HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF:

LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS D. WALDHAUSER, USMC, TO BE
GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND; AND
LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSEPH L. LENGYEL, ANG, TO BE
GENERAL AND CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

U.S. Senate
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:34 a.m. in Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. John McCain, chairman of the committee, presiding.


Also Present: Senator Cornyn.
OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MCCAIN, U.S. SENATOR
FROM ARIZONA

Chairman McCain: Good morning. The Senate Armed Services Committee meets this morning to consider the nominations of Lieutenant General Thomas Waldhauser to be Commander of U.S. Africa Command and Lieutenant General Joseph Lengyel to be Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

I welcome both of our nominees and thank them for their continued willingness to serve our Nation.

General Waldhauser, Africa has reemerged as an active front in the global war on terror with ISIL, al Qaeda, Boko Haram, and al-Shabaab, commanding territory and launching successful attacks throughout the continent, and threatening our interests and those of our allies. Of particular concern is the rise of ISIL in Libya, where the terrorist group commands an army of over 5,000 fighters. While recent advances by militia forces against ISIL's stronghold in Sirte are encouraging, the country remains mired by internal divisions, its nation unity government is unable to exercise control outside of Libya, outside of Tripoli, and, to date, has failed to secure the support of important blocs within the population. The failure of the United States and the international community to put forth a comprehensive strategy for Libya following the fall of Qaddafi in 2011 has contributed directly to the current crisis. And ISIL's
ability to strategically lash out and rapidly expand in Libya is a troubling warning about the price of the administration's reactive, indirect approach to fighting this enemy. Until this changes, I fear Libya will continue to deteriorate.

Compounding the rising terrorist threat across the continent, Africa remains plagued by longstanding conflicts and weak governance that drive large displacements of people, and so instability. While the threat in Africa continues to metastasize, our military commanders are being forced to do more with less, starved for resources and denied timely and flexible authorities to take advantage of battlefield opportunities and halt the advance of extremism and other drivers of instability.

General Waldhauser, I look forward to your thoughts today on how you intend to approach both the enormous challenges and opportunities within the AFRICOM area of responsibility.

General Lengyel, the role of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau has evolved over the last 10 years. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau now sits on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serves as an advisor to the President on policy and security matters involving nonfederalized National Guard forces, and manages a relationship with the 54 adjutant generals. This role can be very challenging and requires
patient, determined leadership to put the mission first amid competing demands.

This committee has followed closely the recommendations of both the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force and the National Commission on the Future of the Army. Both Commissions reported out recommendations for reinventing the total force. I hope you will address the Commission recommendations in your testimony here today.

Another area we are watching is the mobilization and demobilization cycle and procedures for the National Guard. Guard members and their families write to me often to discuss the stresses of these cycles on employment and family stability. I hope that you've given serious thought to how you intend to promote family readiness in the National Guard. Particularly, this committee is interested in working with the next Chief of the National Guard Bureau on reforms to the defense health system, especially reforms to address the unique needs of our National Guard and Reserve servicemembers and their families.

As is our tradition, before proceeding with their opening statements, I would invite both our nominees to invite any family members joining them this morning.

Senator Reed.
STATEMENT OF HON. JACK REED, U.S. SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND

Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And let me join you in welcoming our nominees. The positions to which these individuals have been nominated involve significant challenging duties, as you have outlined in your statement.

Both nominees today are, in my view, eminently qualified for the positions for which they have been nominated.

Lieutenant General Waldhauser, who has been nominated to be the next Commander of United States Africa Command, currently serves as the J-7 Director of Joint Force Development. He has served in a number of operational joint positions that have prepared him to serve as Commander, AFRICOM, including as commanding general, 1st Marine Division and as the commander, United States Marine Corps Forces, Central Command. Notably, I'd be remiss if I did not point out also that he has the qualification that probably makes him, without doubt, eminently qualified for this position. He's a United States Army Ranger School graduate. So, congratulations.

Lieutenant General Lengyel, who has been nominated to be Chief, National Guard Bureau, also comes to us with many qualifications. He has served the past 4 years as Vice
Chairman of the National Guard Bureau, and has vast experience as an Air Force pilot, with significant joint experience. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and is a principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense, through the Chairman, on matters involving the nonfederalized National Guard forces in support of homeland defense and civil support missions. In this role, the Chief of National Guard Bureau plays a critical role of facilitating and mediating the interests of the States with the corporate mission and programs of the Department of Defense. As we've seen several times over the years in hearings before this committee, this is a tough job, and it takes a talented individual to fill it.

And I have every confidence that both Lieutenant General Waldhauser, as AFRICOM Commander, and Lieutenant General Lengyel will fulfill these difficult jobs.

Finally, I want to extend a special thanks to your families. I understand, Lieutenant General Waldhauser, that your wife, Gail, and son, Mark, who I met, have joined you today, and, Lieutenant General Lengyel, your wife, Sally, and your daughter, Katie, have joined you. We all know how important families have been to your careers. Without them, you wouldn't be here today, literally.

Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Chairman McCain: Before we proceed, I note the presence of distinguished Senator from Texas, who I know would provide some important words of wisdom and instruction to the -- all members of the committee.

Senator Cornyn.
STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN CORNYN, U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS

Senator Cornyn: Well, thank you, Chairman McCain and Ranking Member Reed, and colleagues.

I'm honored to be here today to introduce one of the nominees, a fellow Texan, General -- Lieutenant General Joseph Lengyel, as the nominee to serve as the next Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Citizen soldiers, of course, have been part of our country's fabric since the beginning. And, in the 21st century, their role continues to evolve to help safeguard our Nation. In addition to ensuring that our National Guardsmen are able and ready to do their job, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau must be able to provide sage military advice to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and the President of the United States.

General Lengyel is the right man for this critical position. And the depth and breadth of his experience make him exceptionally well qualified. After graduating from the University of North Texas and completing his undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, General Lengyel cut his teeth in the cockpit of an F-16. His 34 years of distinguished military service include an array of operational, staff, and command assignments, as well as service in Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort,
Southern Watch, and Enduring Freedom. He's also served overseas as a defense attache.

As you can imagine, today is a special day, as both of you have noted, both the Chairman and the Ranking Member, not only for General Lengyel, but also his family. His wife of 24 years, Sally, and his daughter, Katie, are both here, as has already been pointed out. But, I'd also like to mention General Lengyel's two sons, who could not be here today: Michael, because he's following in his dad's footsteps as one of the Air Force's newest F-16 pilots, and Joe, who's attending college.

General Lengyel hails from a proud military family, and knows firsthand what it means to serve and sacrifice. His father, Lieutenant Colonel Lauren Lengyel, and mother, Marge, couldn't be here today, but certainly are watching on TV. General Lengyel's dad was also an Air Force pilot, and he shares some history with our distinguished Chairman, Senator McCain. Lieutenant Colonel Lengyel was shot down while flying over Vietnam in August of 1967 and was held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam until March of 1973. In '75, he returned to Vietnam to fly missions during the fall of Saigon, being one of only two former POW pilots to return to Vietnam after 1973 to fly missions.

During his dad's captivity, his mother raised him, along with his brothers, Greg and Dan, and his sister,
Toddy. General Lengyel's younger brother, Greg, also
carried the family tradition of military service, and he
currently serves as a major general in the Air Force.

Once confirmed, General Lengyel's experience and
leadership will be instrumental in guiding the National
Guard as it faces a myriad of challenges both home -- at
home and abroad.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me a few minutes to
introduce General Lengyel. And I'm pleased to introduce him
to the committee and recommend his confirmation.

Chairman McCain: Thank you, Senator Cornyn. And I
know that you're -- have important obligations, but I thank
you for being here to introduce this highly qualified
General Lengyel. Thank you.

And, General Lengyel, I hope that, unlike your father
and me, that the number of landings have matched the number
of takeoffs.

So, I have standard questions for the nominees that
need to be answered, and then we will proceed.

In order to -- and just answer yes or no to the
following questions -- in order to exercise its legislative
and oversight responsibility, it's important that this
committee and other appropriate committees of the Congress
are able to receive testimony, briefings, and other
communications of information. Have you adhered to
applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest?

[Both witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Chairman McCain: Do you agree, when asked, to give your personal views, even if those views differ from the administration in power?

[Both witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Chairman McCain: Have you assumed any duties or undertaken any actions which would appear to presume the outcome of the confirmation process?

[Both witnesses answered in the negative.]

Chairman McCain: Will you ensure your staff complies with deadlines established for requested communications, including questions for the record in hearings?

[Both witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Chairman McCain: Will you cooperate in providing witnesses and briefers in response to congressional requests?

[Both witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Chairman McCain: Will those briefings be protected from reprisal for their testimony or briefings?

[Both witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Chairman McCain: Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear and testify, upon request, before this committee?

[Both witnesses answered in the affirmative.]
Chairman McCain: Do you agree to provide documents, including copies of electronic forms of communication, in a timely manner when requested by a duly-constituted committee, or to consult with the committee regarding the basis for any good-faith delay or denial in providing such documents?

[Both witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Chairman McCain: General Waldhauser, we will begin with you. And, as I mentioned, if you'd like to introduce your family to the committee members that are here, please proceed.
STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS D. WALDHAUSER, USMC, NOMINEE TO BE GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND

General Waldhauser: Thank you, Senator.

Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee, good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am truly honored to be nominated as the Commander, U.S. Africa Command. I want to thank the President and the Secretary of Defense for their confidence in me. And I want to recognize the current U.S. Africa Commander, General Dave Rodriguez, and his wife Ginny, for their dedicated service to our country and the men and women in uniform.

Joining me today is my wife, Gail, and our son, Mark. Our two daughters, Amy and Katherine, were not able to be here this morning. Gail has been a great mother and a superb advocate for military families over the years. Moreover, she taught middle school for many years where a large number of students were from military families in the communities where we were stationed.

Since the standup of AFRICOM nearly a decade ago, the Command has made many contributions to our national security interests on the continent. Today, there are numerous complex challenges in the African area of responsibility. Terrorist organizations and terrorist activities conducted
by groups such as the Islamic State in Libya and al-Shabaab in Somalia are present and active across the continent. Additionally, ethnic strife, poverty, mass atrocities, and illicit trafficking threaten stability and economic growth, particularly in nations with weak governments. Consequently, AFRICOM must continue to work with national and international partners to disrupt these transnational threats and prevent the export of terror on the continent, in the region, and ultimately to our homeland. Additionally, AFRICOM must continue to work with African partners to create an environment where these partners are willing and capable to address their security concerns.

If confirmed, I will work with not only the U.S. military components of AFRICOM, but with my fellow combatant commanders, as well, in order to foster an environment where our challenges are viewed from a transregional perspective and not just from a particular geographic area of responsibility. And also if confirmed, I will provide my best military advice to this committee, when requested.

Finally, and most importantly, I will do everything I can to properly lead, respect, and keep the faith with those in uniform and the civilian workforce who voluntarily serve our Nation.

Thank you again for allowing me to appear before this committee this morning, and I am prepared to answer your
questions.

[The prepared statement of General Waldhauser follows:]
Chairman McCain: Thank you.

General Lengyel.
STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSEPH L. LENGYEL, ANG, NOMINEE TO BE GENERAL AND CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

General Lengyel: Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of this committee, it is a pleasure to be here today.

I'd like to thank Senator Cornyn for his opening remarks and my introduction.

Senator Cornyn mentioned my wife, Sally, and daughter, Katie, are here with me today. Sally served 7 years as an officer in the Air Force and grew up in an Air Force family. She remains my most trusted advisor and the love of my life. Katie is a rising high school senior who is spending her summer interning at the Peace Corps, here in Washington, D.C. We are very proud of all three of our children, Joe, Mike, and Katie. And, without their love and support, I certainly would not be here today.

Chairman McCain: Welcome.

General Lengyel: Thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow nominee, Lieutenant General Thom Waldhauser, and his distinguished service. It's a privilege to be here today with him.

I am humbled by my nomination to be the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, humbled by both the great leaders who have served in this position in the past, and, if
confirmed, by the incredible leaders I will join on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Over the past 4 years, I have been honored to serve as the Vice Chief and witness firsthand the visionary leadership of General Frank Grass. He, along with his predecessors, have left an indelible mark, resulting in the finest National Guard in our Nation's history. I am grateful to serve with the 453,000 citizen soldiers and airmen, a proud force that has been helping secure our Nation for nearly 380 years.

We are living in extraordinary times with incredible advances in technology, globalization, and commerce that give great cause for optimism and hope for the future. Yet, this optimism is tempered by unprecedented challenges in our global security environment. Transregional, multidomain, multifunctional threats, including near-peer competitors, regional actors, and violent extremist organizations, require a greater agility and inclusion of all elements of national power.

Since 9/11, the operational National Guard has mobilized roughly 780,000 times in support of the warfight. As the combat reserve of the Army and the Air Force, if confirmed, I will ensure that we continue to work seamlessly as part of the joint force to help bring security around the globe.
Our experience overseas enables us to protect the homeland and work with our Governors and our adjutant generals to answer the call when disaster strikes here at home. On any given day, we have anywhere between 3- to 4,000 guardsmen conducting domestic operations, and the National Guard remains at the forefront of building enduring partnerships with local, State, Federal, and global partners.

Although we are proud of our heritage and our past, I am more excited about our future. The Guard's evolution as an operational force is a chapter in our Nation's security at home and abroad that is written through the incredible skill and devotion of America's citizen soldiers and airmen. The development of our most important asset, our people, will be our foremost task. If confirmed, I will strive to grow and train leaders who innovate and motivate the force. We must ensure that ethical behavior goes from the top down. Acts that demoralize units and degrade readiness, such as sexual assault and discrimination, can never be tolerated. In short, if I am confirmed, the National Guard will strive to be ready and to be the most diverse and inclusive force we can be.

Thank you again for allowing me to be here today. I look forward to working with the Congress, the Department of Defense, the interagency, the Governors, the adjutant
generals, and all stakeholders to ensure that we maintain the most capable, accessible, and ready National Guard possible. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of General Lengyel follows:]
Chairman McCain: Thank you, General.

General Waldhauser, there's an old saying about "chickens come home to roost." As a person who's been to Libya on numerous occasions, including in Benghazi, when Chris Stevens was living there in a hotel, we watched Qaddafi being taken out without the loss of a single American aircraft or person, and then walked away. We walked away when, despite the repeated pleas of those of us who saw the situation deteriorating, we did nothing to help the Libyans, not to treat their wounded, not to secure weapons caches, not to help them with border security, and, most of all, help a nation that had never known democracy to achieve it. Now we're paying the price for it. Now we're paying a heavy price. We have American troops in Libya, according to a published report. Is that true?

General Waldhauser: We have a small number of troops on the ground, that is --

Chairman McCain: So, we have American troops on the ground, which never would have been required if we had done the things necessary that we did after Korea, after World War II, after Bosnia, instead of walking away from it. An abject, total disgraceful failure on the part of this administration and this President. So, now you're handed, frankly, a can of worms, because I don't have a lot of confidence in the Misratans. I've seen them in action
before. I don't have a lot of confidence in General Haftar, who has his own agenda, obviously. And, of course, ISIS has established approximately, according to published reports, about 5,000 people in Libya. So, you're going -- and we're not -- not to mention Boko Haram, not to mention the other challenges in AFRICOM. So, how are you going to make chicken salad out of this situation, General?

General Waldhauser: Senator McCain, the situation today in Libya is very complex. We have two significant objectives for the United States. One is to get the Government of National Accord up and running, and the second is to disrupt Libya -- to disrupt the -- ISIL inside Libya. The Government of National Accord has been on station in Tripoli since March. It's got a long way to go, but it has shown some very basic progress. Moreover, in the last --

Chairman McCain: Does that government include General Haftar?

General Waldhauser: It does not. General Haftar is in charge of the Libyan National Army.

Chairman McCain: Does it include the Misratans?

General Waldhauser: The Misratans have pledged their allegiance to the GNA.

Chairman McCain: Does it -- does the government include them, or is it they've just pledged their allegiance?
General Waldhauser: They've pledged their allegiance with regards to their inclusion. I don't have a lot of knowledge in that particular topic. They are carrying out the mission of trying to take on ISIL inside Sirte.

Chairman McCain: Please go ahead. I interrupted you.

General Waldhauser: Thank you, Senator.

Again, a very complex situation. So, the government, the GNA, is making very small progress. It's going to take a lot of time.

With regards to the ISIL situation, the Misratans along with the Petroleum Guard Force have surrounded the city of Sirte. They've gained some territory in the last week, but they have not gone into the city. So, you could say there has been some progress. But, the bottom line is, with regards to tribal allegiances, these things come and go. And right now, the Misratans, at least they've pledged their allegiance to the GNA.

Chairman McCain: Are you confident that we have sufficient military presence and activity in Libya to take care of ISIS and somehow restore or form up some kind of consensus government?

General Waldhauser: At the present, our assistance has been advisory, and it has been to provide guidance. The Misratans and the Petroleum Guard have -- has made progress, however one of the things we need to watch in the next few
weeks is, if there is success in Sirte, if ISIL does get
routed and perhaps leave, we need to have a plan for success
at that point.

Chairman McCain: So, right now you don't think we need
additional U.S. military presence.

General Waldhauser: At the moment, no.

Chairman McCain: Would -- "at the moment" means, to
me, we don't have a strategy. I don't know what "at the
moment" -- unfortunately, this administration has reacted
"at the moment" with incrementalism, mission creep, a
gradual escalation in Iraq and Syria. And I don't want to
see the same thing in Libya, but I'm beginning to see the
same thing. Do we have a strategy for Libya, or are we just
acting in an ad hoc fashion, which was -- is been the case
as we have watched ISIS establish, metastasize, and grow in
Libya?

General Waldhauser: Well, as indicated, the two
strategic objectives that we do have for Libya is to assist
the --

Chairman McCain: I know the objectives. Do we have a
strategy?

General Waldhauser: To continue to support that right
-- at this point in time. I am not aware of any overall
grand strategy at this point.

Chairman McCain: Do you -- are you aware of a need for
sufficient military engagement to see that the mission is accomplished, which it seems to me, as you mentioned, is twofold: -- one, take care of ISIS, and the other, establish a stable government in Libya?

General Waldhauser: One of the things we have to be very careful about is the complex relationships of these various militias, and so on. So, if the government, meaning Mr. Saraj, and the GNA requests our support, then we should very much consider doing that. And so, I think we've been able to tell him what we could offer at this point in time.

Chairman McCain: Well, I would just, finally, say you're inheriting a very difficult and complex situation, which didn't have to be. We walked away from Libya. Senator Lieberman, Senator Graham, and I, after that -- and we were there at their elections, where they had -- where they were full of hope, and we walked away from them. It's another disgraceful chapter in the history of this administration's national security policies.

Senator Reed.

Senator Reed: Mr. Chairman, I have to go to the Banking Committee. Could I yield to Senator Gillibrand?

Chairman McCain: Senator Gillibrand.

Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'll address National Guard issues first. General, I've been a long advocate of including the National Guard in
our cyber efforts. Can you tell me about how you see the National Guard engaging in the cyber mission? And one of the challenges has been a shortage of training seats for guardsmen, which is the status of the Professional Educational Center. And what needs to be done to ensure that it is available to provide additional cyber training capacity?

General Lengyel: Senator, I thank you for that question.

The National Guard is building robust capacity in the cyberdomain. There is a cyber capacity in all 54 States, territories, and the District, at a basic level. And we've got 15 cyber units in the Air National Guard and another 11 cyber protection teams in the Army National Guard. Those are only partially built. We do need training. Training slots in schools is a problem. And we have begun to address that by creating additional school slots down in our -- in Arkansas is -- Little Rock, Arkansas, has created a separate school slot to work the extra surge required for cyber growth. And I obviously think cyber is a great mission for the Guard, great connectivity with the community, with the cyber expertise and the IT -- in the IT world. So, if confirmed, I'll continue to do everything I can to keep building that cyber enterprise.

Senator Gillibrand: And just as followup, what will
Army Guard CPT's relationship be to CYBERCOM's cyber mission force?

General Lengyel: Senator, currently they are not included as part of the Army -- our cyber mission force. And if confirmed, I'll work with our cyber and Chief of Staff of the Army and U.S. Cyber Command to -- I think they should be part of the cyber mission force.

Senator Gillibrand: I do, too.

General Lengyel: And I think they think that, too.

So, that'll make school slots easier for us to get, solidify the requirements, and should be better for the cyber enterprise.

Senator Gillibrand: Thank you, General.

With regard to AFRICOM, General Waldhauser, although Boko Haram is considered a regional threat, you have said that Boko Haram now identifies as ISIL of West Africa. I'm very concerned that groups like Boko Haram, by aligning with ISIL or al Qaeda, may morph regional threats into transnational threats. Years before al Qaeda attacked New York and Washington, it hit our embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. I brought a CODEL of a group of Senators to really assess growing terrorism threats throughout Africa, and this was a constant in our conversation. How concerned are you that Boko Haram and groups like it will become transnational threats that will endanger lives in Europe or even America?
And what should we be doing to prevent that possibility?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I'm very concerned that Boko Haram will ultimately move out of the region and perhaps -- on the continent, and perhaps ultimately to the homeland. That's the ISIL brand. However, at this time, the Lake Chad Basin region, which has a multinational task force headed by Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and those countries, we work with them to provide assistance, training so that they can take on Boko Haram. Boko Haram, although called now, you know, ISIL West Africa, is a regional threat and one of the things we need to continue to watch.

Senator Gillibrand: When we were there, we met with a number of the governments that you referenced. We went -- we were in Chad, and we met with some Nigerians, as well. Each of those military components, and each of the countries we visited, asked for greater cooperation with intelligence-sharing, specifically. So, how do you assess the current state of our intelligence-gathering and -sharing with African countries? Is it possible to increase that? And what do you think is the best way to improve our intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities in Africa? And if you can't answer that in this session, I'd ask you to provide details in a closed session.

General Waldhauser: Thank you, Senator. What I can tell you in this session is that we have contributed ISR
support, we have contributed training to the multinational joint task force. This has assisted the Nigerians, for example, in locating Boko Haram on several occasions.

Senator Gillibrand: And do you think that's something we could enhance? Because they asked -- they were grateful for everything we'd done to date, but they did ask for more.

General Waldhauser: Yes, Senator. As you know, AFRICOM is an economy-of-force theater, and we always would ask for more. And, if confirmed, I would advocate for more, if that were deemed to be my determination. However, at this time, it appears that we are giving them enough intelligence that they can conduct operations to contain Boko Haram or ISIL West Africa in northern Nigeria.

Senator Gillibrand: One of the other conversations we had on this CODEL was that many of the youth that are joining terrorist groups in Africa start out being lured by the promise of steady money, especially those who may not have seen their basic necessities being met -- food, clothing, housing. In Kenya, al-Shabaab was paying new recruits $100 a week, with a $500 bonus for joining. What role do you think economic development plays in countering terrorism in Africa? And what do you think the U.S. Government can be doing to assist with that will create alternative options for young Africans susceptible to joining terrorist groups?
General Waldhauser: Well, ultimately, a secure and a stable and a prosperous Africa are in our national interests. You know, it's interesting, of the youth bulge inside Africa, a significant number of children under the age of 14 -- so, eventually, if you want to get at the conditions of radicalism, you've got to provide a strong economic status so they can have jobs and so forth. So, it is a huge part of the overall effort, and it's in our interest to have economic growth on the continent that will allow jobs and allow a different path for many of these youth who get swayed by money and jobs and so forth by joining groups such as Boko Haram.

Senator Gillibrand: Thank you.

Chairman McCain: Senator Inhofe.

Senator Inhofe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm not very alert today after staying up very late last night watching Oklahoma State University devastate Arizona in the final four.

[Laughter.]

Chairman McCain: The Senator is out of order.

[Laughter.]

Senator Inhofe: The Chairman brought up the -- some of the problems in Libya. And I was glad that Senator Gillibrand talked about some of the sub-Saharan Africa problems with Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Shabaab in
Somalia. My concern is this. When AFRICOM was set up, AFRICOM was not -- it wasn't really dedicated the resources other commands are. You're dependent upon CENTCOM, EUCOM, and others in order to take care of the problems you had. Now, with all of these things coming up now that we didn't anticipate, how are you handling that part? I mean, are you going to be -- how are you handling your resources, your manpower?

General Waldhauser: Senator, if confirmed, I think one of my big responsibilities is to evaluate situations such as in Nigeria and Boko Haram, where we are with al-Shabaab, what's going on with AQIM in Mali, is to evaluate those situations and then advocate for the resources necessary to contribute to whatever the mission may be for them. As I said, AFRICOM is an economy-of-force effort, but it's my job to advocate when I have a clear --

Senator Inhofe: You can advocate all you want, but we -- the resources are not there as we have in -- we've learned to expect in the past. That's the big problem that we have with this happening all over the world. And my question, I guess, is, Have you found there's enough left over for you when you do advocate for them?

General Waldhauser: Well, if confirmed -- and I'll have to look into what is -- what we still have to do. We have some shortages in ISR. We have --
Senator Inhofe: Okay.

General Waldhauser: -- shortages in personnel recovery aircraft and the like, because of other size of the continent. So, I know those two are definite places where we need to --

Senator Inhofe: As I mentioned to you before, one of the -- two of the things that I think are very successful in Africa are, number one, the train-and-equip program, and, number two, IMET program. And now we're looking in the future, when we look -- talk about the IMET program, anticipating that if we don't do it, we know who is going to be doing it. And so, are they still going along with those two programs, in spite of the competition that's out there?

General Waldhauser: It's my understanding that those -- the programs you mentioned, along with others, such as the 1208 program, are going well.

Senator Inhofe: Yeah. Thank you.

General Lengyel, the concern that we have -- and we've heard it in this -- we've had several hearings talking about the Active Air Force. During the readiness hearing in March, they talked about the manning shortfalls in the critical career field, including Air Force pilots. The fact that we're currently over 640 pilots short of their requirement -- now, we're talking about Active now -- and all these things that they're talking about, they cost some
$9 million, we determined, to take someone off the street
and train them to the F-22 level, while we're talking about
retention bonuses around $225,000. Now, I'm -- now, these
are serious problems with Active. How do you rank these
with the Reserve component?

General Lengyel: Well, Senator, it's cyclical. When
airlines begin to hire, it begins to be more difficult to
retain pilots. The good news for the National Guard is, you
can be an airline pilot and a pilot in the unit. So, what's
important for us is to watch and maintain the frequency and
the predictability of our rotational deployments. And if we
do that, you know, we're going to be able to be just fine.
We -- it's -- it is a problem. It's particularly a problem
in our full-time force. To retain the full-time instructor
pilot cadres is challenging for us. But, it's something
that we have to work on constantly. And --

Senator Inhofe: Yeah. What percentage of your pilots
are -- come from Active?

General Lengyel: Sir, if I told you, I'd be guessing.
I mean, I'm guessing probably half, maybe a little more than
that. I was a former Active Duty pilot, myself. A lot of
pilots come from the Active component when they transition
to the commercial airlines and then follow on with --

Senator Inhofe: Now, see, that is a problem, too,
because that exacerbates the problem of the Active units.
Well, that's something that we're very much concerned about. The last thing I wanted to mention was the activity in -- of the Chinese in Africa, General Waldhauser. You know, they -- we have observed for a long period of time what China is doing there. They come in, they do huge -- they're even talking about that long railroad project that goes all the way from south to north. But, when they do this, they don't hire Africans, they're bringing their own people in. And it appears to me, from my activity down there, that they are -- the saying in Africa is that United States tells them what they need, and then China gives them what they need, but they're not doing this out of the kindness of their heart. Do you see that threat continuing as it has in the last 10 years that I know of?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I do. China's interests are markets and minerals. And they do -- you know, we hire locals, for example, in Djibouti at the -- our facility there. We hire Djiboutians, but the Chinese do not.

Senator Inhofe: Yeah. That's correct.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McCain: Senator Reed.

Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And I apologize, gentlemen, for leaving briefly.

General Waldhauser, the issue in Libya is critical. There are two elements that have been discussed publicly as
part of an overall approach. One would be to -- targeted
air campaign against ISIL and its infrastructure. We've
c Conducted sporadic air operations against them. And second
would be an international training program in order to
provide these militias with basic skills and also impress
upon them the need to be supportive of the government, not
destructive. Can you comment on these two approaches?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I can say two things.
First, we -- as you indicated, we have struck in Libya in
the past -- I believe, three times in the last year -- if
the target was against our -- it was imminent and against
our interests. And we've done that.

With regards to the militias, one of the significant
challenges is, in some way, to unite all those militias
under the GNA. That's a significant problem. I know, at
the present time, working with our partners and allies in
the region, the Libyan International Assist Mission, for
example, with Italy and the U.K., that -- those discussions
are ongoing. And, if confirmed, I will certainly become
more aware of what's going on there and work with those
individuals to help try to train these partner -- these
militias and try to -- in some way, try to unify them behind
then GNA.

Senator Reed: This is one of -- area of the world
where some of our allies have much longer contacts, both
personal, economic -- I think of the Italians, who basically
occupied the area for a number of years. And do you find
that the -- that they're in a position to be more proactive,
effective, or in a leadership role than -- because of these
historic connections?

General Waldhauser: Senator, from my studying for this
appointment, it appears to me that the Italians are
involved. They're involved in Operation Sophie, which is on
the Mediterranean Sea, to try to intercept weapons as well
as refugees moving from the coast into the Mediterranean.
Additionally, they have indicated to be a key player, if not
the lead, in the Libyan International Assist Mission, where,
once requested by the government, that they would come in
and do training and advising in that capacity. And they
would be the leader in that, and provide the bulk of forces.

Senator Reed: General, in response to both, I think,
Senator Inhofe, Senator Gillibrand, you underscore a point
that I would raise, which is, of all the COCOMs, you're the
one who determines the most on non-DOD resources to
accomplish a mission. I -- maybe SOCOM would be in the same
category. State, AID, CDC, economic entities that are
making investments. Is that your perspective as you go into
this job?

General Waldhauser: Senator, building capacity with
the militaries and the governments inside the continent is a
huge part of what we do. I would say that the terrorism
issues that we've talked about here this morning are
certainly number one. But, meanwhile, we've got to continue
to build partnership capacity, bring these militaries up to
a level not only of tactical competence, but ethics on the
battlefield, respect for the rule of law. And that needs to
be part of the training, as well. So, yes, partnerships and
capacity-building are a big part of what AFRICOM does.

Senator Reed: And is the direct capacity-building with
military-to-military, but then trying to reach out to the
population with a positive message to dissuade young people
from embracing some of this radicalism, that's a State
Department function, AID function, but that's something
that's critical to your mission.

General Waldhauser: Yes, Senator, it is. In fact, we
have a program that we work with our National Guard
partners. It's called the State Partnership Program. I
think there's about a dozen States who have partnerships
with Africa. So, for example, in Djibouti, the State of
Kentucky has a relationship with them. And they have all
type of engagements, where, not only military activity is
certainly on the skyline, but just the ability to -- for
government and just educational exchanges -- things like
that are a big part of what we do, and they will get at
these conditions that will hopefully in the future assuage
people from trying to become radicalized.

Senator Reed: Thank you.

General Lengyel, again, I commend you for your service and for your commitment. You're superbly prepared, since you've been doing a lot of this work for the last several years. One of the issues is the constant sort of coordination between Department of Defense and 54 adjutant generals. You might have the job with the most forces in Washington, I don't know, but you're probably close to the top. Can you comment upon your approach and what are some of the issues you think are most significant between this group of State officers and DOD?

General Lengyel: Yes, sir. I think the 54 adjutant generals do amazing things in their States. They organize, train, and equip their forces to be ready for the warfight. And we have proven, for the past 15 years, they are doing a fantastic job. Last year, they had half a million man days of guardsmen doing things in their States for their Governors. And we need to make sure that they are equipped and ready to do that. And all of that readiness flows from their warfight business.

So, my job, as the conduit of communication to the Department, to this body, is to know what they think, know what they need, kind of blend all of that together with the lens of the national picture of the whole National Guard,
and make my best military advice to my bosses and to this committee. And so, constant communication, a full awareness of their requirements and their needs, and then blending that together to solidify the advice to both the service secretaries and to this body.

Senator Reed: Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McCain: Senator Ernst.

Senator Ernst: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Gentlemen, thank you for being here today. And I want to especially thank your families, as well, for your love and support through your wonderful careers.

I'm going to start with you, General Lengyel, and thank you so much. I enjoyed sitting down with you and visiting, the other day, and excited about the opportunities that you have ahead of you.

As you know, over the past year, there have been a number of States -- I know this is something that Senator Cotton has wrestled with, as well, in Iowa, as well -- who are facing issues in maintaining our nominal lease rates with our civilian airports that house Air National Guard units. And currently in Des Moines, at their airport, their 24-month conditional compliance period is coming to an end this August. And if we don't have this issue resolved by then, the 193rd Iowa Air National Guard Wing, they may be
faced with paying the full lease for the area that they occupy, which would severely disrupt their ISR mission and would further strain our DOD budget. So, can you commit to me today that you will personally look into this issue and do all you can to resolve it in order to end the disruption to our Air National Guard units?

General Lengyel: Yes, Senator. If confirmed, I commit to do that.

Senator Ernst: Thank you very much.

And a totally different topic, but one that is very, very important to us. In April, the Army Times reported that the National Guard, over the past year, has seen a 23-percent increase in suicide rates amongst its members. And can you give your perspective on why we are maybe seeing the increase in suicides amongst our members?

General Lengyel: Senator, I wish I could give you a solution to stop this. So far, just this year, we've had 54 suicides, and we're on track to be over 100 again for another year. This is a problem that I don't think any glossy is going to solve, any program. This is a human interaction issue. We have a -- put a lot of effort and resources into behavioral health to get the resources to the States, to the 54, in both the Air and the Army National Guard, to have -- we had a Health of the Force Initiative in October, where we made an effort to contact every single
member of the Guard and find out if they -- if we could
identify some of the risk factors -- financial or drug abuse
or -- jobs is an issue, where it increases stress on our
guardsmen -- men and women in the National Guard.

So, we continue to work this very hard. And, if
confirmed, Senator, I'll continue to make it among my
highest priorities to have a culture inside the National
Guard where these men and women who are having these issues,
who choose, you know, suicide, we can identify it, that
reach out is a sign of strength, that we can get the
resources to them, both in our communities and those offered
by the Department, and things like the Jason Sexton Act that
gives them a yearly psychological health evaluation -- all
of these things come together to help us combat this. But,
it's a problem, not just in the Army Guard; it is in the Air
Guard and in society, as well.

Senator Ernst: Correct. And we lose 22 veterans --
from the VA's numbers, 22 veterans every day to suicide.
And that's unacceptable. So, thank you for your commitment
in that area. And I look forward to working with you on
those issues, as well.

And finally, for both of you gentlemen, we were
visiting about the State Partnership Program a little bit
earlier, General, and this is something that is extremely
important to me. Iowa is partnered with the Republic of
Kosovo. And we have a very strong partnership there. I've engaged with a number of exchanges in Iowa with our Kosovar brothers and sisters. So, if you could, please, talk a little bit more about the State Partnership Program. We currently have 76 nations around the globe that are engaged in the Partnership Program. And if we could start with you, General, please, and just talk a little bit about the importance and significance of this.

General Lengyel: Yes, Senator. It's -- it is a fabulous program, really coming into its own as seen as -- for the strategy tool that it is. It is a tool for the long game. It is a tool that builds relationships, trust, and the ability to have interaction with these countries for the long term. It's relatively low cost. It's a program that does five to seven events with five to seven people five to seven times a year. These people can go from major to major to general over the course of 20 years and still know each other and still trust each other and still be able to communicate. And in many, many cases, we have seen that pay off in spades, over the last year, particularly, with our older partnerships in Europe. And Kosovo is a great example of that. The trust and ability to assure and to tour forces in the region is something the State Partnership, too, can contribute to immensely.

Senator Ernst: Outstanding.
General Waldhauser, do you have any parting comments?

General Waldhauser: Senator, just briefly to add. The State Partnership Program in AFRICOM, which is a economy-of-force theater, is a huge combat multiplier. And the impact of what goes on goes far beyond the military piece. And those individuals are usually leaders within those countries and so on, so they will be able to touch many people in those countries. So, in sum, it's a very, very important part, for us. It helps us significantly.

Senator Ernst: Thank you, gentlemen, very much. And again, thanks to your families for being here, as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman McCain: Senator Shaheen.

Senator Shaheen: Thank you both for being here this morning, for your service to this country, and for your willingness to take on these new responsibilities. And thank you, to your families, for being here, as well.

General Lengyel, I'm -- would like to begin with you, because, as you know, the National Guard is very important, not just to the overall force structure of our military, but to individual States. And in the State of New Hampshire, it's very important to help us address, not just storms and emergencies when they happen, but also ongoing challenges that we face. And, in New Hampshire, we have a huge epidemic from heroin and opioid abuse. And one of the areas
that the Guard has been helpful with is the National Guard Counter-Drug Program, where they have provided analysis -- military analysis to our local law enforcement. And I know one of the challenges that they've experienced and that we would like to address is consistent funding for that program, and being able to rely on consistent funding for the program. I had General Reddel tell me that it takes a -- 2 years to train an analyst, and yet the funding is only there, at least in the last several years, for 1 year. So, can you talk about how important that consistent funding is to programs like the National Guard's Counter-Drug Program?

General Lengyel: Yes, Senator. We have, in the National Guard today, a little over 3,000 soldiers and airmen who are participating with law enforcement as partners with our communities using their unique military skillsets in concert with law enforcement to deter and detect and disrupt the flow of illicit drugs in the country. Every State has a need for this. And so, it costs us about $200 million a year to provide this current level of support, and another $20 million on top of that to provide the five schools, where we provide training for combating counterdrugs, that we have some unique law enforcement skillsets that we actually train in five separate schoolhouses.

So, when the funding is unstable, it disrupts our
ability to commit these forces to local communities, to law enforcement partners, and, more importantly than that, to me, is, it disrupts our ability to take care of the people who are doing these missions. These people have lives to live, and they need to know, "Hey, do I need to go find another job, or is this important counterdrug activity going to continue, going forward?" So, stability in funding, I would just say, is important for the warfight readiness, it's important for the homeland readiness, but it's very important to the people and to the mission of the Counter-Drug Program.

Senator Shaheen: Well, thank you. I know everybody on this committee appreciates that, and hopefully we will be able to be more effective in making sure that funding can be counted on. And I cannot overestimate how important those -- that Counter-Drug Program is in helping us in New Hampshire and in other States address the drug challenges that we face. So, kudos to the Guard. And hopefully it will continue in a very robust way.

General Waldhauser, according to information that just came out yesterday from the United Nations Refugee Agency, the number of refugees worldwide is at an alltime high, over 65 million. And about 1.1 million of those were people who have fled from Somalia, which is third behind Syria and Afghanistan. And many of those refugees are in Africa. Can
General Waldhauser: Thank you, Senator.

Specifically in Somalia, there has been a large number of refugees that have crossed over the border into Kenya. That obviously puts a strain on their economy and their ability to provide services for those large numbers of people. Recently, Kenya has indicated they were going to release those back to Somalia. This is a significant issue, because, right now in Somalia, al-Shabaab still continues to press. And AMISOM, the United Nations mission inside Africa, has -- continues to battle al-Shabaab. In the past 6 months or so, there's been a little bit of a slowdown, so to speak, on the initiative from the forces that are provided to AMISOM. So, countries such as Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia, who provide these forces, they've taken a little bit of a backslide. So, moreover, I guess the point I'm trying to get to is that, inside Somalia, the government needs to move in a positive direction, and the armed forces of Somalia, which is what AMISOM is to transition to, needs to move forward, as well.

So, if confirmed, one of the first things I will do is take a look at the situation inside Somalia so we can get that movement back on track. Because the refugee problem
that you indicated will only compound the issues inside that country.

Senator Shaheen: My time is up, but can I just ask, on -- is there any way to get Kenya to delay their effort to shut down those refugee camps immediately?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I'm not aware of that, but there certainly would be some assistance required from the government -- our government -- State Department, for example -- to assist that. That would -- certainly would be a big positive.

Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

Chairman McCain: Senator Lee.

Senator Lee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thanks, to both of you, for your willingness to serve in these difficult positions. I'm grateful to you for your families and the support they've provided you. And I'm also grateful that both of you have taken the time to meet with me in -- prior to this meeting.

General Lengyel, I'd like to start with you. As we previously discussed, earlier this year the National Commission on the Future of the Army made some recommendations to Congress and to the Pentagon. And among those recommendations was a suggestion that the Army retain four Army -- that the Army retain four Apache battalions in the National Guard for the purpose of retaining greater
wartime capacity and adding to the depth that we have. And then the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force recommended, in 2014, that the Air Force should, quote, "maintain operational capacity and capability and reduce stress on the Active component by maintaining or increasing the end strength of the Reserve components, particularly in traditional part-time reservists and guardsmen, while increasing regular, periodic, and predictable use of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard," close quote.

So, these reports and these suggestions seem to indicate that there is a greater role for the National Guard to play in peacetime missions and in wartime missions, especially as the Department of Defense is trying to cope with budget constraints. What's your assessment of how the National Guard has integrated and associated with Active services over the last 15 years? How have you seen that change? And how do you think the Guard can be used in the near future to help mitigate against the difficult budgetary conditions in which the Department of Defense is operating?

General Lengyel: Well, Senator, I think that -- I would start by saying, I'm a huge proponent for the operational use of the National Guard. On the Air Force side, I would tell you that we are embedded routinely, regularly deployed. The Air Force simply can't really do
anything, continuous operations around the world or fight its war plans, without integrating Air National Guard force structure across all of their MDSs in any mission set that they do.

On the Army, the last 15 years of fighting wars has -- American people have spent billions of dollars buying them good equipment, making them ready, making them training, giving the discipline of the force generation model, now the sustained readiness model that is -- got the Army National Guard a very capable force that I believe has excess capacity to provide more regular and routine deployments. As I have heard General Milley testify and discuss recently in past, his associating constructs of his Active components and Reserve components, in my view, is a very good thing that's going to increase the readiness of the force and the availability of the force. Right now, we have about 10,000 Army National Guard soldiers deployed around the world. For 10 years of war, we had, routinely, 60,000 forces deployed around the world.

So, in my view, there's excess capacity now to take formations and deploy them regularly, in concert with the Army, their requirements, the combatant commanders, that they could, one, build a more ready and robust force in the Army National Guard, and, two, perhaps take some pressure off the Army so it -- to help them build readiness, as the
Air Force has used in there. So, I'm optimistic that the operational use of the National Guard is a good thing.

Senator Lee: Thank you. I tend to agree with that assessment.

General Waldhauser, tragically, practically every day, it seems, we hear about various tragedies around the world attributed to the work of terrorists, whether the horrific news of what happened in Orlando, Florida, on June 12th, or the violence of Boko Haram that seems incessant in Nigeria and Cameroon and Niger. What do you believe are the actual threats to our national security interests emanating from Africa? And how will you work to differentiate between actual threats to our national security and unfortunate situations that all too often happen on that continent, but perhaps could be said, realistically, not to have a direct impact on our national security?

General Waldhauser: Senator, it's important for our national security interests that we have a secure, a safe, and a prosperous Africa. So, for example, although Boko Haram would be considered, in my view, a regional threat, just like AQIM in Mali, they have shown signs of going after Western interests in other countries in the western part of Africa. So, for example, on the Ivory Coast, this past summer, shooting up of about a dozen or so people who were on the beach, the hotel inside Mali. So, they do go and try
to make spectacular attacks, where Western interests are on
the continent, because their objective, certainly Boko Haram's objective, is to have their own state inside Nigeria.

So, the bottom line is, it's important for us to disrupt those activities, to make sure we contain those in the countries they're on so they don't spread throughout the continent, don't spread, for example, from Libya up into the Mediterranean and into the southern Europe, and ultimately don't spread to our homeland. We have a significant interest in making sure we keep it that way.

Senator Lee: Thank you, General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McCain: Senator King.

Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General Lengyel, let's -- I want to pick up on some of the comments that you've just made, and also in your introductory comment about an integrated force structure, more regular and routine deployments. I think you gave a figure when you were -- in your opening statement, of a-thousand-and-some deployments in recent years. Is that -- are we reaching a point where there's going to be a strain on the relationship between the Guard and private employers if -- if the Guard -- I mean, clearly, our strategy has changed over recent years -- if the Guard is really, as you
say, an integrated part of the force structure, do we create
a potential problem of diminishing support from the employer
community around the country as we see more and more and
more frequent deployments?

General Lengyel: Senator, keeping -- you know, our
business model in the National Guard doesn't work without
the employers and our members, where the preponderance of
their compensation comes from some other source besides the
government. That -- our -- it absolutely is crucial that
that works.

Employers have been remarkably supportive since we've
been at war more than 15 years. And the key to that, I've
found, I think, is, we have to keep the deployments
predictable. We have to make the deployments work in
accordance -- and I'll give you an example. For airline
pilots, for instance, and which I was one, we were able to
shorten deployments to such a length that they didn't lose
training qualifications when they came back and had to be
paid for to requalify. So, when it makes sense, we allow
the deployments to work, unless there's an operational need,
which obviously would take precedence, but --

Senator King: So, you're sensitive to this issue of
trying to --

General Lengyel: Very sensitive. We are very
sensitive to this issue, sir. And so, we're concerned.
And, for instance, in the Air Force, the tanker bases -- and you have one in your State --

Senator King: I was going to mention -- I was going to get to that.

General Lengyel: -- that has a -- an extremely -- I mean, that is one of the highest -- currently, highestly utilized MBSs in the Air Force. It is less than 1-to-4 deployment-to-dwell ratio. So, we have to be very careful when we use that. And we look for volunteers and cross-leveling unit-to-unit. And the Air Force has allowed us flexibility to maintain that so that it does work for the members and for the employers.

Senator King: Well, with regard to the 101st in Bangor, do you -- will you have a role in the recapitalization in the KC-46 allocations? What's your role in that --

General Lengyel: Well, sir, the process to do the basing is an Air Force process with which the National Guard obviously is a full and transparent participant in the process.

Senator King: General Waldhauser, you mentioned, early on, a key word: stability. And we had a meeting recently with a high-ranking official from one of the Middle Eastern countries who said the same thing, that the best bulwark against terrorism is stability. But, it seems to me, in
Africa, what you're really talking about is an all-of-government kind of approach, because you're really talking about trying to build stability as a national security concern, but that can't simply be the role of the military.

How do you see your role in coordinating with other areas of the government and other governments in trying to build that essential bulwark against terrorism?

General Waldhauser: Senator, it's important that AFRICOM works with State Department, USAID, and our international partners to create an environment where we can have a stable Africa. You know, in the -- some people say that, as the planet is getting smaller, AFRICOM is getting larger. There are some studies out there that show, by 2050, one in four people on the planet will be in Africa.

So, the scale and the scope of some of the issues that we see today certainly could be magnified significantly.

Senator King: And the seeds of a catastrophe are in place, in terms of corruption, lack of economic growth, all of those kinds of elements. And that's why, it seems to me, prevention is -- should be a big part of the mission.

General Waldhauser: You're right, Senator. And one of the things that we do, on the military side, for training is not only emphasize the tactical competence of the forces that we train with, but the respect for the rule of law, ethics on the battlefield, and the like, to try to have more
of a -- a larger effect than just the tactical training.

Senator King: I think our mil-to-mil training, which I've seen in other parts of the world, is one of the best things that we do, in terms of not only the training, itself, but the inculcation of those values that you just mentioned. And I hope that's going to be an important part of your mission.

General Waldhauser: It is a big, important part, Senator, not only for Special Operations Forces, but for general-purpose forces, as well, who can contribute in that mission.

Senator King: Couple of quick questions about Libya. Does the GNA have popular support? Big question.

General Waldhauser: Senator, in my view, it's too early to tell. I mean, that's the whole purpose, right now, of the GNA, to try to rally support, to try to get these coalitions to pledge allegiance to the government. But, at the moment, it's too early to tell.

Senator King: Does the military -- is the military have -- take orders from the GNA to -- does the GNA control the military and the police forces?

General Waldhauser: Senator, to my knowledge, I would not use the word "control." I think, at the moment, these militias, it seems to me, appear to be working in the direction that Saraj would like to go. But, I would, at
this point and with my -- and, if confirmed, I'll look into this -- but, I would not use the word "control" for the GNA over the militias.

Senator King: But, ultimately, that's going to have to happen if they're going to control the territory.

General Waldhauser: Ultimately, it will have to happen, because that -- you know, you won't have a secure and working government unless they have control of a military, and, in this case, numerous militias across that country.

Senator King: Thank you, General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McCain: Senator Tillis.

Senator Tillis: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Gentlemen, thank you both for being here. And congratulations to your family and for you all being recognized for your past service and leadership. I look forward to supporting your nominations.

I have a couple of questions. And, General Lengyel, I think I'll start with you. Back when I was in the State House in North Carolina, I spent a lot of time with our National Guard and went to a lot of locations where their facilities were in serious need of upfit. We started a process about 3 years ago, 2 years ago, that ultimately culminated in a $75 million bond that was passed by the
voters of North Carolina to start correcting things. But, is that a pervasive problem among the States? And what, in your new role, can you do to encourage the States to step in to make sure that these men and women who are -- serve in the Reserve and Guards are -- have the best facilities they can possibly have so they're ready to go?

General Lengyel: Yes, sir, it is a problem. It's pervasive. As we've hit these tough fiscal times, we have taken risk in -- one of the things we've done that is in infrastructure. And many of the States have armories and readiness centers that are old -- 50 years old, and they need to be relooked at. So, if confirmed, I'll work with States and with the National Guard to make sure, one, that we have them properly located and we can, you know, respond in the homeland as we need to. It's important that we are dispersed -- that's part of what we do here in the homeland for the adjutants general -- and use the funds we have wisely to fix them up.

Senator Tillis: Well, when you're confirmed, I look forward to working with you to at least do my part to work with the State leaders. And I think that the vote on behalf of the North Carolinian Senators is a -- or, I should say, voters -- is a real testament to how important we think the Guard is in North Carolina and to completing our overall mission for the country.
General Waldhauser, do you think, over the next 2 or 3 years, your part of the world is going to be safer or filled with more threats?

General Waldhauser: Well, Senator, it's my job to try to make it more safer, but the threats there are significant. We've outlined them this morning. And it's our effort, it's our job, to disrupt those terrorist networks. It's our job to make sure that we provide training so the countries -- for example, Boko Haram, that we've talked about -- that those countries have the capability and capacity to go after those security threats. That's the ultimate goal. But, the bottom --

Senator Tillis: But, even with your good work with your neighbor, CENTCOM, with us not really doing a good job of reducing the threats and activity there, and then the movement of ISIS into places like the Sinai, which I know is in CENTCOM, but it's in your backyard, isn't it logical to assume that you're probably going to deal with more threats if we don't get to a winning strategy, where the highest number of threats are today?

General Waldhauser: Senator, simply put, yes.

Senator Tillis: Okay. So, then if we were -- I was recently on a CODEL -- we talked about this briefly in the office, but I thought it's worth bringing up here -- I was recently in a CODEL, stopped through in Spain, spoke with
some folks down there that are basically the alternative to
a MEU in your neck of the woods, to help you with any sort
of crisis situation. And I'm hearing now that they're going
to cut some of their capacity to about half of what it is
today. They're actually talking about bringing them back to
North Carolina. So, if I was just advocating for something
good for North Carolina, maybe I should be saying that's a
good thing. But, I think they need to be out there to
provide you with the capabilities you need in a time of
crisis. Do you think, with the threat curve moving in this
direction, that it makes sense for our capability curve to
move in that direction?

General Waldhauser: Senator, the answer is no.
However, I believe Chairman Dunford addressed that issue
before this committee, and there is some risk involved, but
the reduction in those aircraft from 12 to 6 is something
that has been looked at, and something that we think we can
live with the risk, based on the mission set that that
particular force has.

Senator Tillis: That's what I love about you guys,
because you're always going to try and complete the mission,
even when we make it more difficult for you.

The last question, for both of you, is -- and I think,
General Lengyel, you were the one who was talking about
needing certainty in funding streams -- Does sequestration
represent any element of certainty whatsoever, or is it probably the single greatest threat to you being able to provide certainty?

General Lengyel: Sir, sequestration would devastate the ability to generate forces and maintain readiness across the force.

Senator Tillis: Thank you.

General Waldhauser?

General Waldhauser: Sir, I'd second the same, nothing additional to add.

Senator Tillis: Thank you.

Look forward to supporting your nominations.

Chairman McCain: Senator Donnelly.

Senator Donnelly: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank your families for all you have done for the country, as well, and to both of you.

I know Senator Ernst talked about this a little bit, but, General Lengyel, what kind of work did you to improve mental health support and to reduce suicides during your time as Vice Chief of the National Guard?

General Lengyel: Senator, I think, you know, we have raised this level of issue at every event that we have with senior leaders. It's a tragedy that we need to continue to work. I want to thank this committee and you for the Jacob Sexton Act to give our ability to get the psychological
health evaluations, to provide more psychological health
providers in the States, to get the help to the people that
we need. There's a lot of programs. And the problem is
making people aware and giving them access to all of the
programs that exist. So, that has been a -- an ongoing
effort. And, if confirmed, I'll continue it.

Senator Donnelly: So, is the ability to make them
aware of the programs they have, is that one of the top
priorities that you have? And how would you go about that?

General Lengyel: Well, we do it by making sure that
the adjutant generals are aware, by getting the advocacy and
-- from the actual providers to actually go to the units.
During when we have gatherings for the National Guard
Association or large events, we have them come and provide
awareness. So, it's a continual effort, Senator, to make
sure that people are aware and they have access. And we
have some unique issues with the National Guard. We don't
see people every day. We're dispersed all over the place.
Some people are under-insured, some people have, you know,
difficulty, you know, getting to places where TRICARE is
accepted. TRICARE Reserve Select is a great benefit, but
it's not accepted readily every place around the country.
So, all of those issues we continue to work, day in, day
out, to get people the care they need. And, overall, to
stress that getting people to declare, and let them know
that reaching out is a sign of strength. And that's a continued theme throughout the National Guard.

Senator Donnelly: As you look at this, are there other things on this end we can do? You know, as you look at this, you go, "Hey, I need help with this," or "I need help with that" to try to move the ball forward more in the area of mental health. Is there anything in particular that you can think of right now, or will you share that with us when you're in the office, that, after you take it, you don't hesitate to come back to us on?

General Lengyel: Senator, if confirmed and if I become aware of something that I think this committee can do to help, I'll raise it to you immediately.

Senator Donnelly: Thank you.

I also want to ask you, How do you ensure that the opinions of the adjutant generals are heard and considered within the Joint Chiefs?

General Lengyel: Well, Senator, I think that's probably the most important thing I do as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, is draw from them their needs, their requirements, their issues from the 54 States, realizing that they are interested and charged with the readiness of their National Guard inside their State. And then, as we do that and we build -- participate inside the processes inside the Pentagon, I synthesize that into what I think is my best
military advice to the Secretary of Defense on what to do
with that. So, I think it's important that I talk to them
all the time, assess their requirements, and convey them to
the Department. I convey directly what they believe.

Senator Donnelly: Thank you.

General Waldhauser, given the incredibly difficult
situation in Libya and the spread of violent extremism
throughout East and West Africa, what do you think is the
biggest shortcoming we have in AFRICOM right now in dealing
with this? And what are the kind of things you're lining up
to try to make sure we have more success?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I think one of the
shortcomings we have at the moment is adequate ISR inside
AFRICOM to help do things such as develop targets. As you
know, a lot of the ISR is devoted to CENTCOM, and rightfully
so. But, if we wanted to strike at various times, and we
want to provide intelligence to the partner nations and let
them do their job, then ISR would be something that would be
a valuable addition.

Additionally, because of the size of the continent, the
ability to have rescue of personnel and be able to pick up
personnel is a difficult task. We talked earlier about the
Special Purpose MAGTF in Spain, which has responsibilities
on the western side of Africa. We also have a response
force out of Djibouti, in eastern Africa, which does that
there. It's better than it was, and we certainly have a
capability, but, make no mistake, there are some risks there
with regards to time and space.

Senator Donnelly: What are the connections between
ISIL and existing terror groups around the African region,
such as Boko Haram, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and al-
Shabaab?

General Waldhauser: Senator Boko Haram is interesting,
in that about a year ago ISIL -- or Boko Haram pledged its
support to ISIL, but, over that time, it's -- you have
different opinions as to what -- how much influence ISIL has
had on Boko Haram. They certainly have not given them a lot
of financial assistance. So, the point being is that
perhaps an improvement in tradecraft, in training, and the
like.

Recently, this spring, several months ago, about half
of Boko Haram broke off to a separate group because they
were not happy with the amount of buy-in, if you will, from
Boko Haram into the ISIL brand. And so, right now you have
ISIL, who is trying to have Boko Haram reconcile those two
groups. But, the point being is that Shekau, who is the
original leader of Boko Haram, has not fallen -- has not
really fallen into line with what ISIL would like him to do.
So, for example, he uses children as suicide bombers, he
attacks other Muslims. And he's been told by ISIL to stop
doing that, but he has not done so. And that's one of the reasons why this splinter group has broken off.

So, these relationships are very, very complex. Why ISIL wanted to, you know, sponsor, if you will, Boko Haram, there's interests on both sides of that. But, at -- the bottom line for Boko Haram is, it's still questionable as to how much influence exactly they've had both back and forth with ISIL.

Senator Donnelly: Thank you. Thank you both.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Chairman McCain: Senator Sullivan.
Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
And thank you, gentlemen, for your years of service, decades of service. And, congratulations to you and your family on the nomination.

General Lengyel, I want to talk about the National Guard's role in the Arctic. You may have seen a report, over the weekend, that the Russians launched, with much fanfare, one of their newest massive icebreakers, nuclear-powered. They have 40. They're building 13 more. Even the Secretary of Defense said this is a very strategic region of the Nation for the United States, because of transportation, commerce, natural resources, but we're late to the game. What role do you see the National Guard playing to help defend U.S. interests in this part of the world where we're
way behind some of the potential adversaries that we see in the region?

General Lengyel: Well, Senator, I think the National Guard, the Army and the Air, will play what -- the same role inside their services, inside the Air Force and inside the Army, that we do in all the rest of the U.S. Northern Command AOR. I think that --

Senator Sullivan: Do you see that as a strategically important region for the --

General Lengyel: I do. I do. And there's lots of National Guard folks doing very important missions up there. We've got, obviously, the rescue operation for the Alaska Air National Guard, which can be critical in the Arctic when they start using that transportation corridor more often. Ballistic missile defense and ballistic early warning radar systems at Greeley and Clear, Alaska, hugely important National Guard missions that -- directly related to national security.

Senator Sullivan: Let me turn to the issue that General Goldfein was talking about during his confirmation hearing last week, and that's the F-35 maintainer shortage. Senator Heinrich and I actually had a -- an amendment in the NDAA that helped the -- had the Air Force looking at how to address that shortage. What role do you see the Guard or the Reserves playing with regard to try and have Active or
Reserve or Guard personnel addressing that, as opposed to contractors?

General Lengyel: Sir, I just -- the Air National Guard is so integrated with the United States Air Force, we're in every issue. I mean, in every platform, we're being recapitalized. We have all the same issues to train our maintainers to fly our airplanes. You know, the -- we've actually moved the upgrade of the -- for Burlington, Vermont, unit up a little bit to assist the Air Force with maintainer issues that they're trying to grow. So, I think that we're fully integrated with the Air Force. And if we can help them do maintainers, we -- maintenance is a skillset in the National Guard that is strong. We have experienced maintainers maintain platforms for a long time. And if we can help the Air Force with the F-35 or any other platform, we'll do it.

Senator Sullivan: Let me just turn to the issue -- you know, in Alaska, the Guard is obviously very integrated into all our Active and Reserve military operations. We are becoming, rapidly, the hub air combat power for the Asia-Pacific, with 100 fifth-generation fighters that are going to be located in Alaska. Over 100. C-17s, C-130s, KC-135s, three red-flag exercises, 24/7 alert missions, intercepting Russian bombers, you know, on a weekly basis now. And a lot of this, as you know, General, is integrated Guard, Reserve,
and Active forces.

Senator King mentioned the KC-46. We think there's a lot of strategic value of giving a hard look at Alaska with regard to that base, and given that we are the hub air combat power in so many ways. Can I get your commitment, if confirmed, to come to Alaska and take a hard look at these issues and how they might relate to the basing decision of the KC-46?

General Lengyel: Absolutely, Senator.

Senator Sullivan: And then, finally, I wanted to just mention --

Chairman McCain: That be in the summer, hopefully?

[Laughter.]

Senator Sullivan: You can go to Arizona in the summer.

In the NDAA, we had an amendment that talked about giving the Guard leadership the discretion to lift, on a case-by-case basis, the reimbursement cap for travel of Guard members in rural areas to be able to travel to their destination for training. And, as you know, right now the cap is $300, and, for a lot of different Reserve and Guard members in different States, that can be a -- just a fraction of the costs they actually have to incur just to go train. And I just was wondering if you'd seen that amendment, and how you think that could help with regard to recruitment and training in different rural parts of the
country, particularly as it relates to getting some of these young men and women who are in rural areas, who are great, great members of the military, but often can't afford to go do the Reserve duty because the costs are so prohibitive. Do you see that as a positive development, where you'll have that -- your leadership will have that discretion on a case-by-case basis to lift that, in terms of recruitment and retention?

General Lengyel: Yes, Senator, I do. I see the Alaska environment as distinctly unique. I mean, it is absolutely --

Senator Sullivan: It's not just Alaska, though. This is the --

General Lengyel: Right. Right.

Senator Sullivan: -- this is California --

General Lengyel: I know. But, you have places where they don't have roads, and you have people who want to serve, and so, yes, I do see it as a very positive development, which I would support.

Senator Sullivan: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McCain: Senator Hirono.

Senator Hirono: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you both, you and your families, for your service.
General Lengyel, I wanted to express my continued support for Eagle Vision. And I have been working with Senator Graham to ensure that the Air Force continues to keep the system updated and operating. As you know, we have a unit with the Hawaii Air National Guard. And, should you be confirmed, I hope that you will work with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Air Force leadership to also continue to support the system which provides invaluable support in domestic disaster relief operations as well as for international efforts with our friends and allies. And I would like to see more stability with this program so that, year after year, we're not worrying about moving this out of Hawaii as one of the places where Eagle Vision operates.

I wanted to turn to cyber. Some other of my colleagues have asked questions relating to this area. So, General Lengyel, the cyber capabilities of our country are more important than ever. And I know the National Guard Bureau is working to stand up new cyber units or teams in the future. With the rebalance to the Indo-Asia-Pacific, with the State's critical infrastructure on Oahu supporting PACOM, Pacific PACAF, as well as the National Guard and NSA, which has a really big presence on Oahu, I hope that, as you consider new locations for cyber protection teams, that Hawaii be given full consideration with the assets that need
to be protected against growing cyberthreats.

So, with this big focus on cyber and the deep private-sector skills current and future Air National Guard airmen can bring to this field, what is the Air National Guard Air Force team doing, in terms of recruiting new personnel as well as to get our more technically capable Air National Guard airmen into cyber missions? And how are you integrating cyber throughout the total force and increasing Air Force and Air National Guard cyber capabilities?

General Lengyel: Yes, Senator. With respect to the Air National Guard, as I mentioned, we're -- we have 15 units, and we are in the process -- we have about half of those built, actually manned and trained and operating, and the remainder to be finished and operational by the end of fiscal year '18. That's currently the plan.

So, how do we get these people? Well, we get them from various different places. We actually have become, like the Reserve component is for all missions, a receptacle to capture the people who are actually leaving the Active component who can -- still want to serve. Who when -- we can't compete with military salaries with what these people can make on the outside, but many still want to serve, and they can do that in the Guard and Reserve. So, we're getting some there. We're also looking to try and find equivalency so that we can bring people in who have civilian
skillsets that are already trained in the IT enterprise, to use them to come in and bring them quicker and save training slots to get the school.

So, as I say, we're working hard to continue to build this enterprise. I understand Hawaii has got a lot of cyber mission and capacity out there. And so, as we look to build more, perhaps after '18, if -- once the current cyber mission force is built, we'll look to do that.

Senator Hirono: Well, I iterate the programs and entities that we have in Hawaii because, as you continue to set up more of these cyber teams that -- with all of the assets we have there, not to mention Pacific Command there, and NSA, I'd really like to ensure that Hawaii be given every consideration for a team.

For both of you, I'm glad that a number of my colleagues have talked about the importance of the State Partnership Program. And I just want to iterate my support for that program.

For General Waldhauser, I want to turn to China and Russia in Africa. In his testimony in March, General Rodriguez mentioned that both China and Russia were seeking to expand their influence in Africa. In your advance policy questions, you addressed China's increasing influence and economic interests in Africa, as well. In your opinion, what is China's goal? And how will the influence of China
in the region impact our peacekeeping efforts? And how concerned should we be with China's activities in Africa?

General Waldhauser: Senator, China's concerns in Africa are markets and minerals. I think, in the long term, from an economic perspective, as the African continent continues to grow, as we've described several times this morning, markets are very important to China. Some will call the class that will eventually take hold inside Africa as a consumer class. So, China is interested in those markets.

With regards to peacekeeping, China does have peacekeepers inside the continent. South Sudan, for example. Moreover, China is building a facility in Djibouti. So, they're not in competition for us militarily, but economically is where they're trying to go.

The Russians sell a lot of arms. The Chinese sell a lot of arms inside of Africa, because no strings attached and the prices are usually very small. So, it's Russia is -- probably supplies the most weapons. China is the second. And sometimes that may or may -- and certainly with the Chinese, they don't come with any strings. There's no, you know, human rights issues or training and whatnot. So, that makes some of these countries -- it makes China an attractive seller of weapons to them.

Senator Hirono: Thank you.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McCain: Senator Graham.

Senator Graham: Thank you both. I think you're great choices by the President. And congratulations.

General Lengyel, there are 100- -- let's see --

105,000, I think, members of the Air Guard, and 335,000 members in the Army Guard. Is that enough?

General Lengyel: Sir, at the end of this year, we'll have 342,000 in the Air -- in the Army National Guard and about 105-5 in the Air National Guard. Doing only enough to do -- what is the question? And I mean the --

Senator Graham: To deal with the threats we face as a Nation.

General Lengyel: So, as you aggregate the threats, it -- you know, it becomes difficult to fight Korea and fight Russia and fight counterterrorism. The risk is high. And --

Senator Graham: So, it's a high-risk number?

General Lengyel: It is.

Senator Graham: Okay. Let's say in 2021 sequestration hits. What will the numbers be? They go down or they go up?

General Lengyel: They go down.

Senator Graham: So, is that even a higher risk?

General Lengyel: Yes, sir.
Senator Graham: Okay. Is the 105-day voluntary mobilization limitation statute -- does that impede your ability to recruit, retain, and defend the Nation?

General Lengyel: So, 1095 rule, Senator, is the rule there. If you have somebody who volunteers to be mobilized, they can do that for 1,095 days. And then you need a waiver.

Senator Graham: 105 day -- 1,095 --

General Lengyel: 1,000--

Senator Graham: Gotcha.

General Lengyel: It's 3 years, essentially.

Senator Graham: Yeah.

General Lengyel: And so, yeah --

Senator Graham: Do you need --

General Lengyel: -- it is a problem --

Senator Graham: -- a waiver?

General Lengyel: -- because we -- we've got places where, in some of our higher-demand missions, like RPAs or the intelligence missions or those kinds of things --

Senator Graham: Right.

General Lengyel: -- these are citizen soldiers who have volunteered to do these missions, as opposed to be mandatorily mobilized -- involuntarily mobilized.

Senator Graham: So, you would suggest -- could you send over a recommendation how to change that?
General Lengyel: I would.

Senator Graham: Okay, thank you.

General Waldhauser, Libya. Do we fly in Libya?

General Waldhauser: We have -- the answer is yes, if there is a target that is of imminent threat to the United States.

Senator Graham: Okay. Is ISIL an imminent threat to the United States?

General Waldhauser: Yes.

Senator Graham: Is ISIL in Libya?

General Waldhauser: Yes.

Senator Graham: How many sorties have we flown in Libya?

General Waldhauser: To my knowledge, none at this time.

Senator Graham: That makes no sense, then, does it?

General Waldhauser: It does not. What I can say, Senator, at this time, is there are being -- targets that are being developed, but there have no been flights flown.

Senator Graham: How many people do we have on the ground in Libya?

General Waldhauser: I do -- I don't have that answer. It's not a large number.

Senator Graham: Do we need people on the ground in Libya?
General Waldhauser: Yes, we do.

Senator Graham: Okay. Do you see any change in policy anytime in the near future?

General Waldhauser: I'm not aware of any of those discussions, Senator.

Senator Graham: Does the buildup of ISIL and other related al Qaeda-type groups present a threat to our European allies?

General Waldhauser: Eventually, they could, yes.

Senator Graham: Thank you. When it comes to Africa, what are the rules of engagement, in terms of targeting ISIL in Africa?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I believe the rules of engagement have to do with the presidential policy guidance. That's what -- that's what -- when these targets pop up, the three that I've mentioned that were hit in Libya this year, they fall under that criteria.

Senator Graham: Okay. But, you don't have the authority to -- without presidential direction, to go and find ISIL members in Africa and kill them?

General Waldhauser: Well, sir, the answer is -- do we have a -- if the question is, Do we have authority to take out targets? The AFRICOM Commander has some authority for various targets in Somalia, for example, with al-Shabaab, but I'm not familiar with the details. And, if confirmed --
Senator Graham: Do you have authority, as AFRICOM Commander, to go after ISIL targets in Africa on your own?
General Waldhauser: I do not.
Senator Graham: Do you think that would be wise to have that authority?
General Waldhauser: It would be wise. It would certainly contribute to what we're trying to do inside Libya.
Senator Graham: Is the war moving to Africa over time, do you think?
General Waldhauser: It could. It's possible. I mean, that's why ISIL is taking hold inside Sirte, to be kind of a backup if Iraq and Syria fail.
Senator Graham: So, the ungoverned spaces in Africa are likely places for ISIL to flee to if we dislodge them from the traditional MidEast?
General Waldhauser: They're very likely. That's why instability inside Africa is to ISIL's advantage.
Senator Graham: When you come to, say, ISR shortages, how severe is that for your command?
General Waldhauser: Senator, if confirmed, I'd have to look into that to be specific. I think, in the main, it's -- goes without saying. I think it's common knowledge that AFRICOM's economy of theater, I think it's common knowledge that Africa could use more ISR. But, beyond that, I don't
have the specifics.

Senator Graham: Is it a fair statement, when it comes
to radical Islamic threats emanating from Africa, we've got
a long way to go in upping our game?

General Waldhauser: We do. I mean, we have to keep --
that's an away game. I know that you've mentioned before,
we are fighting an away game in Africa to contain it on that
continent.

Senator Graham: I can't thank you -- I'm just --
that's about as direct testimony as ever heard from this
committee. So, I look forward to supporting you both.

Thank you.

Chairman McCain: Senator Heinrich.

Senator Heinrich: Thank you, Chairman.

Lieutenant General Lengyel, in 2013 an estimated 26
pure metric tons of heroin were produced in Mexico. Most of
that came into the United States directly across the
southwestern border. I think the Chair can probably attest
to that, as well. And tragically, in that same year, over
8,000 people died in the U.S. due to heroin overdose.

Unfortunately, my home State of New Mexico had the second-
highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country that
year.

New Mexico shares a 179-mile border with Mexico, and
yet it is only provided enough funding for five National
Guard personnel in the budget request to fight this
epidemic, due to a -- what I would call a failed resourcing
model.

Do you think that the National Guard is prioritizing
its counterdrug resources effectively? And, if confirmed,
will you take a hard look at the resource allocations
nationwide, particularly those along the southwest border,
and consider adjustments to that model so that we can stop
these drugs before they actually enter the country?

General Lengyel: Senator, I can tell you that the
counterdrug funding is dispersed through the threat-based
resource model. I would tell you it's -- I'm 100 percent
sure it's probably not 100 percent right. But, I think it's
an -- it is a process agreed upon by all of the 54 States,
territories, and the District of Columbia, all of which, I
think, also have a requirement for counterdrug funding. I
can tell you that, if confirmed, I will look at this system
and look at this process, and make my own personal
determination as to whether or not it's the absolute best
system that we have.

Senator Heinrich: I would just urge you to do that. I
think if you look at the hard numbers for all of the States,
the reality is, if you can stop that influx before it gets
to the States, it's much easier to track it down once it's
in the interior of the United States. And I have real
heartburn over the fact that, while we're dedicating
enormous resources to the border in New Mexico, we are not
even in the top half, and yet we have 179 miles of border.
That is a very difficult thing to justify, I think.

I want to switch gears to the CV-22. There -- the
unique ability of the CV-22 to blend the vertical flight
capabilities of a helicopter with speed and range and
altitude and the endurance of a fixed-wing turboprop plane
have made it an incredibly valuable asset to Air Force
Special Operations Command. And, while AFSOC continues to
utilize this capability, I think that the National Guard can
equally benefit from this multimission aircraft. What value
could the CV-22 bring to the Guard and its role, in
particular, in things like natural disaster relief and
emergency response?

General Lengyel: Senator, I think the CV-22 is a great
platform, for a multitude of reasons, and it has huge
application in, not just the warfight, but for the National
Guard here in the homeland. It can go places far, quickly,
carry people. And I think there's a lot of good things
about considering putting that platform in the National
Guard.

Senator Heinrich: So, you would support the Air
Force's consideration of procuring additional CV-22s for
attrition reserve to supplement AFSOC's current fleet?
General Lengyel: I absolutely would.

Senator Heinrich: Great.

Lieutenant General Waldhauser, I want to shift gears to you for just a minute. You mentioned ISR. A couple of folks brought that up. If you could, knowing what you know now, and obviously not knowing all the details, but if you had more ISR resources, do you have thoughts for what would give you the most bang for the buck for the AFRICOM region?

General Waldhauser: I think what would give most bang for the buck would certainly be ISIL in Libya, and then also Boko Haram, to assist those countries from the Lake Chad Basin region and that multinational joint task force to taking on Boko Haram at this time.

Senator Heinrich: Do you -- you mentioned the splintering that seems to be going on in West Africa right now with those groups. Are there opportunities to use that splintering within Boko Haram or ISIL of West Africa, whatever you want to call it? Does that present any opportunities, in terms of pushing back the terrorist threat in West Africa?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I think there are opportunities, but there's also limitations. It appears that Shekau, who's the leader of the core Boko Haram group --

Senator Heinrich: Right.
General Waldhauser: -- he's not shown any significant interest to attack Western targets, certainly outside that region. So, that, in a sense, is good. Not that we should keep him there, but that's --

Senator Heinrich: Sure.

General Waldhauser: -- been his tendency. What concerns me is the breakoff group of Boko Haram who wants to be more ISIL-like, and, consequently, buy into the ISIL brand of attacking Western interests. That would concern me.

Senator Heinrich: My time's expired. Thank you very much.

Chairman McCain: Senator Kaine.

Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And thanks, to the witnesses. Congratulations on your nominations and your great service.

General Waldhauser, I want to ask you a couple of aspects about AFRICOM. First, Senator King talked to you about the value of our military training. And I have felt, just as he has, that the training we do of foreign militaries, whether it's in their country or bringing foreign military leaders here, is one of the best bangs for the buck we get, in terms of building up strong relationships. And I've been very interested in the extent of the mil-to-mil training that we do in AFRICOM. Could you
just describe a little bit to the committee some of the training that is currently taking place with the Special Purpose MAGTVs and others, and your thought about the value of that mil-to-mil training on the continent?

General Waldhauser: Senator, I think it's important, when we talk about mil-to-mil training, to think about it in terms of three levels. The tactical training probably is the easiest, so to speak -- how to shoot a weapon, how to conduct a patrol, how to issue an order. We can do that, and we can do that well. Moreover, our partners can do that, and do that well. Where we, as the United States, and where we, as the U.S. military, can make significant differences is at -- what I would call at the executive or operational level. So, for example, take a service-level headquarters, those who would train, organize, and equip, and budget for forces are all part of this military training. Then, thirdly, I would say that, at the highly executive level, call it the OSD Secretary of Defense level, we need to make sure that government understands what their role is, and how that military supports the government.

So, it's really three levels. It's the tactical level, which is the one that we all tend to think about, and the one that we do very well, but we also have to consider those other two levels, because that's all part of building an army in these countries.
Senator Kaine: I'm on the Foreign Relations Committee, and we often are interacting with our key diplomats who are posted abroad, including in Africa. And they will often tell us that the demand by our African partners to have the U.S. engaged in training is huge. And that speaks well, not only of the kind of training we do, but of the desire of these countries to really have the U.S. as a partner. Has that been your experience?

General Waldhauser: Senator, that's a great point, because there are many areas on the continent where the United States is welcome, they want us to come and train. And so, we have to leverage that. And yes, we provide, I'm sure, the best military training, at -- certainly at the tactical level, in the world. But, at the same time, it's a large continent, and we've got other priorities. And so, we need to help our partner nations be part of this overall effort. It's a -- that's a big part of what we need to do, from the diplomatic perspective, is to get other nations to contribute. We can certainly lead and coordinate, but we need help from others, because the size and the scope and the scale on Africa is something that's sometimes difficult to imagine.

Senator Kaine: You also were in an interchange with Senator King about the countering violent extremism challenge before us, which is not purely a military
challenge. And you talked about the need to have strong partnership with organizations like USAID. I know this is a nomination hearing, you are not currently in the position, but I'd like you to talk a little bit more about your views of the value of USAID in anti-radicalization and countering violent extremism activities in Africa.

General Waldhauser: Senator, USAID is a combat multiplier, certainly on the continent of Africa. We've got to be able to establish programs, educational programs that give these -- the youth of the continent, which is, again, a youth bulge in the demographics of that continent -- we've got to give them a way ahead, a path, something to look forward to. And that's something that we need to work closely with USAID, because that's a combat multiplier to what AFRICOM can bring to that continent.

And again, it's our -- it's not only what we're doing today, but it's the future inside Africa. When you look at these population demographics, 25 years from now, 15-25 years from now, they are going to be multiplied significantly.

And so, we are welcomed on the continent. These programs are well received. And we've got to foster and advocate for them, because they will play, in my view, a huge part at getting at the conditions that will deal with the radicalization of these young men.
Senator Kaine: General Waldhauser, I attempted, in the markup of the NDAA, to offer an amendment that would have allowed DOD, upon approval by the SECDEF, to do some flexible transfer of funds to USAID to accomplish CVE goals that the DOD viewed as more likely to be achieved by USAID than an internal DOD program. I was not able to get that pilot program added to the NDAA, but, it has gained the support of a number of folks -- General Allen, Admiral Stavridis. I think the HASC Chairman on the other side, Representative Thornberry, saw its merit. And I'm going to continue to advocate for it.

I think that one of the great aspects of AFRICOM, really since its formation, was the desire that it operate in kind of a whole-of-government approach, not a stovepiped approach. The CVE mission, we would all agree, is absolutely critical. We see evidence of it -- the need for it every day. And we ought to be using the funds that we devote to it in a -- in the manner that is most likely to be effective. And I'm going to keep advocating for that.

And again, appreciate both of you being here, and wish you the best.

General Waldhauser: Thank you.

Chairman McCain: Well, there are many of us who think that funding should come out of the proper function, according to the appropriations process, rather than again
dipping into what is clearly argued for defense. USAID is clearly a State Department program, not a Pentagon program. One of the biggest problems we have is the Willie Sutton syndrome that if you need money, just go into the defense account, because it's the largest.

General Lengyel, we've had very great success, in coordination on the border with the National Guard, carefully observing posse comitatus. But, there are many functions that the Guard, from all over America, has had on the Arizona border for training, for observation, for many ways of assistance. And, frankly, I don't see that -- in fact, I -- in some ways, I see it kind of dying out. What's your view on that?

General Lengyel: Well, Senator, we have done, in the past, a more robust training effort and more robust direct activity in support of --

Chairman McCain: Do you think, given the flood of manufactured heroin that's coming across our southern border, that we should make use of the talents that exist, the National Guard? And isn't it excellent training experience for them --

General Lengyel: Yes, sir. In --

Chairman McCain: -- especially when the --

General Lengyel: -- many cases --

Chairman McCain: -- temperature is 120 on the border?
General Lengyel: Yes, sir. In many cases, it is excellent training. And I would offer that, if confirmed, I could talk to the NORTHCOM Commander and Department of Homeland Security and see how we could best integrate our training activities into their plans to secure the border. I think there is more we could do, and I would be absolutely willing to do that.

Chairman McCain: Would you get -- for the purposes of the record, submit to the committee a list of the areas that you think where the Guard could be utilized, again, with careful observation of the posse comitatus, that we don't put armed National Guard on the border -- whether we should or not is a subject of different discussion -- but, for those measures that could be taken -- for example, regular rotation out on the border amongst various State National Guard so we can supplement -- we are short of Border Patrol, we are short of Customs agents. So, I'd appreciate it if you would submit, for the record, areas that the committee could emphasize in our legislative efforts.

General Lengyel: Yes, Senator.

[The information referred to follows:]

[COMMITTEE INSERT]
Chairman McCain: Finally, General, I want to say that it's pretty obvious that the apple didn't fall very hard -- far from the tree. Your father and my other comrades that had the honor of serving have a very close and warm and loving relationship, as you know. So, I hope you'll give your -- my best to your father and thank him for his service. And I know that this is a very proud moment for him, to have you assuming this position of great responsibility. So, please give him my best regards.

General Lengyel: Yes, sir, I will. And he passes you his.

Chairman McCain: Thank you.

We will try to move -- there may be some questions for the record -- for example, what I just said, and -- but, we will try to move the nominations as quickly as possible so that we don't go into the July recess without acting on your nominations.

And, General Waldhauser, I want to thank you for your candor before the committee. We look forward to working with you. I think that Senator Graham's questions clearly indicated that, at least as far as ISIS is concerned, the -- Africa is their next target of opportunity. And I think you're going to need a lot of help. And so, we'll look forward to working closely with you as you assume these added responsibilities.
This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]