

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF:
MS. JILL M. HRUBY TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY
FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL
NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION; MR. FRANK A. ROSE
TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR NATIONAL
NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION; MS. DEBORAH G.
ROSENBLUM TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE
PROGRAMS AND MR. CHRISTOPHER P. MAIER TO BE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL
OPERATIONS AND LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Washington, D.C.

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1 HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF:

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3 NUCLEAR SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL NUCLEAR
4 SECURITY ADMINISTRATION; MR. FRANK A. ROSE TO BE PRINCIPAL
5 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY
6 ADMINISTRATION; MS. DEBORAH G. ROSENBLUM TO BE ASSISTANT
7 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL
8 DEFENSE PROGRAMS AND MR. CHRISTOPHER P. MAIER TO BE
9 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND
10 LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

11
12 Thursday, May 27, 2021

13
14 U.S. Senate

15 Committee on Armed Services

16 Washington, D.C.
17

18 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m. in
19 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jack Reed,
20 chairman of the committee, presiding.

21 Committee Members Present: Senators Reed [presiding],
22 Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Kaine, King, Peters,
23 Manchin, Rosen, Kelly, Inhofe, Fischer, Cotton, Ernst,
24 Tillis, Scott, Hawley, and Tuberville.

25 Also present Senators Heinrich, Nunn.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JACK REED, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 RHODE ISLAND

3 Chairman Reed: I would like to call the hearing to
4 order.

5 First, I would like to begin this morning's hearing by
6 recognizing the passing of Senator John Warner at the age of
7 94. Senator Warner was a member of this committee for 21
8 years, and either Chairman or Ranking Member for eight
9 years. He was the consummate public servant, but more
10 importantly, he showed us all the importance of
11 bipartisanship. His work with Senator Levin and others is
12 what ensured the National Defense Authorization Act was
13 passed every year and made this committee what it is today,
14 and he will be missed.

15 Turning to today's hearing, the committee meets this
16 morning to consider the nominations of Ms. Jill Hruby to be
17 Administrator of the National Nuclear Security
18 Administration; Mr. Frank Rose to be Principal Deputy
19 Administrator of the National Nuclear Security
20 Administration; Ms. Deborah Rosenblum to be Assistant
21 Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological
22 Defense Programs; and Mr. Christopher Maier to be Assistant
23 Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-
24 Intensity Conflict. I thank the nominees for their long
25 careers of service to the United States and their

1 willingness to assume these important roles.

2 I would also like to welcome the guests and family
3 members who are here with us today. I want to thank Senator
4 Heinrich for joining us to introduce Ms. Hruby. Mr. Rose, I
5 welcome I believe -- is your mother here? Well, Ms. Athalyn
6 Rose, welcome, and your sister, Ms. Nikko Rose, welcome.
7 Ms. Rosenblum, I am seeing that your husband, Todd
8 Rosenblum, is here also, and welcome, and I want to thank
9 Senator Nunn, who will introduce you via Webex. And, Mr.
10 Maier, I believe welcome your wife, Ms. Emily Louise
11 Franklin, and thank Senator Manchin, who will be introducing
12 you today.

13 Ms. Hruby, you are well qualified to be nominated as
14 Administrator of the National Nuclear Security
15 Administration, or NNSA, having previously directed Sandia
16 National Labs and its 13,000 engineers and scientists who
17 design components for our nuclear stockpile. If confirmed,
18 there are a number of challenges that will require your
19 attention.

20 The United States has not produced plutonium pits in
21 quantity since the late 1980s. Ms. Hruby, you have
22 supported a "two site" pit manufacturing strategy, dividing
23 production between the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New
24 Mexico and the Savannah River site in South Carolina. I
25 would ask that you share with the committee the rationale

1 for this two-site solution.

2 The NNSA is facing its highest workload demand since
3 the 1980s as we modernize our nuclear deterrent, which
4 includes five warhead programs, and recapitalization of our
5 nuclear facilities, many of which date back to the Manhattan
6 Project of World War II.

7 Finally, last year's NDAA included a provision to
8 ensure the DoD and the NNSA work closely together in
9 developing budgets to meet DOD requirements. Ms. Hruby, if
10 confirmed, you will be the point person interfacing with DoD
11 on this issue and many others, and I ask that you share with
12 us today how you would plan to address these challenges.

13 Mr. Rose, you have been nominated to serve as Deputy
14 Administrator of the NNSA. Your prior positions as
15 Assistant Secretary for Arms Control at the State Department
16 and as a staff member on the House Armed Services Committee
17 handling strategic forces issues should serve you well as
18 you take on the larger policy issues facing the NNSA.

19 If confirmed, you will lead the day-to-day running of
20 the NNSA and be responsible for addressing a number of
21 institutional issues within the organization. In the
22 intermediate term, you will need to maintain the NNSA's
23 federal workforce of 1,800 specialized nuclear scientists
24 and engineers, fully a third of whom are eligible to retire.
25 I would like to know your thoughts on how you will retain or

1 replace these skilled civil servants.

2 Ms. Rosenblum, you bring a wealth of experience through
3 your previous service in the Office of the Secretary of
4 Defense and, most recently, the Nuclear Threat Initiative.
5 If confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear,
6 Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, you will assume a
7 role that is focused on acquisition and will require an
8 understanding of the technical nature of nuclear physics and
9 engineering, rather than just policy. I would be in
10 interested in hearing how you will adapt your experience to
11 this position.

12 More importantly, you will oversee the day-to-day
13 functioning of the Nuclear Weapons Council, which ensures
14 that the NNSA can meet DoD requirements for our nuclear
15 deterrent. Last year this committee spent considerable
16 effort to enable the Council and the NNSA to communicate
17 better and coordinate more closely, and I seek your
18 commitment in maintaining that relationship.

19 Mr. Maier, your role is quite different from our other
20 three nominees. You have been nominated to be the Assistant
21 Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low
22 Intensity Conflict, or SOLIC, at a critical time. Your
23 previous experience serving as the Acting ASD(SO/LIC) and as
24 the director of the DoD Defeat-ISIS Task Force makes you
25 well-qualified for this position.

1 For several years, this committee has focused on
2 empowering the ASD(SO/LIC) to fulfill its "service
3 secretary-like" responsibilities for ensuring the equipping
4 and readiness of our special operations forces. I strongly
5 support the recently issued Department of Defense guidance
6 that clearly articulates the role of the ASD(SO/LIC) in the
7 oversight of and advocacy for U.S. Special Operations
8 Command. Though long overdue, this guidance is a meaningful
9 signal of the Department's commitment to fully implement the
10 ASD(SO/LIC) reforms mandated by Congress.

11 Unfortunately, the position of ASD(SO/LIC) has been
12 without a Senate-confirmed individual for much of the last
13 few years. If confirmed, your service will be important to
14 providing empowered leadership and stability as the office
15 grows in resources and responsibilities.

16 Mr. Maier, you will also play a central role in shaping
17 the Department's policies and operations with respect to
18 counterterrorism, irregular warfare, counternarcotics,
19 stability and humanitarian affairs. We look forward to
20 hearing your views on these issues today.

21 Thank you again to our nominees. I look forward to
22 your testimonies. Now let me now recognize Ranking Member
23 Inhofe.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES INHOFE, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 OKLAHOMA

3 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also for
4 recognizing Senator Warner. He was a class act, an
5 enjoyable guy. I remember when he was the chairman of this
6 committee, and I was brand new here, and he came out to
7 Oklahoma, and he would keep people laughing the whole time
8 he was there. He had some unusual characteristics. He did
9 not like to fly in airplanes. He did not like to ride in
10 boats. So it limited a little bit some of the things he was
11 able to do. But he was a great guy and we loved him dearly.

12 A former Marine, Secretary of the Navy, and lawyer, he
13 had it all.

14 Well, I would like to thank our nominees for being with
15 us and for their willingness to serve the nation.

16 Our nation's top military and intelligence leaders have
17 told this committee in recent months that the world is more
18 dangerous and complex than we have ever had, but we
19 understand that. That is true. We are more threatened
20 today than we have ever been before.

21 This is why I continue to highlight the National
22 Defense Strategy as the right roadmap to deal with these
23 challenges, but it requires the right resourcing to make it
24 a reality, and we have not been resourcing properly.

25 Modernizing our nation's nuclear deterrent has been a

1 key priority for the past several years, and we have not
2 done a very good job. Our senior military officers always
3 tell us that, whenever they come before this committee. We
4 put off much needed investments in this area for decades,
5 watching as our infrastructure crumbled and our most
6 important military capabilities became harder to keep in
7 working order. We have got to do a better job than we have
8 been doing with our nuclear modernization effort.

9 This demands close cooperation between DoD and NNSA,
10 and clear-eyed leadership on both sides. We simply cannot
11 afford to fall further behind our adversaries.

12 So we have got a problem out there and you guys are
13 going to have to do a good job, and you are the right ones
14 to take the horn. Thanks again.

15 Chairman Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr.
16 Chairman. Now I would like to call on Senator Manchin for
17 the introduction of Mr. Maier.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. JOE MANCHIN III, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 WEST VIRGINIA

3 Senator Manchin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking
4 Member. I appreciate very much the ability to go ahead. I
5 have a committee meeting that we have to go to, and I know
6 Senator Heinrich does too, so we are going to move on. But
7 anyway, I want to thank you all. I consider it an honor to
8 serve on the committee with all of you, and to have the
9 opportunity to introduce a nominee I believe will excel
10 within the Department of Defense.

11 The position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for
12 Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict has grown into
13 an essential figure within the DoD due to the demands we
14 placed on our Special Operations forces, through constant
15 deployments in support of a wide range of missions,
16 including counterterrorism, direct action, civil affairs,
17 and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass
18 destruction. We depend on these elite units to always be
19 ready to answer the call while maintaining the highest
20 levels of quiet professionalism, and our nominee today
21 certainly exemplifies those requirements.

22 Chris Maier has had a distinguished career in public
23 service spanning five presidential administrations, both
24 Democratic and Republican, but just as important in his
25 career with the Air National Guard. I am very proud to say

1 that Chris currently serves as a member of the 130th Airlift
2 Wing out of Charleston, West Virginia, as an intelligence
3 officer.

4 After standing on the National Security Council from
5 2009 to 2013, which is notorious for round-the-clock work
6 and constant burnout, he decided that he had not had enough
7 and enlisted with the 130th the same year he finished his
8 assignment on NSC. Further demonstrating his commitment, he
9 deployed multiple times with the 130th to Africa, the Middle
10 East, and Europe, not to mention the monthly trips back to
11 West Virginia, which I can tell you from personal experience
12 that the drive is beautiful but it is still long. I felt a
13 personal responsibility to highlight his service in the Air
14 National Guard not because it is a direct connection back to
15 my state but more importantly I believe it speaks volumes of
16 Chris' character and commitment.

17 The ability to rise to the challenge of demands within
18 civilian and military career, and the institutional
19 knowledge he has gained from working at the National
20 Counterterrorism Center, to most recently leading the Defeat
21 ISIS Task Force as its director, will certainly be needed as
22 we continue to realign the global power competition with our
23 near-peer adversaries across a number of domains.

24 Our Special Operations forces are very familiar with
25 providing flexible support to our national security

1 objectives, but the next few years will require a leader who
2 can set a clear example for what is expected of them.

3 I have no doubt that Chris Maier will set that example.
4 He exemplifies the impartiality of our civilian leaders and
5 the sacrifice of our military leaders. I wish him and his
6 wife, Emily, and their son, Lincoln, the best of luck
7 through this daunting process. For these reasons and many,
8 many more, I will support his nomination, and I encourage
9 each and every one of my colleagues to do the same.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Manchin.

12 Now it is a great privilege to introduce, via Webex,
13 Senator Sam Nunn, a former chairman of this committee,
14 distinguished member of the United States Senate, and among
15 your remarkable achievements was the Nunn-Lugar legislation
16 which went a long way in securing loose nukes in the former
17 Soviet Union.

18 Senator Nunn, please.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. SENATOR SAM NUNN, A FORMER U.S.
2 SENATOR

3 Senator Nunn: Thank you very much, Chairman Reed. Can
4 you hear me?

5 Chairman Reed: Yes, sir, we can.

6 Senator Nunn: Okay. Good.

7 Chairman Reed and Senator Inhofe, let me just say a
8 couple of words for a personal privilege how honored I am to
9 be before this committee and how many memories it brings
10 back, and I want to say amen to the remarks both you and
11 Senator Inhofe made about John Warner. John put the
12 national interest first. He treated every person with
13 respect and with dignity. He had unquestioned integrity,
14 and I think he set an example of civility for all of us. So
15 John will be deeply, deeply missed.

16 Chairman Reed, Senator Inhofe, members of the Armed
17 Services Committee, I am honored to present Deborah
18 Rosenblum to the committee, and I strongly recommend that
19 she be confirmed as our nation's Assistant Secretary of
20 Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense
21 Programs.

22 Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, [inaudible]
23 have a nominee with the experience, the knowledge, and I
24 must add, the boundless energy that Deborah would bring to
25 this important role. Deborah has skilled leadership, she

1 has sound judgment, and she has a deep understanding of
2 today's complex threats. She also brings a background in
3 spirit, most importantly of nonpartisanship, and a history
4 of working [inaudible] that Deborah would lead the Defense
5 Department's efforts in preparing for and preventing and
6 deterring and mitigating current and future weapons of mass
7 destruction threats.

8 Deborah's previous work at DoD and her experience as
9 Executive Vice President of our organization, called the
10 Nuclear Threat Initiative, for the last 11 years, has
11 uniquely prepared her for this very important position.

12 I currently serve as co-chair of the NTI board of
13 directors, and I have had the opportunity of working closely
14 with Deborah over the last 20 years, particularly during my
15 time as CEO of NTI. Let's correct that -- 10 years with
16 Deborah, 20 years in that position. But continuing today in
17 my current role, I work very closely with Deborah on a daily
18 and weekly basis.

19 Deborah's contributions to the NTI have been very
20 impactful, with leadership roles in every aspect of our
21 work. Deborah serves on NTI's executive leadership team.
22 She helps oversee the organization's operations,
23 development, and programs, as well as giving oversight and
24 managing our annual operating budget. She has provided
25 strong oversight to our NTI biological program, which works

1 to reduce biological risk and enhance global biosecurity.

2 Deborah also manages NTI's work on security issues
3 related to China, and has traveled there regularly to engage
4 in dialogue with governmental as well as non-governmental
5 organizations. She is well versed in the important role
6 that the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear
7 Security Administration, NNSA, play in our nuclear posture,
8 and if confirmed, she would be an outstanding director,
9 staff director, of the Nuclear Weapons Council.

10 Prior to NTI, Deborah was Vice President of the Cohen
11 group for 7 years, an international consulting firm led by
12 our colleague and friend, former Senator and former
13 Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen. Deborah's previous work
14 in the Department of Defense is notable and also very
15 impressive. For approximately 12 years, she served in
16 senior positions at DoD in the areas of homeland defense,
17 peacekeeping operations and support, nuclear forces, and
18 counter-proliferation. While at DoD, she represented the
19 United States as a member of the negotiating team with the
20 Democratic People's Republic of Korea on bilateral
21 negotiations concerning its nuclear program.

22 In conclusion, Chairman Reed and Senator Inhofe and
23 members of the committee, I am confident that Deborah is
24 fully prepared to serve in this critical role. I strongly
25 support her nomination by President Biden. I urge the

1 committee's support, and I urge her confirmation by the full
2 Senate.

3 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Senator Inhofe.
4 It is a great honor to be back in the environment of the
5 Senate Armed Services Committee, an institution I cherish.
6 Thank you very much.

7 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Nunn. Let me now
8 recognize Senator Heinrich, who will introduce Ms. Hruby.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. MARTIN HEINRICH, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 NEW MEXICO

3 Senator Heinrich: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member
4 Inhofe, it is a pleasure to be joining you and the other
5 members of this great committee as a guest, after serving
6 for a number of years on this committee. I really
7 appreciate you allowing me to share a few words about Jill
8 Hruby, President Biden's nominee to serve as the Under
9 Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator of the
10 National Nuclear Security Administration at DOE.

11 This critical national security role safeguards the
12 safety and the reliability of our nuclear deterrent, and I
13 honestly cannot think of anyone better suited, or more
14 qualified for it than Jill Hruby. And, frankly, that is not
15 just because we are both mechanical engineers.

16 Over more than three decades at Sandia National
17 Laboratories, Jill rose from a technical staff position all
18 the way up to becoming the first woman director to lead one
19 of our national laboratories. She has developed deep
20 knowledge in nuclear weapon systems, component design,
21 nuclear nonproliferation, defense and homeland security
22 technologies and systems, renewable energy, material
23 science, engineering sciences, and microsystems technology.

24 Jill has received the Department of Energy Secretary's
25 Exceptional Service Award, the National Nuclear Security

1 Administrator's Distinguished Service Gold Award, and the
2 Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional
3 Public Service. She has authored numerous publications and
4 reports, she holds three patents, and receive an R&D 100
5 award.

6 Since her retirement from Sandia in 2017, Jill served
7 as the inaugural Sam Nunn Distinguished Fellow at the
8 Nuclear Threat Initiative, and Jill has been a member of the
9 Defense Science Board, the National Nuclear Security
10 Administration Defense Programs Advisory Committee, and the
11 National Academy of Science Committee for International
12 Security and Arms Control.

13 She is a frequent participant in international
14 dialogues, a spokesperson for women in engineering, and a
15 mentor for many emerging leaders. There is even a
16 fellowship named in her honor at Sandia Labs for women
17 pursuing careers in engineering and science to ensure
18 national security and global peace.

19 On a personal note, I always appreciated working with
20 Jill when she was director at Sandia. She did a remarkable
21 job, and I greatly appreciate her willingness to once again
22 serve our country and the American people, and I hope that
23 all of you on this committee will join me in supporting her
24 confirmation.

25 Thank you, Chairman.

1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Heinrich.

2 And now, Ms. Hruby, your statement, please, and then we

3 will follow to Mr. Rose and down the table. Ms. Hruby,

4 please.

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1 STATEMENT OF JILL M. HRUBY, NAMINEE TO BE UNDER
2 SECRETARY OF ENERGY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATOR,
3 NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

4 Ms. Hruby: Thank you, Chairman Reed, Ranking Member
5 Inhofe, and distinguished members of the committee. I am
6 honored to be considered to lead the United States' nuclear
7 security efforts at this critical time for both our nation's
8 nuclear deterrent and international nonproliferation and
9 arms control. I appreciate the confidence of President
10 Biden and Secretary Granholm in putting forth my nomination
11 as Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator of
12 the National Nuclear Security Administration, NNSA.

13 I would also like to thank Senator Heinrich for his
14 kind introduction. I have enjoyed working with Senator
15 Heinrich, as he mentioned, a fellow mechanical engineer, to
16 assure that the NNSA labs deliver, without exception, on
17 their nuclear security roles, and simultaneously contribute
18 more broadly to national security, energy, and economic
19 development.

20 My husband, our daughters and their families, including
21 a brand-new granddaughter, our extended family, and my
22 colleagues and friends are watching this hearing remotely.
23 I thank them for their love, support, and encouragement as I
24 pursue a challenging and consuming assignment again.

25 My life's work has been in the missions of the

1 Department of Energy and the NNSA. I joined Sandia Labs
2 fresh out of graduate school and have had the opportunity to
3 lead or work in renewable energy, nuclear weapons, homeland
4 security, nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear energy, as well
5 as many years contributing to the underlying engineering,
6 materials, and microsystem sciences. Since retiring as the
7 Sandia Lab Director in 2017, I have remained active
8 exploring the intersection of emerging technologies with
9 national security policy through my work with non-
10 governmental organizations, the National Academy of Science,
11 the Defense Science Board. and other boards and advisory
12 committees.

13 I believe my background provides me the foundation
14 needed to quickly contribute to the important issues facing
15 NNSA and our nation today. The NNSA counts on the world-
16 class expertise of scientists, engineers, and program
17 managers in our national security laboratories, dedicated
18 plants and sites, and our Federal workforce to provide a
19 safe, secure, and reliable nuclear stockpile that is
20 effective for the required deterrence and defense missions.
21 Simultaneously, the NNSA enterprise supports nuclear
22 nonproliferation and arms control to provide a stable,
23 predictable, and safe world. NNSA also supports the nuclear
24 reactor program required to power our nuclear Navy's
25 submarines and ships.

1 If confirmed, my top priority will be to deliver, in a
2 cost-effective manner, on the significant commitments in the
3 NNSA programs across the board. We must meet the critical
4 deliverables for the stockpile modernization, stockpile
5 assessment, and infrastructure programs. Pit production,
6 uranium processing, and other infrastructure programs will
7 take constant attention, diligence, and transparency
8 throughout the design, construction, and start-up phases.
9 These unique facilities are essential to the future of our
10 nation and NNSA's programs.

11 In addition, we must continue to bring cutting-edge
12 science and creativity to sustain and fully understand our
13 stockpile without testing; provide new technologies and
14 procedures to lower cost and reduce the time to deliver all
15 mission requirements; to stay ahead of our adversaries; and
16 to develop advanced capabilities to enhance nuclear
17 security, arms control, and Navy reactors.

18 The other high priority to me is to forge transparent,
19 productive, and enduring institutional relationships between
20 the DOE/NNSA and our partners including the labs, plants,
21 and sites; the Department of Defense; the Department of
22 State; Congress; and our international allies. We also need
23 to rebuild technological cooperation with our adversaries on
24 issues such as monitoring and verification technologies and
25 nuclear security.

1 The nation has benefited enormously from the support
2 and investment in the people and unique facilities of the
3 NNSA enterprise. Training, recruiting, and retaining
4 experts and leaders of the future is a foundation that has
5 never been more critical due to the demographics of the
6 complex, the fast pace of technological advancement, and the
7 geo-political environment. Our stockpile, our capabilities,
8 our institutions, and our creativity are the world's
9 standards. If confirmed, I will be dedicated to making sure
10 our national capabilities are unparalleled, our partnerships
11 are enduring, and creative solutions are provided to the
12 growing national and international challenges.

13 Thank you for inviting me to appear before the
14 committee today and I look forward to your questions.

15 [The prepared statement of Ms. Hruby follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you. Mr. Rose, please.

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1 STATEMENT OF FRANK A. ROSE, NOMINEE TO BE PRINCIPAL
2 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY
3 ADMINISTRATION

4 Mr. Rose: Great. Chairman Reed, Ranking Member
5 Inhofe, and members of the committee, it is a great honor to
6 appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee today.

7 I would like to thank President Biden and Secretary
8 Granholm for the confidence they have shown in me by
9 nominating me to be the next Principal Deputy Administrator
10 of the National Nuclear Security Administration, or NNSA. I
11 would also like to thank several members of my family,
12 including my mother, Athalyn, my father, Frank, and my
13 sister, Nikko, for their support, not just today, but
14 throughout my life.

15 Mr. Chairman, as the President's March 2021 Interim
16 National Security Guidance notes, the United States and its
17 allies face a complex set of current and emerging threats.
18 Some of the most pressing threats include an increasingly
19 assertive China, a destabilizing Russia, and the continuing
20 challenge of nuclear proliferation. To address these
21 threats, the guidance states that the United States will
22 continue to maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear
23 deterrent, pursue arms control arrangements, and renew
24 American leadership on nonproliferation.

25 NNSA plays a critical role in responding to these

1 threats. If confirmed, I will work closely with the NNSA
2 Administrator to achieve several key priorities. The first
3 priority would be to maintain a safe, secure, and effective
4 strategic nuclear deterrent to enable the United States to
5 deter threats to itself and its allies. This includes
6 plutonium pit production, uranium processing, completing the
7 various warhead life extension programs currently underway,
8 modernizing NNSA's aging infrastructure, and supporting the
9 naval nuclear reactors program.

10 Secondly, I would work to ensure that the United States
11 possesses the right tools to address the arms control,
12 nonproliferation, and verification challenges of the 21st
13 century. These challenges in this area are fundamentally
14 different than what we faced in the past, especially with
15 regard to issues like the monitoring and verification of
16 nuclear warheads, cyber security, and threats to the
17 nation's space assets. NNSA and the national laboratories
18 are well positioned to help the United States government
19 meet these challenges.

20 Mr. Chairman, you know, third priority is people. At
21 the end of the day, NNSA's ability to achieve its mission
22 ultimately depends on the ability to recruit, develop, and
23 retain a highly skilled workforce of national security
24 professionals, especially the "next generation" of leaders
25 and experts. In recent years, significant progress has been

1 made in this area through programs like NNSA's Graduate
2 Fellowship Program. If confirmed, building on and expanding
3 these types of critical personnel programs, including at the
4 labs, plants, and sites, will be one of my highest
5 priorities.

6 And finally, none of these priorities can be achieved
7 by NNSA alone. To the contrary, it will require
8 partnerships with Congress, within the Executive branch, and
9 with our allies and partners around the world. One of the
10 most important attributes I would bring to the position of
11 Principal Deputy Administrator is a long history working
12 for, and with, NNSA's key partners. For example, I
13 previously served as Assistant Secretary of State for Arms
14 Control, Verification, and Compliance; as a Professional
15 Staff Member on the House Armed Services Committee; and as a
16 Foreign Affairs Specialist and Special Assistant at the
17 Department of Defense. If confirmed, I will work to ensure
18 that NNSA's partnerships remain strong.

19 Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear
20 before the committee today. I would be pleased to answer any
21 questions that you and your colleagues may have. Thank you
22 very much.

23 [The prepared statement of Mr. Rose follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Mr. Rose. Ms.
2 Rosenblum, please.

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1 STATEMENT OF DEBORAH G. ROSENBLUM, NOMINEE TO BE
2 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND
3 BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS

4 Ms. Rosenblum: Thank you very much, Chairman Reed,
5 Ranking Member Inhofe, and members of the committee for your
6 consideration of my nomination to be the Assistant Secretary
7 of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense
8 Programs. It is a great honor for me to come before this
9 committee. If confirmed, I pledge to work in close
10 coordination with Members of Congress and this committee on
11 behalf of the American people and our Armed Forces. And I
12 would like to thank Senator Nunn for his very gracious words
13 and for his lifetime of leadership and dedication to our
14 country.

15 I wish to thank President Biden, Vice President Harris,
16 and Secretary Austin for their trust and confidence in me
17 and their support for my nomination.

18 I also want to extend a thank-you to my extended family
19 who has taught me that with hard work, compassion, and
20 resilience, I can help to make the world a better place. My
21 husband and two children are my guiding beacons, support,
22 and inspiration.

23 Senator Nunn gave a wonderful summary of my
24 professional career. I just want to emphasize how proud I
25 am to have served my country over so many years, both inside

1 and outside of government, and to have encouraged and
2 supported the next generation of U.S. national security
3 leaders. If confirmed, I will bring breadth of experience
4 and deep understanding to bear in addressing today's complex
5 nuclear, chemical and biological threats, including the
6 expansion of Russia, China, and North Korea's nuclear
7 arsenals, growing global biological threats, the continued
8 use of chemical weapons as well as cybersecurity threats
9 from our adversaries, and the dangerous potential for the
10 misuse of emerging technologies and science.

11 If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the
12 United States has a safe, secure, and effective nuclear
13 deterrent. I agree with Secretary Austin that continuing to
14 modernize our nuclear deterrent is a critical national
15 security priority. To do so will require effective and
16 transparent partnerships with the National Nuclear Security
17 Administration, the Nuclear Weapons Council, as well as with
18 Congress. I also join Secretary Austin and Deputy Secretary
19 Hicks in supporting the nuclear triad, the bedrock of our
20 deterrent over the past 70 years.

21 Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare
22 the devastation that occurs when countries, including the
23 United States, are not adequately prepared to prevent,
24 detect, and respond to biological threats. If I am
25 fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will make improving and

1 investing in chemical and biological defense capabilities
2 one of my top priorities.

3 With that, I welcome your questions and look forward to
4 the discussion this morning.

5 [The prepared statement of Ms. Rosenblum follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. Mr. Maier,
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1 STATEMENT OF CHRISTOPHER P. MAIER, NOMINEE TO BE
2 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND
3 LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

4 Mr. Maier: Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and
5 distinguished members of the committee, I am honored to
6 appear today as President Biden's nominee for Assistant
7 Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low
8 Intensity Conflict. I appreciate your consideration of my
9 nomination, and thank Senator Manchin for his kind
10 introduction.

11 This committee has long supported the people of our
12 nation's Special Operations enterprise and the essential
13 missions they conduct in our defense. I am humbled to be
14 nominated to serve alongside the women and men of our
15 Special Operations Forces who continue to inspire us through
16 their commitment to excellence in executing our nation's
17 most challenging military missions. We must not lose sight
18 of the sacrifice that they, as well as their families,
19 continue to make on our behalf.

20 I have been blessed with a large and loving family, who
21 have challenged me throughout my life to seek a calling of
22 service to others. To my parents, Donna and Paul, your
23 careers of service to others set the example for all of us.
24 To my wife, Emily, I thank you for all your support, for
25 your two decades of service as a Naval officer, and for the

1 mother you are to our son. I also would like to acknowledge
2 the unsung national security professionals with whom I have
3 served in the intelligence community and the Defense
4 Department over my career, and my fellow airman in the West
5 Virginia Air National Guard. All of you have modeled the
6 commitment to service that inspires me today.

7 I appreciate the confidence of President Biden and
8 Secretary Austin in nominating me at such a dynamic and
9 strategically important time for the Special Operations
10 community. Congress created the position of ASD(SO/LIC) in
11 1986, and this committee's leadership and continued support
12 for the organization have been instrumental in strengthening
13 civilian oversight of Special Operations. The Department's
14 recent reforms further bolster the roles and
15 responsibilities of ASD(SO/LIC) through a unique direct-
16 reporting relationship to the Secretary of Defense, while
17 ensuring special operations and low-intensity conflict
18 policy is integrated with the Under Secretary of Defense for
19 Policy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this
20 committee to continue to implement these reforms.

21 As the security challenges facing our nation grow
22 increasingly complex, Special Operations Forces, or SOF,
23 will remain critical to U.S. efforts in conducting
24 sustainable counterterrorism, competing for influence with
25 near-peer rivals, and responding to crises. To meet these

1 new and evolving missions, the Special Operations enterprise
2 is undertaking its most comprehensive transformation in a
3 generation. Broadening of skills, rapid fielding of
4 technology, creative adaptation of tactics, and partnering
5 for outsized effects will be even more essential. If
6 confirmed, I will work every day to ensure ASD(SO/LIC)
7 provides the essential leadership and guidance to evolve the
8 force and missions.

9 As part of this transformation, we must redouble our
10 commitment to ensuring SOF can recruit, develop, and retain
11 the diversity of talent necessary to compete globally. A
12 more diverse force integrates new skills, learned
13 experiences, and perspectives that I believe is an
14 operational imperative. I am committed to ensuring we are
15 providing the necessary role models and resources to recruit
16 and retain that talent in our formations.

17 We also must ensure that SOF represent the values and
18 ideals of the nation we serve. If confirmed, I will work
19 closely with USSOCOM in implementing the recommendations
20 from its comprehensive review of SOF ethics and culture.
21 Sexual assault and harassment, extremist behavior, and
22 criminal activities violate our oath and corrode the force.

23 Fundamental to the success of SOF is, and will remain,
24 its people. USSOCOM is the standard-bearer for caring for
25 its personnel, from the Preservation of the Force and

1 Family, to the Warrior Care program. As we continue to
2 learn of new challenges across the physical, psychological,
3 cognitive, cultural, and spiritual domains, I am committed,
4 if confirmed, to ensuring that every member of the SOF
5 community receives the best possible care, and is ready to
6 compete, deter, and win in a changing global landscape.

7 I look forward to your questions and thank you again
8 for the opportunity to appear before you today.

9 [The prepared statement of Mr. Maier follows:]

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1 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. Now I will ask a
2 series of questions required of all civilian nominees.
3 Please respond appropriately.

4 Have you adhered to applicable laws and regulations
5 governing conflicts of interest?

6 Ms. Hruby: Yes.

7 Mr. Rose: Yes.

8 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes.

9 Mr. Maier: Yes.

10 Chairman Reed: Have you assumed any duties or taken
11 any actions that would appear to presume the outcome of the
12 confirmation process?

13 Ms. Hruby: No.

14 Mr. Rose: No.

15 Ms. Rosenblum: No.

16 Mr. Maier: No.

17 Chairman Reed: Exercising our legislative and
18 oversight responsibility makes it important that this
19 committee, its subcommittees, and other appropriate
20 committees of Congress receive testimony, briefings,
21 reports, records, and other information from the Executive
22 branch on a timely basis. Do you agree, if confirmed, to
23 appear and testify before this committee when requested?

24 Ms. Hruby: Yes.

25 Mr. Rose: Yes.

1 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes.

2 Mr. Maier: Yes.

3 Chairman Reed: Do you agree to provide records,
4 documents, and electronic communications in a timely manner
5 when requested by this committee, its subcommittees, or
6 other appropriate committees of Congress, and to consult
7 with the requestor regarding the basis for any good-faith
8 delay or denial in providing such records?

9 Ms. Hruby: Yes.

10 Mr. Rose: Yes.

11 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes.

12 Mr. Maier: Yes.

13 Chairman Reed: Will you ensure that your staff
14 complies with deadlines established by this committee for
15 the production of reports, records, and other information,
16 including timely responding to hearing questions for the
17 record?

18 Ms. Hruby: Yes.

19 Mr. Rose: Yes.

20 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes.

21 Mr. Maier: Yes.

22 Chairman Reed: Will you cooperate in providing
23 witnesses and briefers in response to congressional
24 requests?

25 Ms. Hruby: Yes.

1 Mr. Rose: Yes.

2 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes.

3 Mr. Maier: Yes.

4 Chairman Reed: Will those witnesses and briefers be
5 protected from reprisal for their testimony or briefings?

6 Ms. Hruby: Yes.

7 Mr. Rose: Yes.

8 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes.

9 Mr. Maier: Yes.

10 Chairman Reed: Let the record show that all of the
11 witnesses have responded in the affirmative to all of the
12 questions.

13 Mr. Hruby, among one of the major challenges that you
14 have is the production of 80 pits in the next several years.
15 The original idea was to construct 5,000 square foot modules
16 at Los Alamos, and roughly the cost per square foot of such
17 construction was about 20,000. That plan was changed in
18 2018 to recondition or refit the MOX facility in Savannah,
19 Georgia, which is 450,000 square feet, about 25 percent
20 completed. So there is obviously going to be a cost
21 differential here.

22 What are your views on the two-facility production
23 plan?

24 Ms. Hruby: Chairman, thank you for your question.
25 This is the biggest issue I think facing NNSA today, is

1 delivering the pit production capability for our nation for
2 the first time in many decades. The current plan that NNSA
3 has developed, and that I support, includes producing pits
4 at both Los Alamos and Savannah River, 30 pits per year
5 minimum at Los Alamos, 50 pits per year minimum at Savannah
6 River.

7 The 30 pits per year at Los Alamos is on track to be
8 delivered in 2026. The 50 pits per year at Savannah River,
9 originally planned for 2030, is likely to now be somewhere
10 between 2030 and 2035, a decision that will be made at the
11 Critical Decision 2 point.

12 I believe that the two-site solution is a good solution
13 for a couple of reasons. One is that it is, as expressed by
14 NNSA, and again, I agree that it is more resilient than a
15 one-site solution. Should anything go wrong, should there
16 be an accident, it allows the other site to continue to make
17 pits. And I think that is quite important and allows the
18 throughput of pits to be closer to 80 than it would need to
19 be, to hedge against bets.

20 The other reason is I think it takes advantage of the
21 infrastructure at NNSA and the skill sets at NNSA. So the
22 scientists at Los Alamos, I believe are very important to
23 pit production. I also believe that the culture of a
24 production plant that exists at Savannah River is also
25 important. And if the two organizations work together well,

1 and if confirmed, it will be my job to make sure that they
2 do, I think we take best advantage of the infrastructure and
3 the people of NNSA, and we end up with the most resilient
4 pit production capability in the country per dollar.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. Because of the
6 limited time, I ask the respondents to be concise, and if we
7 have a second round I will try to reach everyone. But let
8 me just ask Ms. Rosenblum. If confirmed, you will be the
9 Executive Secretary of the Nuclear Weapons Council, and will
10 you assure us that you will do everything you can to timely
11 coordinate the budget reviews between DoD and NSA, to
12 guarantee the Council can meet DoD requirements?

13 Ms. Rosenblum: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am
14 confirmed, yes, I will. I have reviewed all of the
15 responsibilities that would be mine, if confirmed as the
16 staff director, and feel prepared to carry them out, and
17 will do so.

18 Chairman Reed: Thank you. Mr. Maier, you have a dual-
19 hat responsibility. You report to the Secretary of Defense
20 the service-like activities of SOCOM, and then you report to
21 the Assistant Secretary of Defense Policy with respect to
22 policy matters. Can you briefly give us an idea of how you
23 intend to discharge those dual responsibilities?

24 Ms. Maier: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the
25 question. So one way we will look at that is having

1 different staffs that integrate at a more senior level but
2 work different parts of that portfolio, and I personally
3 think there is great value in having ASD(SO/LIC) that does
4 both, because it can speak to the policy components in parts
5 of those conversations in the Department but also represents
6 SOCOM and provides that civilian oversight independently but
7 in a synergistic manner with the policy.

8 Chairman Reed: Thank you. And finally, Mr. Rose, just
9 a quick, in my remaining 5 seconds. You indicated one of
10 your challenges is maintaining a robust workforce. About a
11 third of your employees are eligible for retirement, and
12 would likely do so. You are competing against a very
13 competitive market for skilled engineers, and particularly
14 anybody that knows anything about a computer.

15 So can you give us, very briefly, your thoughts on this
16 issue?

17 Mr. Rose: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank
18 you for the question. I would say recruiting, developing,
19 and retaining the next generation of nuclear security
20 experts is absolutely vital. And as I mentioned, there has
21 been a lot of progress in the past several years, in large
22 part thanks to this committee. But we still have
23 significant gaps, as you mentioned.

24 One of my first objectives, if confirmed in the
25 position, would be to meet with the leadership of NNSA, the

1 labs, and the sites to, one, identify where our gaps are
2 with regards to personnel, and then, two, developing a
3 comprehensive plan to implement and close those gaps. Thank
4 you very much, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Mr. Rose. Senator Inhofe,
6 please.

7 Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of
8 all, I think all opening statements were great opening
9 statements. I commend you on those statements.

10 Ms. Hruby, last year we had major concerns with the
11 Secretary of the DOE interfering with the work of the NNSA
12 and putting our nuclear modernization programs at risk, even
13 questioning what our role is in developing the budget and
14 some other things, and it was not a workable thing. In
15 fact, I had to personally intervene with then President
16 Trump to get things pretty well straightened out. So we
17 have got to have a clear understanding at DOE and OMB about
18 the work of the Nuclear Weapons Council.

19 Now I like the fact that you -- and I told you this
20 before -- came right out with some of your priorities, and
21 stating what those priorities were, number one, ensuring the
22 success of our weapons programs, two, updating obsolete
23 infrastructure, and three, taking care of our people. And I
24 agree with those priorities. Will you agree to keeping us
25 informed as to how you are coming along with your

1 priorities?

2 Ms. Hruby: Yes, Senator. Of course, I would be
3 delighted to keep you informed, if confirmed.

4 Senator Inhofe: Okay. And I think also, Mr. Rose, how
5 do you plan to support Ms. Hruby in these priorities, these
6 three priorities?

7 Mr. Rose: Senator, I agree with all of her priorities,
8 and I will do everything in my power to be a very good
9 deputy, if confirmed.

10 Senator Inhofe: That is good. And, Mr. Maier, I want
11 to talk a little bit about what is happening in Africa right
12 now. It is a critical theater for implementing our National
13 Defense Strategy. China and Russia are on the rise. China
14 has opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti. A
15 lot of people do not realize that. This is the first time
16 they have done this, and now they are all the way as far
17 south as the southern part of Tanzania. They are active in
18 there as well as Russia being on the rise in that area. So
19 right now ISIS and al Qaeda are on the increase as well, and
20 to deal with these threats we only have 6,000 personnel,
21 military personnel, on the entire continent.

22 I was critical of the previous administration, because
23 when they were talking about revamping and changing our
24 priorities in different parts of the world I really feel
25 that we are understaffed. That is the only area where we

1 are starting off understaffed. And I am not anticipating or
2 expecting that you had a chance to look at and evaluate the
3 personnel and whether or not it is adequate, but any first
4 thoughts in terms of where they are in that field?

5 Mr. Maier: Senator, thanks for the question, and I
6 think Africa is a very important theater, as you say, for
7 both things that Special Operations is focused on --
8 obviously 20 years or more of the counterterrorism fight
9 there, as you mentioned, a number of ISIS and al Qaeda
10 affiliates there -- but then it is also an arena for
11 competition, as you referenced, in Djibouti. And I think my
12 objective, if confirmed, is to very much look at where we
13 are getting return on that investment and where we can
14 combine some of those missions to get more benefit for the
15 National Defense Strategy.

16 Senator Inhofe: Okay. Well, I think one of the first
17 things that I would like to have you do, and share with us,
18 on what your impression is in terms of adequacy of our
19 resources in Africa. Would you do that?

20 Ms. Maier: I would, Senator. If confirmed, I would be
21 glad to look at that as a first priority.

22 Senator Inhofe: Okay. Lastly, I think that there is
23 going to be some of the members are going to be talking to
24 you and Ms. Rosenblum about the issue of no-first-use
25 policy. There is some confusion as to where you are in some

1 people's minds, and I will give you one shot to state that
2 before the rest of them get to you. All right?

3 Ms. Rosenblum: All right. Thank you, Senator. I
4 appreciate the opportunity to clarify my view on this. Give
5 the strategic environment that we face, one that is
6 absolutely challenging U.S. interests and those of our
7 allies, I do not support a no-first-use policy.

8 Senator Inhofe: All right. Thank you very much. Mr.
9 Chairman?

10 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Inhofe. Let me now
11 recognize Senator Shaheen.

12 Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank
13 you to each of our nominees this morning for your
14 willingness to be considered for these very important posts
15 and for your testimony this morning.

16 I want to begin with you, Mr. Maier, because in your
17 opening remarks you talked about the importance of diversity
18 in our Special Operations Forces, and one aspect of that
19 diversity are the women that we need to have join Operation
20 Forces, yet a study from 2016 found that 85 percent of
21 Special Operators opposed allowing women into their
22 specialties, and 71 percent opposed women in their units.

23 So this is obviously an ongoing challenge. It is
24 getting better, I know. We just had our first -- we have 50
25 graduates, I think, of Ranger School that just happened, and

1 one of our first Green Berets. But can you talk about what
2 you think some of the challenges are to better integrating
3 women, and specifically, reading the report that just came
4 out in April of Women in Army Special Operations Survey, one
5 of the things that I found particularly interesting was that
6 one of the biggest challenges is equipment fitting. And I
7 had the opportunity to go out to Minot Air Force Base recent
8 with General Brown, and one of the demonstrations he
9 provided for us, that they are doing there in Minot, is
10 working to refit the equipment that women are wearing so
11 that they can operate better with the equipment we have for
12 our women in the military.

13 So can you talk about those challenges and how you will
14 address them?

15 Ms. Maier: Yes, Senator. I think it is a very
16 important issue, and I think the first step has been opening
17 all fields to women, and I think what we are seeing is the
18 evolution of that. So the survey you cite from U.S. Army
19 Special Operations was commissioned by them internally, and
20 I think this is indicative of the ongoing effort to build
21 both the ability for women to operate on an equal footing
22 and have the acceptance and, in many cases, the equipment
23 that is required.

24 If confirmed, this is one of the top priorities I would
25 have. I think it fits into the Secretary and, by extension,

1 the President's strive to really have a diverse force. We
2 know, as we compete globally, we are going to need both
3 genders in the fight, and we are going to need people with
4 other expertise that we might not have had as much of in the
5 force at this state.

6 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. As an aside, if you did
7 not hear the public radio piece on how women are required to
8 wear their hair in the military, that was on this morning, I
9 would urge you to listen to it. It was a very important
10 example of why we have got to respond to some of these
11 challenges that women are facing, in a way that is more
12 friendly to the differences between men and women, which are
13 not worse. They are just different.

14 Ms. Hruby and Mr. Rose, I think this question is for
15 both of you. We just saw the impact of the cyber hacking
16 into the Colonial Pipeline and what that meant for the
17 country. How do we reassure people who have questions about
18 our nuclear weapons, and our nuclear command and control
19 structure, that they are not also open to those kinds of
20 cyberattacks?

21 Ms. Hruby: Thank you, Senator Shaheen, for the
22 question. Of course, cyber is a major challenge across the
23 U.S. Government, and particularly in the places that we want
24 to keep most secure, the nuclear weapons facilities. The
25 people in the nuclear weapons, in the NNSA complex, work

1 tirelessly to protect the networks and have been fairly
2 successful in doing so. I think we need to continue to find
3 talent, to use that talent effectively to protect our
4 networks and to share those lessons across the government.
5 Thank you.

6 Senator Shaheen: Mr. Rose?

7 Mr. Rose: Senator, thanks very much for the question.
8 I agree with everything Ms. Hruby said, and if confirmed,
9 one of my first priorities would be to hire a new chief
10 information officer for the NNSA. The most recent officer
11 just retired. But I fully agree. I actually teach a course
12 at Georgetown University called "Outer Space But Strategic
13 Capabilities," and it talks about all the interrelationships
14 between cyber, nuclear, as well as outer space.

15 So I think you are absolutely right. We have to look
16 at these strategic issues from a holistic approach. Thank
17 you.

18 Senator Shaheen: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Shaheen. Now let me
20 recognize, via Webex, Senator Fischer.

21 Senator Fischer: Thank you, Chairman Reed. Ms.
22 Rosenblum, in a 2019 talk, you described our nuclear forces
23 as being on a, quote, "hair trigger," end quote. I am
24 concerned by this, because for the entire time that I have
25 been on this committee, military and civilian officials,

1 from both the Obama and the Trump administrations, have
2 consistently argued against this phrase and the idea that it
3 is meant to foster, which is that there is something
4 inherently unsafe about our ICBM posture.

5 Just a few weeks ago, in the Strategic Forces
6 Subcommittee, we heard General Kehler, the former STRATCOM
7 Commander, explain again why this is a red herring. In
8 fact, I remember testimony from the Obama administration
9 that reducing the alert posture for our ICBM would actually
10 be destabilizing. Senator Shaheen just spoke about a CODEL
11 that a few of us took to Minot in North Dakota, the base,
12 where that phrase was also identified as a red herring.

13 So do you believe that our alert posture is unsafe or
14 that it needs to be changed?

15 Ms. Rosenblum: Thank you, Senator. I appreciate the
16 opportunity to be able to clarify my views with respect to
17 this issue. I support the current alert posture and believe
18 it is an important piece to making our nuclear deterrent
19 credible. I believe that what you are referring to is an
20 op-ed that I had done in 2019, in the Des Moines Register,
21 in advance of the Iowa caucuses. The purpose of the op-ed
22 was to encourage Iowans to be able to engage with the
23 candidates around issues related to nuclear weapons. It was
24 in an attempt to have that language be accessible and
25 understandable that I used the phrase "hair trigger alert."

1 I certainly did not mean any offense by it, and if I did, I
2 apologize.

3 Senator Fischer: Well, I thank you for those comments.

4 I think it is extremely important that all public figures
5 are careful in terminology that is used with regards to the
6 security of this nation. As you know, there are numerous
7 safeguards that are in place, and all the testimony that has
8 been given to this committee over the years about this, that
9 "hair trigger" phrase is such a mischaracterization, and I
10 believe it is not serving the people of this country well to
11 have that kind of language out there that does not reflect
12 the true environment that we live in.

13 Dr. Hruby, last week in the Strategic Forces
14 Subcommittee I talked to Dr. Verdon about the relationship
15 between modernizing NNSA's nuclear complex and how this
16 investment actually reduces the potential need to
17 [inaudible] nuclear test. Can you talk about how the
18 relationship is between those two things, how you view that?

19 Ms. Rosenblum: Thank you, Senator Fischer. The
20 modernization of the NNSA infrastructure is critical to
21 keeping our stockpile safe, secure, and reliable without
22 testing. And I want to, in particular, highlight the
23 ability to make plutonium pits as part of that. We know
24 that pits' performance change with time, and the planned pit
25 production program allows us to get ahead of that and make

1 sure that we do not get to a point where we need to test the
2 weapons in an underground, in a nuclear explosive test, to
3 make sure they are reliable. Thank you.

4 Senator Fischer: Also, Doctor, I appreciated our
5 discussion about the importance of the Stockpile
6 Responsiveness Program, and I just wanted to confirm one
7 thing for the record. Do you believe that the United States
8 must rebuild and maintain the basic capabilities of design,
9 manufacture, and sustain an effective nuclear weapons
10 stockpile to support our nation's deterrent?

11 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes, Senator, I do. I think the
12 Stockpile Responsiveness Program is an excellent program
13 that has been started within the last few years and will be
14 very important to the future of our stockpile.

15 Senator Fischer: And, Mr. Rose, do you agree? Yes or
16 no. I am sorry to make it so short. I am out of time.

17 Mr. Rose: Yes, I agree.

18 Senator Fischer: Thank you very much. Thank you to
19 the panelists for coming. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Now let me
21 recognize Senator Kaine.

22 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member
23 Inhofe, and congratulations to each of the nominees. I
24 believe you are all very well qualified for your positions.

25 I want to just also say a word about John Warner. It

1 is a true honor to be a Virginia Senator on the Armed
2 Services Committee and think about my friend, and feel sad
3 about his death but also celebrate an amazing life. Senator
4 Warner was in the Pacific in World War II, and when he came
5 back to the United States at the end of the war he went to
6 Washington and Lee to go to college. And my father-in-law
7 was also in the Pacific during World War II, as a
8 submariner, and then came back and went to school at
9 Washington and Lee. And they were very, very dear friends,
10 beginning in 1946.

11 They built the modern Republican Party in Virginia from
12 essentially nothing. When my father-in-law was the first
13 elected governor, Republican governor, in Virginia history,
14 John was the Secretary of the Navy, and they worked together
15 on many issues, because Virginia is the center of naval
16 power in the world. Their friendship was tested but not
17 strained when they ran against each other for the United
18 States Senate in 1978, and John Warner beat my father-in-
19 law, beat my political hero, just like he later beat my best
20 friend in politics, Mark Warner, in a race in 1996, for the
21 United States Senate.

22 I knew how important this committee was to John Warner,
23 when I was mayor and governor and was working with Senator
24 Warner. His service on this committee was something that he
25 talked about a lot. I think it was his favorite part of his

1 30 years in the United States Senate. But by the time I
2 came to the Senate he had been gone, but then I really
3 wanted to know even more about John Warner, because I got to
4 meet people like Jack Reed and John McCain, and Carl Levin,
5 and others who had served with John on this committee, and I
6 learned an entirely new dimension of my friend. And I just
7 wanted to begin my comments today just expressing how sad I
8 feel that he is gone but how proud I am to be a successor,
9 not a replacement as a Virginia Senator on the Armed, but I
10 am a successor to him.

11 One just personal privilege. When I found that he had
12 died I knew my father-in-law would be very distraught about
13 this. My father-in-law will be 98 in September. And my
14 wife just texted me. She reached her dad this morning to
15 talk to him about it at the retirement community where he
16 lives, and he was very stunned and saddened about it. And
17 kept saying, "But he is a youngster. He is younger than
18 me." That is very much like my father-in-law to think that
19 a 94-year-old is a youngster.

20 I want to ask just one question of Ms. Hruby and Mr.
21 Rose. The Navy has published a SIOP Shipyard
22 Industrialization Optimization Plan that really sort of lays
23 out, quite a ways into the future, the necessary investments
24 that need to be made in our public shipyards. Does NNSA
25 have something similar, kind of a long-term investment

1 document that would help us work with you to make sure that
2 we are keeping the physical facilities of the NNSA in the
3 shape they need to be in?

4 Ms. Hruby: Senator, is the specific question -- I just
5 want to make sure I am answering the right question -- about
6 the Navy Reactor Program, or just in general?

7 Senator Kaine: Just in general. Does the NNSA
8 programs within its purview have a similar sort of long-term
9 capital improvement investment plan that we can assess to
10 determine whether we are appropriately investing?

11 Ms. Hruby: Okay. Thank you for the clarification.
12 The NNSA has worked very hard over the last 5 years or so to
13 develop a risk-based approach to infrastructure investment
14 needs. It is a fairly sophisticated approach. The
15 infrastructure needs are large, and so they have prioritized
16 those by ability to deliver programs, and there is a long-
17 term plan. And if confirmed, I want to take a close look at
18 that, but there is a plan.

19 Senator Kaine: I also know the President is sending us
20 up a budget today, and I am going to be interested to see
21 the budgetary proposals to execute on a plan like that.

22 Thank you. I will yield back to you, Mr. Chair.

23 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much, Senator Kaine.

24 And now I would like to recognize Senator King, please.

25 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Rosenblum,

1 welcome to the committee. It is an honor to be introduced
2 by Sam Nunn. I will overlook your association with Bill
3 Cohen, I assure you, when it comes time to vote on your
4 nomination. Please give him my regards.

5 Ms. Hruby, one of the issues involved with nuclear
6 modernization is that many Americans do not understand why
7 we are doing it. Those of us that have lived through prior
8 decades have to realize the Cold War is in a 30-year rear-
9 view mirror. Since that time we have had 9/11, we have had
10 the war on terror, we have had COVID, and so I want to ask
11 you some questions.

12 Our essential defense posture for the past 70 years has
13 been deterrence of others' attacks on us. Is that not true?

14 Ms. Hruby: That is true, Senator.

15 Senator King: And deterrence rests upon your adversary
16 understanding that you have a capacity to make life very
17 difficult -- that is a euphemism -- for them and the will to
18 use it. Is that not correct?

19 Ms. Hruby: That is correct, Senator.

20 Senator King: And if your deterrent is out of date, in
21 bad shape, not modernized, not able to be delivered, then
22 that, in fact, makes the country less safe, does it not?

23 Ms. Hruby: That is correct, Senator.

24 Senator King: And so the modernization that we are
25 talking about is essential to maintaining the peace. Isn't

1 that correct?

2 Ms. Hruby: It is.

3 Senator King: I think this is important, because
4 people back home in Maine say, "Why are we spending all this
5 money on nuclear weapons?" And the reason is because we
6 never want to have a nuclear war. The irony, or the
7 paradox, of nuclear weapons is we build them so we will
8 never have to use them. And that strategy has, in fact,
9 worked for over 70 years. Is that correct?

10 Ms. Hruby: That is correct.

11 Senator King: Now let me go to the specifics of that,
12 and I think the answer is contained in the conversation we
13 have already had, and I apologize for cross-examining you in
14 this way, but it is a way of getting through material in a
15 shorter period of time.

16 We are going back into the business of making plutonium
17 pits, which are necessary elements for a nuclear weapon.
18 And I presume that the reason that is the case is that we
19 have to modernization and that the pits that were built in
20 earlier periods are no longer fully dependable and need to
21 be upgraded along with other parts of the nuclear deterrent.
22 Is that correct?

23 Ms. Hruby: Well, the pits today are dependable. The
24 NNSA plan is to make sure that they can be replaced before
25 they become not dependable.

1 Senator King: And that entails reinvigorating pit
2 production at both Los Alamos, and the other question is,
3 why do we need two places? Why are we talking about Los
4 Alamos and Savannah River?

5 Ms. Hruby: Yes, Senator. The number of pits that are
6 projected to be needed is a minimum of 80 pits per year.
7 That is a significant capability at Los Alamos. If we were
8 to do it all there it would require much more infrastructure
9 investment. Using the MOX facility shell, which has been
10 built as a Cat-1 facility, a facility that can handle
11 plutonium, allows us to have a cost-effective program, use
12 the talent across the NNSA complex.

13 Senator King: Thank you. Mr. Rose, I want to turn to
14 you. A couple of things. We had a question a few minutes
15 ago about cyber, and you said you were going to appoint a
16 new CIO. I want urgency here, and I do not think -- I mean,
17 I am fine with appointing a new CIO, but I would like you to
18 stand up a team that aggressively red-teams your systems to
19 test them, because every CIO says, "Oh, we are okay," and
20 that goes up the line and you say, "We are okay." I want
21 people who are paid to hack your system, to demonstrate
22 whether or not you are, in fact, secure. There is no more
23 important cyber protection than that of nuclear command and
24 control and communication.

25 So I hope that you will go beyond a new CIO to an all-

1 hands-on-deck, urgent, urgent pursuit of cyber defense, of
2 particularly in the NNSA.

3 Mr. Rose: Senator, thank you very much. I agree with
4 you 100 percent. You know, we have got to get on our A-game
5 with regard to cyber, especially that nexus between cyber
6 and nuclear. One of the things that I have been focused on
7 in my career over the last 5 years is the challenge of these
8 new emerging technologies to nuclear deterrence. So if
9 confirmed, I assure you that I will make your recommendation
10 a priority, and we will work to get the NNSA's house in
11 order with regard to cybersecurity.

12 Senator King: Thank you, sir. If you do not, I will
13 come and find you.

14 [Laughter.]

15 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 Chairman Reed: I do not know how to respond to the
17 last comment.

18 Let me now thank Senator King and recognize, via Webex,
19 Senator Warren.

20 Senator Warren: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
21 and congratulations to each of you on your nominations.

22 Ms. Hruby, I want to talk about NNSA's out-of-control
23 nuclear weapons budget. According to the agency's 25-year
24 build plan, published last December, projected spending on
25 nuclear weapons activities has risen to \$505 billion. That

1 is a staggering increase of \$113 billion, or 29 percent,
2 from the 2020 version of the plan. Now I understand that
3 cost overruns at the NNSA are the norm, but these figures
4 are mind-boggling. And when we let the cost of weapons
5 balloon it can crowd out other important Energy Department
6 national security programs, such as nonproliferation.

7 So, Ms. Hruby, I want to ask, will you commit to
8 providing this committee with cost estimates for major
9 agency projects that are realistic and not low-balled, and
10 schedules for completing these projects that are also
11 realistic and not just a fantasy?

12 Ms. Hruby: Well, thank you, Senator Warren. Yes, the
13 answer is yes, I will. I do think we need to get better at
14 cost estimation and schedule estimation within the
15 Department, and seeking talent to do that and making sure
16 that is done will be a top priority for me, if confirmed.

17 Senator Warren: I would only amend what you are
18 saying. You do not just need to get better. Based on where
19 we are right now, you need to get a lot better on this. I
20 also want to note that I am concerned about NNSA's current
21 modernization plan, which, in addition to being unnecessary
22 has no chance of being executed on time or on budget.

23 Now, Ms. Rosenblum, let me ask you, if confirmed, in
24 addition to be an Assistant Secretary, you will also be the
25 Staff Director for the Pentagon's Nuclear Weapons Council.

1 Last year, National Defense Authorization Act significantly
2 increased the role of the Nuclear Weapons Council in
3 determining the NNSA budget, decreasing the traditional role
4 of the Energy Department. This effort prompted an
5 outpouring of bipartisan opposition in the Senate and the
6 House, but, unfortunately, key parts of the objectionable
7 language were retained in the final bill.

8 So let me ask, Ms. Rosenblum, do you believe the Energy
9 Secretary should retain the decision authority for the NNSA
10 budget request?

11 Ms. Rosenblum: Senator, thank you very much for the
12 question. I am very familiar with the changes that were
13 made certainly to the legislation, and it is one that I do
14 support and believe that the Council is appropriately
15 chaired by the Department of Defense.

16 Senator Warren: I am not sure I understand the answer
17 to my question, and that is, do you believe that the Energy
18 Secretary should retain decision authority for the NNSA
19 budget request? I just want to make sure I understand your
20 answer. That is a yes or no.

21 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes, I do, Senator, in consultation.

22 Senator Warren: I appreciate that. I just wanted to
23 make sure I understood.

24 So, Ms. Hruby, are you concerned that this new law will
25 negatively impact your ability to set NNSA's budget?

1 Ms. Hruby: I think that we need forge a better
2 relationship so things like this do not happen in the
3 future, and I am confident we can do that and we can work
4 through the legal requirements as needed.

5 Senator Warren: Well, I hope that you are right, but I
6 am very concerned about this.

7 As my colleagues, Senator Manchin and Senator
8 Murkowski, wrote last year, the Nuclear Weapons Council,
9 quote, "has a narrower focus than the Secretary of Energy,
10 and its recommendations would likely prioritize nuclear
11 weapons at the expense of other critical energy department
12 missions," end quote. I fear that this new law will make it
13 harder to rein in the NNSA's dangerous budget growth, and I
14 will look forward to working with both of you to make sure
15 that we are able to do that.

16 So thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Warren. Now let me
18 recognize Senator Kelly.

19 Senator Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you
20 to all four of you for being here today. I really
21 appreciate it. This question is for Ms. Rosenblum.

22 In April, the Government Accountability Office issued a
23 report which highlighted the threat that biological agents
24 present to our servicemembers on the Korean Peninsula, and
25 found that the Department needs to improve the preparedness

1 of U.S. forces to counter chemical and biological weapons.

2 The DoD manufactured hundreds of thousands of doses of
3 vaccines last year for both the plague and botulinum toxin,
4 two threats for which the DoD has longstanding requirements
5 to provide medical countermeasures. However, as part of the
6 defense-wide review, the Department terminated the Joint
7 Vaccine Acquisition Program, ending funding for several
8 medical programs. This included the vaccine programs for
9 these biothreats that had already completed Phase 2 clinical
10 trials, and manufactured 300,000 doses of each vaccine to
11 demonstrate manufacturing capability.

12 As we continue to reckon with the challenge of the
13 COVID-19 pandemic, I am concerned about the risk inherent in
14 ending vaccine development programs that are aimed at
15 protecting our warfighters. If confirmed, can you commit to
16 reviewing the Department's policy and expeditiously
17 providing a report back to the committee on the acquisition
18 strategy for these vaccines, to include the status of the
19 development, the cost to complete the development, and the
20 risks to our servicemembers if development is discontinued?

21 Ms. Rosenblum: I do, Senator, and I believe it is
22 critical that our Joint Forces have the protections that
23 they require in order to be able to counter any kind of
24 threat from weapons of mass destruction, including
25 biological as well.

1 Senator Kelly: Well, thank you, Ms. Rosenblum.

2 Mr. Maier, good to see you again. The National Defense
3 Strategy Commission has cautioned us of the imbalance in
4 civil-military relations on critical issues of strategy,
5 development, and implementation. As you know, Congress has
6 taken steps to address this imbalance by including important
7 reforms in recent defense authorization that are designed to
8 enhance the ability of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
9 for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict to act as
10 the Service Secretary-like civilian responsible for
11 oversight and advocacy of Special Operations Forces.

12 What is the value to both the Special Operations
13 enterprise and our overall national security in having an
14 empowered Service Secretary-like civilian in the Pentagon?

15 Ms. Maier: Senator Kelly, nice to see you again as
16 well. Thank you for the question. So I think it is
17 critically important that as we look at our other services
18 they have a civilian that is empowered that sits above them,
19 and I think this committee has recognized that there are
20 elements of Special Operations Command that did not have
21 that. So in the first order it fills a gap.

22 I think in the second, and maybe more practical sense,
23 it is an opportunity for there to be a civilian who is
24 advocating for the men and women of Special Operations in
25 the building, both in the policy and then in the

1 administrative chain of command that today has not existed.

2 Senator Kelly: Do you think we have made any progress
3 in moving this forward?

4 Ms. Maier: I do, Senator. I think the Secretary's
5 recent announcement of how he intends to proceed with a
6 dual-reporting chain, including a direct report to him for
7 the administrative chain of command, in which, if confirmed,
8 I would be that direct report, significantly empowers the
9 position.

10 Senator Kelly: Well, thank you.

11 The next question is for Ms. Hruby and Mr. Rose. In
12 past testimony before the committee, the National Nuclear
13 Security Administration has been candid about the risks
14 posed by the aging workforce. With more than one-third of
15 the workforce eligible to retire by 2024, the imperative of
16 recruiting the next generation of American scientists and
17 engineers is clear. I am proud to say that the students at
18 the University of Arizona are among those that are already
19 building relationships and experience with the National
20 Nuclear Security Administration through the Minority Serving
21 Institution Partnership Program.

22 Can each of you speak to, in the remaining time, which
23 is not much, can you speak to how you would build on these
24 programs and other methods to develop a sustainable pipeline
25 in STEM research?

1 Ms. Hruby: Yeah, very quickly, we need to work with
2 community colleges, historically black colleges and
3 university, minority serving institutions, top research
4 institutions across the board to rebuild our workforce, and
5 if confirmed, that will be a top priority.

6 Mr. Rose: Senator, let me just say, recruiting,
7 developing, and retaining our nuclear security workforce is
8 one of my highest priorities, and should I be confirmed, be
9 assured that I will make it happen.

10 Senator Kelly: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Kelly. Let me
12 recognize Senator Cotton, please.

13 Senator Cotton: Ms. Hruby, what was your involvement
14 in the incorporation of critical race theory or diversity
15 equity and inclusion training at the Sandia National Labs?

16 Ms. Hruby: Senator Cotton, thanks for that question.
17 I am strong believer in diversity, equity, and inclusion
18 training for our workforce. And, in fact, study after study
19 shows that the culture of institutions is the reason why we
20 lose top talent, and particularly women and people of color.
21 So my first statement is I am a strong supporter and have
22 benefited greatly personally and been part of an institution
23 that has benefitted greatly from diversity, equity, and
24 inclusion training.

25 The issues with the Sandia divisive training occurred

1 after I left the laboratory, and I understand it has been
2 reviewed, and if confirmed, I look forward to evaluating
3 those reviews and making sure that we have high-quality
4 training programs that will continue into the future.

5 Senator Cotton: Ms. Hruby, I have heard from concerned
6 former NNSA officials and lab workers who said these
7 controversial training regimens were conducted under your
8 watch. Did you direct or participate in any of what you
9 just called divisive training sessions?

10 Ms. Hruby: I did participate in training, diversity,
11 equity, and inclusion training at the laboratories. The
12 training that I participated in I never considered divisive
13 nor did I hear that from any employee that participated in
14 the training at the laboratory while I was there.

15 Senator Cotton: Did you personally participate in any
16 training that instructed white employees to, quote,
17 "deconstruct their white culture," end quote, or to
18 apologize for bigotries or prejudices that they did not
19 commit?

20 Ms. Hruby: No, Senator. The classes did explore
21 privilege, but in my opinion they never were divisive or
22 asked inappropriate questions or apologize of the white
23 workforce.

24 Senator Cotton: Do you believe that any race is
25 inherently prejudiced, bigoted, or oppressive?

1 Ms. Hruby: No, sir.

2 Senator Cotton: Do you believe that any race is
3 inherently victimized or oppressed?

4 Ms. Hruby: No, sir.

5 Senator Cotton: Do you see any inherent danger in
6 telling highly skilled technicians who control one of the
7 largest stockpiles of nuclear weapons in the world that they
8 are working for a country whose roots around on systemic
9 racism?

10 Ms. Hruby: Well, no, I do, but I do think we need to
11 be open to the issues that exist, and that the cultures that
12 exist that do not allow us to fully utilize all Americans in
13 our science and technology enterprise.

14 Senator Cotton: So you do not see any danger in
15 teaching these technicians who are in charge of our nuclear
16 stockpiles that America is a fundamentally, or
17 systematically racist country?

18 Ms. Hruby: I do not think America is a fundamentally
19 racist country.

20 Senator Cotton: And so, therefore, you would also not
21 permit any such training in the agency, should you be
22 confirmed?

23 Ms. Hruby: That is correct. I would want to make sure
24 all of our training was high quality.

25 Senator Cotton: Thank you. I think that we can all

1 agree that if you are an American, no matter your race, sex,
2 creed, preference, and especially if you are gifted in
3 fields like math, physics, chemistry, or engineering, that
4 we want you and we need you at the NNSA. But I hope that we
5 also treat our workforce with respect and do not subject any
6 of these highly trained professionals to this very foolish
7 kind of training that teaches them that one race is
8 inherently guilty by birth or one race is inherently
9 oppressed by birth or that America is somehow a
10 fundamentally racist or irredeemable or hateful country. I
11 would suggest that is a very bad way to chase out some of
12 our very best employees and put them into the arms of the
13 private sector.

14 So thank you very much for your answers today, and
15 thank you all for your appearance.

16 Chairman Reed: Thank you very much. Now let me
17 recognize Senator Hawley, please.

18 Senator Hawley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to
19 the witnesses for being here.

20 Ms. Hruby, let me ask you about the Kansas City
21 National Security Campus, which is in my home state of
22 Missouri, that we are very proud of. It does extraordinary
23 work manufacturing, as you know, the non-nuclear components
24 for the NNSA's warhead programs.

25 We know that the Kansas City campus is going to need

1 additional capacity to meet its production requirements
2 going forward. If confirmed, can you give me a sense how
3 you will work to ensure that the campus has the space it
4 needs to continue its vital work?

5 Ms. Hruby: Yes. Thank you, Senator Hawley, for that
6 question. The Kansas City site is a very important part of
7 the NNSA complex, and it is very active right now, and it is
8 undersized to produce the components we need. I understand
9 that there are several options, including lease options, to
10 relieve some of the pressure on the infrastructure at the
11 site, and if confirmed, I will look into what those options
12 are and move forward swiftly with trying to relieve the
13 pressures, the limitations from the infrastructure options.

14 Senator Hawley: Very good. Thank you for that.

15 Mr. Maier, let me come to you and let's talk a little
16 bit about Afghanistan if we could. Acting Assistant
17 Secretary of Defense Helvey testified recently that the U.S.
18 does not necessarily need the Afghan government in order to
19 achieve our counterterrorism objectives in Afghanistan. Let
20 me ask you if you agree that if Kabul falls we may be able
21 to work with other regional and local stakeholders in the
22 country, in Afghanistan, to maintain the necessary access,
23 gather the intelligence, and otherwise be able to facilitate
24 our over-the-horizon operations. Do you agree with that?

25 Mr. Maier: Senator, I think that it will be immensely

1 more challenging if the Afghan government falls. While
2 there are options, as I understand it, underway to look at
3 other outside-facing locations, that is exacerbated by a
4 fall of the Afghan security forces who are fighting and
5 dying on the front lines.

6 Senator Hawley: But surely we have to plan for a
7 number of contingencies. So my question is, if Kabul falls,
8 will we be able to conduct the necessary intelligence-
9 gathering, over-the-horizon operations, et cetera, by
10 working with regional and local stakeholders?

11 Mr. Maier: Senator, I think we will be, but it is
12 really a spectrum. It will be better if we are closer and
13 we have more capability that we can apply against the
14 problem, of course.

15 Senator Hawley: Fair enough. Let me ask you about
16 Special Forces, which are such a key part of our effort to
17 maintain contact and then work with the Northern Alliance in
18 the earlier days of the war in Afghanistan. Do you think
19 that Special Operations Forces should play a role in helping
20 to maintain similar relationships going forward so that we
21 can work with local partners again to achieve our
22 counterterrorism objectives, if Kabul falls here, looking at
23 the same scenario?

24 Mr. Maier: Senator, I think it is fair to say that SOF
25 was first into Afghanistan and they be last out, and this is

1 definitely an option that I would look at, if confirmed.

2 Senator Hawley: Very good. Let me ask you about some
3 of the work that has been going on in the Baltics. They
4 have been working very closely with U.S. Special Forces
5 again to strengthen their own resistance capabilities in
6 order to help deter a Russian invasion. So with that
7 precedent in mind, shift over to Taiwan. Do you think that
8 Taiwan would benefit from strengthening its ability to
9 conduct irregular warfare, along the lines of what the
10 Baltic nations have been doing?

11 Mr. Maier: Senator, I do think that is something that
12 we should be considering strongly as we think about
13 competition across the span of different capabilities we can
14 apply, SOF being a key contributor to that.

15 Senator Hawley: Give me a sense of how you think our
16 Special Operations community can help Taiwan develop this
17 kind of irregular warfare capabilities.

18 Mr. Maier: Senator, I think building on some of the
19 areas that they may not be thinking of, of a fight in depth,
20 if there is a Chinese military advance, where there could be
21 some opportunities for, as you say, resistance networks or
22 other capabilities that would leave behind, if you will,
23 against a potential enemy, amphibious landing or something
24 like that, sir.

25 Senator Hawley: Very good. In what specific ways do

1 you see our Special Operations Forces contributing to
2 deterring Chinese aggression, not just at the unconventional
3 level but also in supporting our conventional forces?

4 Mr. Maier: I think, Senator, when things work best the
5 SOF enterprise is in support of the Joint Force, and vice
6 versa, and I think information operations is a key area
7 where USSOCOM brings a lot of capability, and we need to, I
8 think, continue to improve upon that. One of the priorities
9 I certainly have, in looking at the competition space, is
10 how we can be better in that information environment, and
11 that, of course, is not only a SOF capability alone.

12 Senator Hawley: Give me a sense of, if you are
13 confirmed, what steps you will take to ensure that our
14 Special Operations Forces will be able to take the steps
15 that you just outlined and also maintain their readiness,
16 support over-the-horizon counterterrorism efforts in the
17 Middle East, and perform the many other additional missions
18 that we ask them to undertake in multiple other theaters?

19 Mr. Maier: Senator, I think it is going to be a
20 question of prioritization and really looking at returns on
21 investment. We are still going to need to do the
22 counterterrorism fight, and SOF is best positioned to do
23 that. But some of those partnerships we built over the
24 years are also applicable to the competition space. But we
25 need to evolve more towards that as a national defense

1 strategy. So I think it is going to be a constant tradeoff
2 and looking for opportunities to get economies of scale on
3 both of those mission set.

4 Senator Hawley: Very good. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman.

6 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Hawley. I believe
7 Senator King has an additional question.

8 Senator King: Mr. Rose, as Ms. Rosenblum already
9 learned, one has to be accountable for writings going back
10 to third grade, sometimes, but I want to compliment you.
11 You published an article in December where you had, I think,
12 an important insight. You said, "A deterrent posture
13 review, as opposed to strictly a nuclear posture review,
14 could help the administration determine the right set of
15 military capabilities of policies, nuclear and non-nuclear,
16 it requires to better deter current and emerging threats in
17 a fiscally sustainable manner.

18 "Indeed, if a nuclear weapon were ever used, it will
19 unlikely to be a result of a bolt-out-of-the-blue nuclear
20 attack, but the result of the escalation of a conventional
21 conflict. Therefore, the best way to prevent a nuclear war
22 may be by preventing conventional conflict from occurring in
23 the first place."

24 I think that is an important insight. Could you expand
25 a bit on that?

1 Mr. Rose: Thank you very much, Senator. You know,
2 when you look at the threat landscape we face, during the
3 Cold War we were very much concerned about that Soviet first
4 strike. When we look at the current security environment,
5 where we will most likely have a situation where a conflict
6 could go nuclear would be in a regional conflict with a
7 great power like Russia.

8 Senator King: And indeed, Russia has articulated a
9 doctrine of the use of tactical nuclear weapons called
10 "Escalate to Deescalate." They are openly talking about
11 this strategy.

12 Mr. Rose: That is correct, Senator.

13 Senator King: And therefore, that is a risk that we
14 really need to think about, and as you say, we need to think
15 about deterring conventional conflict as well as the massive
16 nuclear conflict that the doctrine of the '60s, '70s, '80s,
17 and '90s conflated.

18 Mr. Rose: Absolutely, sir.

19 Senator King: Ms. Rosenblum, to move on to look at
20 deterrence in another way, my nightmare is nuclear weapons
21 in the hands of terrorists, nonstate actors, and the problem
22 is that this whole theory of deterrence that we have been
23 talking about does not work with a group of 30 people who
24 would just as soon give their lives up for some abstract
25 cause.

1 Number one, talk to me about how do we keep that from
2 happening, either indigenous development of these weapons by
3 a terrorist group or, more likely, purchased from a rogue
4 state like North Korea.

5 Ms. Rosenblum: Thank you, Senator, for the question.
6 It is something, I believe appropriately, we do need to be
7 concerned about, and is part of the reason that there needs
8 to be emphasis put on securing nuclear materials, civilian
9 nuclear materials, throughout the world, particularly as we
10 see the use of nuclear energy as part of the approach to the
11 climate-related issue. And if I may, Senator, one other
12 point. I worry very much also about biological weapons,
13 particularly as --

14 Senator King: I should have mentioned that. I put
15 that in almost the same category as nuclear, as we have just
16 learned.

17 Ms. Rosenblum: Yes. Thank you. And particularly with
18 synthetic biology, which is becoming more and more
19 ubiquitous. It is allowing a much broader range of actors
20 to have those tools, in much shorter time frame. And that
21 is something that, if I am confirmed, I will take a very
22 close look at the Department of Defense.

23 Senator King: I hope you will also look at where we
24 are vulnerable in terms of biological weapons. One of my
25 concerns is about our water systems. There are something

1 like 60,000 separate water systems in this country, and the
2 question is how secure are they. And water systems not only
3 give us drinking water and water we use in our homes but
4 they cool power plants and enable a lot of other of our
5 activities. So it is not only a question of the risk but
6 what the downstream -- that is a bad pun, I guess, talking
7 about water, but what the downstream effects are.

8 There is something called the Cooperative Threat
9 Reduction Program. Is that something you hope to
10 invigorate, and how much engagement do we have from our
11 allies, and indeed other countries around the world, that
12 recognize this weapons of mass destruction threat?

13 Ms. Rosenblum: Thank you, Senator. The Cooperative
14 Threat Program has been very successful over the past 30
15 years, and I believe it is very important that the U.S.
16 continue to work with allies to close capacity gaps in the
17 fight against countering weapons of mass destruction. If I
18 am confirmed, I really look forward to digging into a lot
19 more of the detail with respect to how the program is
20 currently operating. And again, if confirmed, I would
21 welcome an opportunity to come back to talk with you and
22 other members of the committee on how we are doing with the
23 CTR program.

24 Senator King: I hope we can do that, because that is
25 the legacy of Sam Nunn, as a matter of fact, Nunn-Lugar from

1 years ago, and it is an important one.

2 While I look forward to continuing to work with you, I
3 consider the work that you will be doing, assuming you are
4 confirmed, as among the most important jobs in our
5 government, so thank you for your willingness. Thanks to
6 all of you for your willingness to take on these new
7 challenges.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator King. Let me now
10 recognize, via Webex, Senator Rosen.

11 Senator Rosen: Well, thank you, Chairman Reed, Ranking
12 Member Inhofe, for holding this hearing, and I would like to
13 thank the nominees for testifying, and Ms. Hruby, for
14 meeting with me recently.

15 I want to talk a little bit about some things
16 happening, of course, in Nevada. I am a little worried
17 about explosive nuclear testing and its possible resumption,
18 because last year news reports indicated that the previous
19 administration was considering resuming explosive nuclear
20 testing. The Nevada Test Site, now known as the Nevada
21 National Security Site, or NNSS, is the only facility in the
22 nation equipped to accommodate subcritical nuclear
23 experiments. These help to advance our national security
24 and maintain the integrity of our nuclear stockpile.

25 A resumption in explosive testing would not only

1 compromise the health and safety of Nevadans and harm the
2 surrounding environment, but it would also undermine future
3 stockpile stewardship efforts.

4 So, Ms. Hruby, is your professional opinion that there
5 is not a current or foreseeable need for the United States
6 to resume explosive nuclear testing, and if confirmed, how
7 do you plan to improve the Stockpile Stewardship Program's
8 scientific capabilities so that we never have to resume
9 explosive nuclear weapons testing?

10 Ms. Hruby: Well, thank you, Senator Rosen, and I
11 appreciated our conversation earlier about this as well.

12 Making sure we have a safe, secure, and reliable
13 stockpile without nuclear testing is the foundation of the
14 NNSA. And I do not believe we need to test at this time.
15 There is no technical indication of any reason to test.

16 If confirmed, I will make sure that the Stockpile
17 Stewardship Program continues to advance our laboratory
18 testing, our subcritical testing, as we are doing now,
19 advancing our diagnostics at the Nevada Test Site for
20 subcritical testing, to make sure that nuclear explosive
21 testing is not needed to understand our stockpile.

22 In addition, as we talked about earlier, even our
23 infrastructure programs, and, in particular our pit
24 production program at the NNSA is also a hedge against
25 future testing, and if confirmed, I will strongly support

1 maintaining a stockpile without testing.

2 Senator Rosen: Thank you. I want to keep a little bit
3 on the Test Site, because when I was last there I saw the
4 ongoing construction of the Ula facility for our enhanced
5 capabilities for those subcritical experiments that we are
6 talking about, or the ECSE. And I am excited that the NNSS
7 will host the most capable weapons radiographic system in
8 the world.

9 And so, Ms. Hruby again, if confirmed, will you ensure
10 that rapid completion of ongoing upgrades to the Ula complex
11 in order to enhance the stewardship of our nuclear
12 stockpile, and might you suggest any additional improvements
13 that we need to do at the Test Site that would be prudent to
14 ensure our stockpile safety, and that you can fulfill the
15 mission that we need to there?

16 Ms. Hruby: Yes, Senator, the ECSE program is an
17 important program on the Stockpile Stewardship Program, and
18 if confirmed, I will certainly try to keep that program
19 moving forward. And I agree, we need to continue to look
20 for all the capabilities that could be employed to make sure
21 we have a full science-based understanding of our nuclear
22 weapons.

23 Senator Rosen: Thank you. I want to move on now to
24 plutonium removal. In 2018, of course the Department of
25 Energy secretly shift a half metric ton of weapons-grade

1 plutonium from South Carolina to the Nevada National
2 Security Site. As part of an effort to restore trust with
3 the people of Nevada, NNSA committed to begin the removal of
4 South Carolina material from Nevada no later than 2021, and
5 complete removal by 2026.

6 So, Ms. Hruby and Mr. Rose, can you both commit, if
7 confirmed, to continue to provide the Nevada delegation and
8 our staff with updates on the removal of plutonium from
9 Nevada? I can begin with Ms. Hruby and then go on to Mr.
10 Rose, please.

11 Ms. Hruby: Yes, Senator Rosen.

12 Mr. Rose: Yes, Senator Rosen.

13 Senator Rosen: Thank you. I appreciate that. I look
14 forward to, if confirmed, working with both of you on making
15 sure that Nevada National Security Site can complete this
16 mission in the safest way for our Nevadans and for our
17 country and for our homeland security and safety. Thank
18 you.

19 Chairman Reed: Thank you, Senator Rosen. I want to
20 thank the witnesses for their testimony and for their
21 commitment to public service, both in the past and obviously
22 in the future as they are moving towards their confirmation,
23 I hope.

24 With that I would adjourn the hearing. Thank you very
25 much.

[Whereupon, at 11:15 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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