industrial base and their readiness efforts only exacerbate workload challenges and reduce workforce performance. The committee will continue its work to oversee carryover management at the depots and arsenals, to include the review of what levels should be acceptable for sufficient continuation of operations on an annual basis. The committee will continue working to ensure capital investment continues at the depots, arsenals, and shipyards in order to maintain a level of modern capability sufficient to meet the needs of the warfighter. Furthermore, the committee will examine how previous efficiency initiatives and workforce optimization continue to impact depot, shipyard, and arsenal capability, how more recent steps to increase arsenal and depot visibility among program managers and program offices are working, and how well programs and plans designed to assure the availability of critical organic manufacturing capabilities are being executed.

National Guard and Reserves

The debate about the force structure mix of Active and Reserve Components, the proper roles and missions of the Reserve Components, be they an operational or strategic reserve, and the affordability of the required force to meet national security requirements, will continue again in the 115th Congress. Competition among the Active and Reserve Components for resources will serve as a catalyst for that debate.

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to review the various recommendations and proposals regarding the National Guard and Reserves and monitor proposed changes to ensure the recommendations will meet the National Military Strategy requirements, as well as homeland security and disaster requirements. The committee is especially interested in the Department of Defense's plan to reform the Reserve Component duty statuses and will scrutinize this plan. In addition, the oversight of military technicians will continue. Given the uncertainty of the current and projected fiscal environment, the availability of equipment needed to sustain and modernize the National Guard and Reserve Components as an operational reserve and for their domestic support missions, to include legacy aircraft as part of the Aerospace Control Alert mission, remains a concern. The committee will also focus oversight efforts on current equipment investment strategies for the National Guard and Reserve Components with particular emphasis on affordability and modernization of critical dual-use equipment platforms that are essential to the National Guard's Title 32 mission and defense support to civil authorities. Furthermore, the committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the obligation and execution rates of funds provided as part of a separate procurement account, entitled the "National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account," that would be used to address equipment shortfalls for the National Guard and Reserve Components.

Energy and Environment

The committee will review the energy strategies promulgated by the Department of Defense and will monitor the Department's energy use on military installations. While reduction of energy demand through cost-effective investments remains a priority, the committee will review proposed investments that may demonstrate a simple return on investment but fail to materially enhance mission assurance, readiness, or combat capability.

The committee will also continue its oversight of the Department of Defense and military services' environmental programs and will monitor Department of Defense funding and adherence to Federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention. Specifically, the committee will continue oversight to protect Department of Defense training, testing, and operations from encroachment, support outreach with respect to emergent issues such as the drinking water quality, and review progress of hazard remediation and mitigation across the Department in mission areas such as indoor firing ranges as well as maintenance and depot facilities.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Basing

The Department of Defense is undergoing a significant change in force structure both in the United States and overseas. The committee will continue to

review all significant domestic and overseas basing and stationing proposals to ensure that these proposals include adequate construction funding and long-term sustainment resources.

The committee will continue discussions with the Department of Defense and military departments on excess infrastructure capacity associated with military installations, but will expect proposed courses of action for consolidation to be justified and informed by the force structure required to fulfill the national military strategy versus current or legacy unit sizes, locations, and configurations.

Military Construction Programming and Facilities Sustainment

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 are provided. The committee will also oversee the Department's investments in facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization, as well as the Department's utilization of new authorities recently provided by Congress related to the conversion of existing facilities and investments in infrastructure supporting research, development, test, and evaluation activities. Finally, recognizing the rapid change in weapon systems and missions in comparison to the timeline to plan, program, and execute new military construction, the committee will engage with the Department to seek more opportunities to construct flexible facilities rather than traditional purpose-built (i.e., single mission) facilities when practical and cost-effective.

Real Property Acquisition, Maintenance, and Disposal

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain almost \$879.0 billion in infrastructure at an annual cost of nearly \$37.0 billion. The committee is concerned that inadequate asset visibility, poor requirements development, and project planning inefficiencies result in poorly coordinated investment decisions and sub-optimal facility construction. The committee will seek to apply best practices across the Department of Defense in order to efficiently develop and maintain the military services' ranges, facilities, and infrastructure.

MILITARY PERSONNEL AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

Military Manpower and Force Structure

Medical Accession Standards

The committee will provide robust oversight of military medical and behavioral health accession standards, an issue which directly impacts the readiness of the force. The Department of Defense is currently conducting an

extensive review and re-drafting of the medical and behavioral health accession standards. These standards apply to all individuals applying for military service, and address a broad range of medical and mental health conditions that disqualify individuals from serving. The Department conducts this periodic review to ensure the latest medical research, analysis and treatments are used to inform any changes to qualifying and disqualifying conditions. This particular review also coincided with the Secretary of Defense's decision that, by July 2017, the military services must have policies in place to allow transgender individuals to enter the military. The committee will oversee any potential changes to the medical and behavioral health accession standards to ensure they are rooted in sound medical analysis and that the changes do not compromise force readiness.

Gender Integration

The Department of Defense and the military services have recently opened all military occupations to women. The committee will continue to provide close oversight as the military services implement new gender neutral occupational standards and begin to populate previously closed military occupations with women. The committee will also focus on the policies implemented to ensure proper support, training, assignment, and career advancement for women entering these career fields.

Military Benefits and Compensation

During the 115th Congress, the committee will give close scrutiny to any proposals from the Department of Defense or other organizations, both governmental and private sector, calling for any funding reductions or changes to military compensation and other benefit programs in order to ensure any proposed changes assess the impact to the All-Volunteer Force. To that end, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) authorized a major change to a service member's retirement compensation. The new Blended Retirement System takes effect in January 2018, and the committee's oversight in this area will concentrate on the proper implementation of the new plan.

Military Health System

The committee is committed to maintaining a robust Military Health System whose primary responsibility is readiness of the force. To that end, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) included comprehensive reform of the Military Health System to ensure the availability of trained and ready health care providers to support the readiness of the force and provide a sustainable, quality health care benefit that is valued by its beneficiaries. The reform is focused in three areas: medical readiness, the Military Health System structure, and the TRICARE benefit. During the 115th Congress,

the committee will oversee the Department of Defense's progress towards implementing the elements of the health care reform beginning January 1, 2018.

Mental Health Services for Members of the Armed Forces

A continued principal focus of the committee during the 115th Congress will be to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of mental health services provided to members of the Armed Forces and their families. These efforts will include a review of the research related to mental health conditions undertaken or funded by the Department of Defense that have resulted in improved clinical interventions and outcomes. Particular attention will be given, but not limited to, the suicide prevention efforts undertaken by each military service and the consistency and comprehensiveness of the Department of Defense policy on prevention of suicide among members of the Armed Forces and their families, including methods of collecting and assessing suicide data. An additional focus will be the adequacy of suicide prevention programs for members of the special operational forces and their families.

Wounded Warrior Care

The committee will continue its efforts to assess the adequacy of the Department of Defense policies and programs for wounded and disabled service members and their families. In this regard, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department of Defense's ability to integrate and coordinate the multitude of services and resources available to assist the wounded and disabled, not only from other Federal agencies, but also from the private sector. The committee will continue to monitor the military services' selection process for identifying individuals to work within wounded warrior programs and the quality of the services provided by such programs. Additionally, the committee will continue to monitor translational research and treatment advances in traumatic brain injury. Particular attention will be focused on the Integrated Disability Evaluation System with a view to ensuring the fairness, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of the program and to simplify the process for service members.

Military Personnel Policy

During the 115th Congress, the personnel policies of the Department of Defense will remain under considerable scrutiny as the Department competes to recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women. The committee will 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.

Uniform Code of Military Justice to Include Sexual Assault

The committee will continue to provide oversight of military justice, with a particular emphasis on sexual assault. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) contained the most comprehensive overhaul of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) in over 30 years. The committee will provide substantial oversight as the Department of Defense drafts the implementing rules for these changes. The committee will also continue its robust oversight of the Department of Defense's sexual assault prevention and response programs. Specifically, the committee will focus on the Department's recent improvements to the policy addressing retaliation, and the implementation of the recent National Defense Authorization Act provision that establishes retaliation as a specific UCMJ violation.

Military Family Readiness

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to focus on the support provided to families of the members of the Armed Forces, particularly during deployments. In this regard, the committee will assess the methods utilized 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 lives. As end strengths of the Armed Forces once again increase, after years of decline, the committee will closely 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 close oversight on the quality and availability of services at Department of Defense child development centers.

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 and maintain the combat readiness of the force. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end in conjunction with major reforms, begun in the 114th Congress, to maintain 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 must 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 attract them to participate. This is especially true for commissaries that are restricted from using pricing, product, and advertising strategies that are common in the private sector because of legislative

and policy barriers. These barriers will be addressed during the 115th Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) requires the Department of Defense to reform management, food and pricing options for the Defense Commissary System to assist in maintaining a competitive and effective commissary system in the future that requires less appropriated funding. During the 115th Congress, the committee will monitor and oversee the changes required by the commissary reform plan with a focus on the beneficiaries of the system maintaining their benefit uninterrupted.

Prisoner of War and Missing in Action

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the Department of Defense's Prisoner of War/Missing in Action activities, as the committee of jurisdiction. Specifically, the committee will focus on the operations of the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency, established by the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). In addition, the committee will continue to assess the progress towards meeting the requirement that the accounting effort achieve at least 200 identifications annually.

MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

Overview

During the 115th Congress, the committee will devote particular attention to the examination of military equipment modernization strategies and their ability to mitigate threats from near-peer and peer competitors, and retain technology superiority and overmatch, both in the near-term and long-term. The committee's efforts will continue to focus on "restoring readiness" through near-term incremental modernization efforts that utilize acquisition reform initiatives to better streamline the development and fielding of solutions to the warfighter in a timely manner. The committee will continue to consider ways to accelerate modernization efforts for the military services and encourage increased investment for modernization programs. The committee, through rigorous oversight and legislative action, will develop strategies to help mitigate cost growth and schedule delays among all categories of modernization programs. The committee will also assess the need for legislative action by examining causes of these problems, including: late determination of requirements, requirements growth, and failure to properly control requirements changes; inadequate analyses of alternatives; concurrency in test and evaluation; military services proceeding prematurely with development of immature technology; poor cost estimating; inadequate funding profiles; over-estimation of potential production rates; and program instability. In particular, the committee will also seek to ensure the military services have the appropriate authorities, capabilities, force structure, and modernization strategies

in place to defeat any potential challenges posed by advanced anti-access capabilities from near-peer or peer adversaries.

Army and Marine Corps Armored Vehicle Modernization

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' evolving plans to recapitalize, improve, and modernize their existing fleets of heavy and medium-weight armored combat vehicles over the next two decades, as well as focus on force structure requirements for Armor Brigade Combat Teams and Marine Infantry Battalions. As part of this oversight effort, the committee will focus particular attention on Army and Marine Corps efforts to continue to field combat vehicles that stay ahead of the evolving anti-vehicle threat posed by improvised explosive devices, advances in anti-tank guided missiles, and rocket propelled grenades. With respect to combat vehicle modernization programs, the committee will continue to focus efforts on, but not be limited to, the acceleration of engineering change proposals for the M1 Abrams tank and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, improving the survivability and lethality of the family of Stryker Combat Vehicles, the development and procurement of the family of Amphibious Combat Vehicles, specifically the Amphibious Combat Vehicle Increment 1.1 and Increment 1.2 programs, continued survivability and performance upgrades for Light Armored Vehicles, the Paladin Integrated Management program's transition to full rate production, the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle (AMPV) program's transition from research and development to procurement, and the Army's mobile protected firepower program. During the 115th Congress, the committee will also continue to assess the viability and fragility of the armored combat vehicle industrial base, to include assessing critical sub-tier supplier base for items such as transmissions and forward looking infrared radars.

Army and Marine Corps Tactical Wheeled Vehicles

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Army and Marine Corps' tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization strategies for their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, the family of mine resistant ambush protected vehicles, line haul tractor trailers, and construction equipment. The committee will monitor TWV fleet size and composition, and focus on developing acquisition strategies to help maintain competition, capacity, and capability in the TWV industrial base given significant decreases in overall requirements, as well as focus on the importance of continuing to modernize the current TWV fleet given the growing complex security environment.

Of particular interest to the committee will be the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program. The committee will monitor the JLTV budget, cost, schedule, and performance as the program transitions from development into production. Additionally, the committee will conduct oversight on the Army's efforts to improve the lethality of the JLTV. The committee will also monitor the Army's acquisition strategies in the development and procurement of the Ground Mobility

Vehicle and Light Reconnaissance Vehicle programs that would "enhance the tactical mobility and lethality of Infantry Brigade Combat Teams." Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Government Accountability Office regarding the Department of Defense's efforts in the long-term management and sustainment of the TWV fleet and its associated industrial base.

Army and Marine Corps Rotorcraft Programs

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to focus oversight efforts on Army and Marine Corps rotorcraft modernization programs, force structure, and rotorcraft readiness challenges. Program areas of interest for the committee will focus on, but not be limited to, the following rotorcraft acquisition programs: UH-60 Black Hawk utility rotorcraft, AH-64 Apache Attack rotorcraft, CH-47 Chinook heavy lift rotorcraft, V-22 tiltrotor platforms, UH-1 Huey utility helicopters, AH-1 attack rotorcraft, the CH-53K heavy lift rotorcraft program, and the future vertical lift development program. Legacy rotorcraft platforms will likely continue to be operated at high operational tempos in very challenging environments. These high operational tempos will require continued upgrade and reset efforts to ensure these platforms have the necessary performance capability required to perform their missions. The committee will provide oversight on the requirements to upgrade and reset these critical equipment platforms for both the Active and Reserve Components through formal activities and legislative action, and continue oversight on the need to grow additional combat aviation brigades in the Army. In addition to its oversight of rotorcraft requirements for, and performance in, combat operations, the committee will conduct oversight of the critical need for advanced aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving surface-to-air missile threats, as well as look for ways to accelerate the fielding of degraded visual environment technology on legacy platforms.

Army Communications and Network Programs

Given the growing importance of tactical battlefield communications networks in global combat operations, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Army's plans for its future battlefield network and the supporting research and development programs now in place, to include oversight of the Army's Tactical Network Modernization roadmap. In particular, the committee will focus oversight efforts on the incremental development and fielding of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical and other tactical radio programs. The committee will continue to engage with the Army to ensure that future tactical battlefield network capabilities result in a network-enabled, rather than a network-dependent Army. The committee, in coordination with the Department of Defense, aims to empower soldiers to accomplish their missions, rather than create an Army that is dependent on its communications network, so much so that it is not able to function without it. As such, the committee will also help direct the Army's limited

modernization resources to investments that will have the greatest short-, mid-, and long-term impact for the end user.

Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment

The committee will continue to devote substantial attention to the oversight of the research, development, and procurement of organizational clothing and individual equipment, as well as other complementary personal protective equipment (PPE) programs. Consistent with previous committee oversight activity, the committee will continue to focus on the importance of modernizing PPE, and encourage the military services to manage PPE acquisition as a weapon system, rather than a commodity. Focus areas will continue to include, but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction (“lightening the load”) in clothing and individual equipment; continued investment in advances of next generation material development, and development and procurement of specific PPE systems designed for military servicewomen; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army's modular handgun program, and procurement and fielding of enhanced performance small caliber rounds; improved combat helmets to help mitigate traumatic brain injury; improved combat uniforms; and the overall management of these associated niche, but highly critical industrial bases.

Tactical Aircraft Force Structure

The committee will continue to focus its oversight efforts on the size, composition, and capability of the Department of Defense's tactical aircraft force structure. The committee will continue efforts from the 114th Congress regarding aviation readiness challenges, and work with the Department to develop ways to accelerate procurement of 5th generation tactical aircraft to improve overall capability and capacity of Air Force and Navy tactical aircraft. The committee will continue to explore ways to improve capabilities of the legacy fleet, and continue to monitor the Navy's plans for mitigating certain physiological episodes being experienced by pilots operating certain tactical aircraft.

With an operational requirement of 1,056 strike fighters, the Department of the Navy projects it can manage a strike fighter shortfall of 35 aircraft in 2023. The committee will focus on inventory objectives of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G procurement, and if necessary work to support additional funding for the procurement of F/A-18E/F aircraft across the Future Years Defense Program to help mitigate potential inventory shortfalls, the effect of delays in the procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18 A through D service life limits, and mission capability rates of the AV-8B aircraft.

The Air Force has stated a strike fighter operational requirement of 1,900 aircraft, and, under current procurement and retirement plans, the Air Force projects its inventory to fall below that requirement as older aircraft are retired. In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of: aircraft retirement

plans; the F-22 and F-35 aircraft programs; and life extension and modernization programs for the F-15, F-16, and A-10 aircraft. The committee will engage with the Air Force and develop strategies to mitigate any potential tactical aircraft inventory shortfall that would impact the Department's ability to meet the objectives of the National Military Strategy. In addition to the above, the committee will have a particular interest in acquisition strategies for future, next generation strike fighter development.

F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, particularly with regard to issues related to program cost, schedule, and performance. The committee will also focus efforts on the F-35 follow-on modernization program. With the JSF approximately 90 percent through a 16-year development process, the committee's primary focus areas will include but not be limited to software development and testing, addressing F135 engine problems, the autonomic logistics information system development and integration, and accelerating the ramp-up in production planned for 2018 and beyond. In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to receive JSF annual reports and receive testimony and briefings from both the Department of Defense and an independent review from the Government Accountability Office.

Bomber Force Structure

During the 115th congress, the committee anticipates that the Air Force will continue investments of significant fiscal resources 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 recapitalize the long-range strike bomber fleet.

During the engineering, manufacturing, and development phase of the new bomber aircraft, it will be imperative that the Air Force continues to maintain, modernize, and upgrade the existing fleet of bomber aircraft in order to preserve effective capabilities needed to meet current and future threat target sets. Furthermore, the committee will assess impacts associated with the bomber fleet's inability to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's January 1, 2020, Next Generation Air Space Control mandate.

The committee will continue to maintain oversight of current bomber aircraft inventory requirements and modernization efforts to ensure that the Air Force maintains a sufficient, credible, and lethal fixed-wing aircraft with conventional and strategic weapons delivery capability to support all aspects of the National Military Strategy.

Aerial Refueling Aircraft

During the 115th Congress, the committee will review the Air Force aerial refueling aircraft modernization and recapitalization programs, and the Navy's nascent refueling capability associated with the MQ-25 program. The committee notes that the Nation's ability to meet its air-refueling requirements must not be placed at increased risk while the Department of Defense executes its strategic aerial refueling recapitalization strategy.

Currently, the Air Force requires 479 air refueling tankers to meet the National Military Strategy but only possesses 395 KC-135 and 59 KC-10 tankers for a total of 454 tankers. KC-46A deliveries will grow the tanker force to 479 aircraft in fiscal year 2018. Subsequently, the Air Force plans to replace its older tankers one-for-one with 179 KC-46A aircraft. The remaining 300 KC-135 aircraft from the Eisenhower era will need to be modernized until such time they can be replaced. Therefore, timely and efficient recapitalization of the Air Force's KC-135 tanker fleet with new KC-46A aerial refueling aircraft is critical.

The committee will also review the MQ-25 program as the Navy seeks to develop an unmanned aerial vehicle that provides air-refueling and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. The committee is concerned about limiting the scope of the MQ-25 to relieve the tanking burden borne by the F-18 fleet and to provide a modest level of additional ISR capability. The committee will assess options for the Department of the Navy's ability to ensure that precision strike is also a requirement of any follow-on platform to increase the Navy's strike capability. The committee will ensure that the Navy has completed a robust requirement process that ensures the fleet receives the necessary capabilities from this new platform.

Intertheater and Intratheater Airlift

The committee will continue to assess the risk in the Air Force's current plan to reduce the intertheater airlift aircraft inventory to 300 total aircraft. As such, the committee will assess the force structure results of the Mobility Capability Requirements Study--Next by the end of 2017. While pleased with Air Force efforts to modernize Air National Guard and Reserve C-130H aircraft with Avionics Modernization Program increment 1 and increment 2 and engine upgrades, the committee will continue to review the C-130H modernization program to ensure it is capable of meeting inter-theater airlift requirements.

Regarding intratheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee will continue to provide oversight of the C-5 and C-17 modernization programs. With regard to the C-5, the committee is pleased with the progress of the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engine Program, but remains concerned that the Air Force may not meet the Federal Aviation Administration's January 1, 2020, Next Generation Air Space Control mandate.

The committee will continue oversight of Air Force intertheater and intratheater airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 115th Congress

to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained to meet mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense. Finally, the committee will maintain vigilant oversight associated with all intertheater- and intratheater-airlift-assets, to meet the Federal Aviation Administration's mandate.

Surface Warfare Programs

The Department of the Navy must rapidly expand the core capabilities of U.S. seapower to achieve a blend of peacetime engagement and major combat operations capabilities as part of the Navy's 355-ship requirement. In pursuing this goal, the committee will provide oversight of the composition, capacity, and capabilities of the surface fleet. Specifically, the committee will assess the President's budget request to ensure compliance with the aircraft carrier force structure requirements associated with section 5062 of title 10, United States Code. 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. As part of the weapons and sensors oversight, the committee will review the requirements associated with the Littoral Combat Ship mission modules and the anti-ship missile capabilities. Further oversight of the amphibious forces will also be pursued to include amphibious assault in a contested environment, integration of advanced data capabilities and the amphibious assault connectors. The committee will continue its oversight of the DDG-51 Arleigh Burke class Destroyer program and will closely follow the transition to the Flight III variant that will incorporate the new Air and Missile Defense Radar. 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. The committee will also assess whether sufficient

resources and technological maturity are available for the recapitalization of the ballistic missile submarine forces. 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 procurements, rigorous assessment of requirements, and management of an expanding undersea industrial base capacity.

Military Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs

Manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system programs have come to constitute a significant component of the overall Department of Defense force structure. The capability provided by these assets is critical to sustaining deterrence and warfighting capability of U.S. forces.

The committee will focus on the budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of major ISR manned and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) programs, and examine the entire ISR enterprise for balance in inventory, collection, and analysis capabilities. Also, close examination of the Office of the Secretary of Defense ISR policy formulation and oversight has been, and will continue to be, of interest to the committee. Long-standing concerns of the committee remain: lack of an adequate long-term ISR architecture and acquisition strategy; lack of supporting analysis for programmatic decisions; and the failure to balance collection programs data output with adequate resources to process, exploit, and disseminate data and analysis. The committee expects the Joint Staff and Joint Requirements Oversight Council to take a more active role in coordinating ISR system acquisition and coordinating employment with the combatant commanders.

In particular, the committee will place emphasis on, but not be limited to, the cost, schedule, performance, and procurement objectives of the following ISR programs: RQ-4 Global Hawk UAS Block 30 and Block 40, MQ-9 Reaper UAS, MQ-1C Gray Eagle UAS, MQ-4C Triton UAS, MQ-8 Fire Scout, MQ-25 Stingray, Marine Air Ground Task Force UAS Expeditionary, and sustainment of U-2 aircraft.

Emerging Advanced Weapons Capabilities

Department of Defense investment in science and technology often leads to the development of new advanced weapons capabilities or weapons concepts that contribute to the technological superiority of U.S. military forces. Maintaining technological overmatch of current and potential adversaries is a significant part of the qualitative advantage of U.S. forces, but is increasingly difficult in an environment of globalized technologies and asymmetric combinations of high-tech and low-tech capabilities. The committee will continue to monitor technological developments, from both Government funded labs, as well as commercially developed sources, and support transition of the most promising technological systems or concepts.

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to examine doctrine, concepts of employment, and other organizing concepts being pursued by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense, and when matured, develop acquisition plans in support of fielding new advanced capabilities, such as directed energy capabilities, hypersonics, and autonomous systems. Not only will the committee oversee the development, but it will be equally important to monitor policies or trends impeding or supporting the development of new, innovative capabilities, as well as monitoring scientific developments internationally to better understand how state-of-the-art advancements can contribute to foreign military developments.

Advancements in areas like directed energy, hypersonics, autonomy, and synthetic biology may prove to be double-edged swords, benefiting U.S. national security, but also exploiting U.S. security weaknesses when adopted by potential future adversaries. Additionally, the committee has expanded its focus to take a similar look at other emerging advanced weapons capabilities, such as hypersonics and autonomy, to see how they can contribute to new security strategies, and to ensure that they are supported by rigorous technical analysis and relevant concepts of employment.

Nuclear Deterrence

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 place particular emphasis on oversight of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's nuclear modernization plans, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship programs, stockpile management programs, stockpile responsiveness programs, delivery system modernization, nuclear command and control, cost savings and efficiency initiatives, and security.

The committee will oversee funding levels for the nuclear deterrence mission and nuclear enterprise to ensure sufficient resources are provided and allocated effectively and efficiently across Department of Energy and Department of Defense requirements. The committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize the U.S. nuclear deterrent for decades into the future, including the Ohio-class replacement submarine, the Ground-based Strategic Deterrent system, the B-21 Raider bomber, the Long-range Standoff cruise missile, and their associated nuclear warheads. Alongside overseeing and authorizing U.S. nuclear deterrence programs, the committee will also monitor foreign nuclear weapon development and modernization programs as well as arms control commitments around the world. The committee will ensure U.S. nuclear deterrence programs are postured, planned, and funded to address pertinent current and future threats. The committee will also continue oversight of implementation of corrective actions resulting from the Department of Defense's

Nuclear Enterprise Review to ensure such actions result in meaningful and long-lasting change.

In addition to programs, the committee will also provide oversight of the United States' nuclear policy and posture, extended deterrence policy, arms control activities, nuclear nonproliferation 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. The committee will also review the effectiveness of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's organization and management of the nuclear enterprise, including coordination of plans and policies through the joint Nuclear Weapons Council and alignment of the Naval Reactors program with Department of Defense requirements. Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of, and seek continuous improvement in, performance, efficiency, governance, and management of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, laboratory and production site management and operations, workforce sustainment efforts, and defense nuclear cleanup activities.

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 its friends and allies against ballistic and cruise missile threats.

The committee will continue to place a particular emphasis on U.S. homeland missile defense capabilities (including the Missile Defense Agency's proposal and strategy for acquiring a Redesigned Kill Vehicle and the statutory deadline to develop and flight test the Multi-Object Kill Vehicle). The committee will also continue to oversee the European Phased Adaptive Approach implementation, developmental and operational testing, force structure and inventory requirements, continued development of so-called "left-of-launch" capabilities and exercises, and science and technology investments in areas such as directed energy.

The committee will also monitor the development and subsequent execution and implementation by the Department of Defense of a missile defeat posture review as directed in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

The committee will continue to monitor foreign ballistic missile threats and identify opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners such as the State of Israel, Japan, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Republic of Korea, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its member states.

Department of Defense oversight and management of missile defense activities, including the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies and

procedures of the Missile Defense Agency and military services will also be reviewed.

The committee also intends to continue to oversee the Army's Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense System modernization efforts. The Army's plans call for significant investment over a long-term and the committee will ensure these plans are cost-effective, based on proven technology, support continued Foreign Military Sales, and provide maximum deployable capability to combatant commanders and the warfighter. Additionally, the committee will ensure interoperability of Army and Ballistic Missile Defense System capabilities.

Additionally, the committee will oversee the effort to develop and deploy a cruise missile defense capability to protect the National Capital Region and other high-value potential targets.

National Security Space

The committee oversees the national security space 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 particular attention on current and projected foreign space threats and will carefully assess the Department's space security and defense program to include space situational awareness, space protection, space control, and operationally responsive space activities. The committee will also focus on improving the organization and management of the Department's space program to posture the military to maintain our space advantage.

The committee will continue oversight of national security space activities in support of warfighter operations and plans; space acquisition strategies that provide necessary warfighter capability, while reducing cost and technical risk and supporting the industrial base; maintaining 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 satellite services; exploitation of space sensor data to maximize effectiveness and efficiency; improvements of the synchronization between satellite, ground, and terminal acquisition programs; and efforts that develop and sustain an expert space workforce.

EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Investment in Future Capabilities Science and Technology

The Department of Defense continues to face difficult choices as it balances the competing needs of capabilities for current operations and those projected for future conflicts. In order to address the latter, investments need to be made in the Department's Science and Technology (S&T) programs, and aligned appropriately with continued development and procurement programs to position the Department to meet future challenges. S&T investments should also be leveraged to support

broader acquisition improvements or defense industrial base sustainment activities by creatively utilizing competitive or operational prototyping, technical transition or integration, or requirements maturation.

The committee will continue to oversee the Department's S&T activities to ensure the planning and execution of a balanced S&T program that reflects the national security priorities of the military, as expressed in strategy documents and congressional guidance. The committee will also continue to examine how S&T investments are integrated into strategic and operational plans to ensure that the investments being made, including in people and infrastructure, are properly aligned. The committee will focus on better understanding how S&T programs integrate intelligence analyses into the S&T planning cycle, as well as better cognizance of global developments and industry-based independent research and development.

Cyber Operations Capabilities

Cyber operations have taken on an increasingly important role in military operations, as well as overall in national security. Including both offensive and defensive operations, they offer new means for exercising military power, as well as new vulnerabilities to critical information systems and data. Recent reporting on Russian cyber intrusions to influence U.S. domestic politics illustrate the former, while the breach of data within the Office of Personnel Management that resulted in the loss of millions of records from military and civilian personnel and their families is an example of the latter.

The committee will continue to closely scrutinize the Department of Defense's cyber operations, organization, manning, and funding to ensure that the military has the freedom of maneuver to conduct the range of missions in the Nation's defense, and when called upon, to support other interagency and international partners. The maturation of the U.S. Cyber Command as a full unified command, as well as the achievement of full operational capability for the cyber mission teams, including their readiness and participation in ongoing operations, will be a primary point of focus for the committee's oversight.

An important oversight role for Congress regarding the conduct of cyber operations has been to ensure that the proper legal and policy frameworks are in place and followed. The committee has also continued to scrutinize military cyber operations to ensure that they are properly integrated into the combatant commander's operational plans, include appropriate rules of engagement, and ensure that adequate capabilities exist or are in development to employ these cyberspace operational tools with rigor and discretion to support a full range of options for the Nation's decision makers. As the policy framework and mission forces mature, the committee will also need to focus oversight on the development of training, exercises, doctrine, tactics, and procedures for operating in the cyber domain, as well as workforce development and retention for civilian and military personnel. Additionally, the committee will continue to oversee the implementation

and utilization of the limited acquisition authority granted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92).

In the course of monitoring the cybersecurity posture of the military, the committee will need to continue its oversight of the security of the global supply chain system, including its ability to monitor, regulate, and manage risk as a result of the effects of globalization on the assured integrity of microelectronics and software.

Information Operations

Being able to operate effectively in the information environment, especially one saturated by official news channels, informal social media feeds, and other internet-fueled sources, has demonstrated to be a challenge for the U.S. Government. Recent examples have been especially poignant in illustrating that engagement with foreign audiences, and nuanced understanding of the information environment, will increasingly be pivotal in navigating the 21st century security environment. Whether one is trying to influence nation-state actors or potential allies, counter violent extremist groups, or identify and counter efforts at deception or misinformation, strategic communication and information operations are key elements to success on the battlefield of the future.

From an oversight perspective, this will require the committee to continue to scrutinize the programs, authorities, funding, and training for traditional military information support operations, as well as ensuring such capabilities are integrated into contingency planning and theater security cooperation plans. Additionally, emerging technologies like social media and big data analytics are forcing the Department of Defense to be more agile and adaptable in how it uses emerging technology, including flexible and agile policies for their employment, and concept exploration and development to determine new ways of operationalizing information influence. The committee will also monitor how developments in the defense space can be adapted and synchronized with broader interagency and international activities in order to exert influence from tactical effect to strategic effect.

Compromises of National Security Information and Insider Threats

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to identify and mitigate the threats to military programs, plans, operations, and personnel stemming from the compromise of a large amount of classified information through unauthorized disclosures. The committee will monitor efforts to mitigate future compromises by overseeing the implementation of insider threat programs and other security clearance reform efforts within the executive branch, and the Department of Defense's compliance with the requirements of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) regarding the

Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies.

Use of Force in Counterterrorism Operations Outside the United States and Areas of Active Hostilities

The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over the use of force in counterterrorism operations outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities. While the use of force in this area will be overseen in all aspects, the committee will pay particular attention to special operations and activities and the interagency coordination that occurs with the U.S. intelligence community. In conducting this oversight, the committee will also review and consider presidential policy guidance documents and similar executive branch directives, and ensure that counterterrorism operations conducted outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities are in line with broader national security objectives, strategies, and resources. Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence matters of the Department of Defense in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.