

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**REGIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE ASSETS – ASSESSING COMBATANT COMMAND
AND ALLIED DEMAND FOR CAPABILITIES**

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Chairman Lamborn, Ranking Member Moulton, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss missile defense in the context of Combatant Commanders (CCMD) and allied demand and service capacity. Missile-related threats have rapidly expanded in recent years and adversary missile systems are showing more maneuver capability as well as greater survivability, reliability, accuracy, and lethality. The increase in adversary capabilities, CCMD demand, Russia's war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict places an ever-increasing strain on the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) forces. As I will discuss in detail, these forces comprise one of the most stressed force elements across the Joint Force.

I serve as the Deputy Director for Regional Operations and Force Management (DDRO/J-35) in the Joint Staff Operations Directorate, the J-3. I assist in providing policy, readiness, force-sourcing, and force employment expertise to the Director of Operations and coordinate with the Services and CCMDs on inputs to the annual Global Force Management Allocation Plan (GFMAP) and the emergent Secretary of Defense Orders Book (SDOB) process. In this role, we review, adjudicate, and recommend allocation decisions through the Chairman to the Secretary of Defense on a recurring basis. As the focal point for global current and future operations on the Joint Staff, the J-35 is responsible for providing directives and communications to and from the joint force, while ensuring we assist the Chairman in his role as principal military advisor to the Secretary of Defense and President.

As Israel's conflict with Hamas endures, and Iranian proxies continue to target U.S. forces in the region, the United States expeditiously deployed several additional land and sea-based air and missile defense assets on a temporary basis to multiple locations in the Middle East. This bolstered existing integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) capabilities in the region – other nations' systems and our own – and strengthened force protection for U.S. personnel and our allies and partners. Real-world examples of these U.S. systems in combat include the recent intercepts of several Houthi UASs and cruise missiles by multiple Navy destroyers. Moreover, we have made several IAMD moves

over the past two years in Europe to protect US forces and our NATO allies, and help the Ukrainians combat the Russian threats to their sovereignty.

While specific details of current and planned deployments are more appropriate for a closed session, I can confidently say that IAMD is one of the Joint Force's most heavily deployed capabilities with the highest demand signal among CCMDs every year. Like other stressed force elements, Combatant Command missile defense requirements regularly challenge our Service inventories. This is because of the wide range of advancing threats facing each of these CCMDs, which includes ballistic and cruise missiles, hypersonic threats, UAS, fixed wing, rotary wing and rockets, artillery & mortars (RAM). As with any deployment of low-density, high-demand capabilities, we closely evaluated the trade-offs and made risk-informed decisions that balanced needs and risks across the Combatant Commands and the health of the force to meet future warfighting requirements.

Our Joint Force's contribution to defeat these threats is evolving and continues to improve in both capability and capacity. These new regional IAMD capabilities will help to address the growing robust and complex threat, but capabilities alone will not close the gaps or mitigate the threat. There is a necessary capacity component given the robust nature of the air threat. This force structure – in some cases additive, in others more modernized – is designed not only to defeat the threat but to minimize the operational impact to our servicemembers and their supporting families.

A critical point to emphasize is that IAMD is a shared responsibility across the Services and that multiple services are exceeding Secretary of Defense redline requirements. As an example, the Secretary of Defense's goal is to keep a servicemember at home station three days for every one they are deployed (e.g., for a nine-month deployment a Soldier would be at home for 27 months). This metric is known as the Deploy-to-Dwell ratio. Due to unprecedented operational demand, the Patriot force has not met the Secretary of Defense's Deploy-to-Dwell goal for several years and is currently trending in a less favorable direction. Additionally, multiple U.S. Navy Ballistic Missile Defense

(BMD) Destroyers have been extended past their nominal 6+/-1 month deployments, some to as long as 9 months, in support of U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) emergent demand.

The 2022 Missile Defense Review highlights that integration – with Allies and partners' missile defense – is an important priority to strengthen international cooperation against shared threats. When Allies protect their own airbases or assets, it contributes to collective security for U.S. forces and can reduce the amount of U.S. IAMD assets required by the Combatant Commander. Recent examples of our efforts to enhance coordination and integration with Allies and partners include: air defense engagements by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to defeat Houthi missiles and one-way UAS attacks in the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR), German and Dutch Patriot contributions to Ukraine in the USEUCOM AOR, and ongoing trilateral agreements between the U.S., Republic of Korea and Japan in the USINDOPACOM AOR.

In conclusion, I take great pride in the efforts made by all our servicemembers and their steadfast families in support of these critical capabilities that protect our nation and its interests. The Joint Staff recognizes the demand placed on the force and is taking significant and aggressive steps to improve regional IAMD capabilities and capacity. We will continue to work with our Service partners and allies to better align our efforts into the overall missile defense architecture. Thanks again for the continued support of the Congress to resource and improve our IAMD capacity and capabilities. I look forward to our discussion and answering your questions.