

SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF
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COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND
AND
NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND
BEFORE THE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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Chairman Levin, Senator Inhofe, distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to report on the posture of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). As the combatant commander charged with defense of our homeland, it is a distinct privilege to represent the more than 2,000 men and women of the Commands who stand the watch around the clock on behalf of our nation. Strengthened by robust partnerships with hemispheric neighbors and interagency communities, my commands execute three primary missions: homeland defense, defense support of civil authorities (DSCA), and security cooperation.

USNORTHCOM was established October 1, 2002 to provide command and control of Department of Defense (DOD) homeland defense efforts and to command the federal military response to requests for DSCA. The imperative to protect and secure the homeland against all hazards is even more important today. Over the last year, Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy, record wildfires, severe drought, and violent tornado activity tested the nation. The continued opening of the Arctic precipitated significant growth in human activity, potentially posing new domestic, foreign consequence management, and homeland defense challenges and opportunities. In addition to these natural events, internal and external man-made threats continue to proliferate. Cognizant of these challenges, we remain positioned to support our mission partners in their response efforts to restore normalcy following any disaster, while continually honing our capabilities to outpace and adapt to shared security threats to the United States and Canada in accordance with the NORAD agreement. Leveraging the vitally important Combatant Commander Exercise and Engagement Program, we prepare for our missions through training, education, and exercises, and take every opportunity to learn from these events. With each real-

world crisis, we apply a candid, rigorous lessons learned process to replicate successes, correct deficiencies, and ultimately strengthen our partnerships.

Defending the nation requires a reliance on partners in three distinct geographic locations: globally, in the approaches to the homeland, and within the homeland. On the outer layer of this defense in depth, my global partners include the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of State, and associated functional and geographic combatant commands, to name a few. In the approaches to the homeland are our partners in Mexico, The Bahamas, and Canada. Within our homeland, my federal partners include the Military Departments and Services, National Guard Bureau (NGB), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (specifically, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), United States Coast Guard (USCG), Transportation Security Administration, and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)), Department of Justice (DOJ), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Finally and perhaps most critically, are my subordinate headquarters strategically placed at key intersections between the approaches and the homeland: Joint Task Force North (JTF-North) on the Southwest border, Joint Task Force National Capital Region, Joint Task Force Civil Support on the eastern seaboard, and Joint Task Force Alaska (JTF-Alaska) in America's high north.

Partnerships are equally important in my DSCA responsibilities. I live daily with the knowledge that any moment can bring news of natural and man-made disasters. To meet the deservedly high expectations of our citizens, we work in support of primary agencies responding to natural disasters as part of a team of federal, state, and local entities. Disaster response is largely a function of preparedness. As such, our training and exercise program, collaboration, and communications with our partners form the foundation of our ability to execute in times of

crisis. The trusted partnerships we have built with some 50 federal agencies are evident in the presence of more than 60 liaison officers in our headquarters with whom we work side-by-side.

These well-established partnerships achieve two principal effects. In pre-crisis, they enable safety and security activities that mitigate the effects of natural disasters and deter threat activities. Upon transition to crisis, unity of effort and the power of interagency teamwork are a function of our robust, realistic, and comprehensive training and exercise programs.

Today, our partners are pressured by budget constraints that can erode the defense and security of the homeland unless we judiciously build, balance, and protect homeland defense capabilities. We remain mindful of our nation's budgetary challenges and understand that fiscal responsibility is itself a matter of national security. The nation realizes meaningful security dividends through interagency partnering and cooperative engagement with our Canadian, Mexican, and Bahamian neighbors. As we confront shared challenges such as transnational criminal organizations, terror and weapons proliferation, and other threat networks, prudent investments made possible by the Congress equate to a significant down payment on our national security objectives. With a relatively modest geographic combatant command budget, USNORTHCOM and NORAD carry out our country's foremost and uniquely solemn duties to protect our citizens and support them in their times of greatest need. We are working smarter in an era of significant budget constraints, knowing threats to the homeland will likely not diminish. Keeping faith with our fellow Americans is our greatest moral imperative, understanding that the physical and moral consequences of a successful attack in the homeland far outweigh those of a similar attack overseas.

Homeland Defense

Homeland defense is perhaps the best example of how we defend in depth through our partners. Our Missile Defense, Aerospace Warning and Control, Maritime Warning, Cyber Security, Infrastructure Resiliency, and Antiterrorism/Force Protection mission sets require close cooperation and communication with partners globally, in the approaches, and in the homeland.

Missile Defense. North Korea's Taepo Dong 2 launch in December 2012, followed by its announcement of a third nuclear test in February 2013, are sobering reminders that our nation must remain vigilant against nation-states that can threaten the homeland directly. North Korea continues to seek international recognition as a nuclear-armed state and has unveiled a road-mobile Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with claims it can strike targets in our homeland. Although Iran does not yet possess a nuclear weapon, it is developing advanced missile capabilities faster than previously assessed and is apparently positioning itself to produce a nuclear warhead quickly should its leaders choose to do so.

I am confident in our ability to employ the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system to engage the current ballistic threats against the United States. The fielded system was developed using a spiral acquisition approach designed to counter a limited, unsophisticated ballistic missile threat from a rogue nation. In light of the challenging threats that loom on the horizon, Admiral Locklear (Commander, U.S. Pacific Command), General Kehler (Commander, U.S. Strategic Command), Vice Admiral Syring (Director, Missile Defense Agency (MDA)), and I are working as a team with the intelligence community to improve our capability to warn against and mitigate emerging threats. We remain committed to improving current Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capabilities to ensure we maintain our strategic advantage and guarantee confidence in our ability to defeat evolving, more complex threats in the future.

In view of the continued development of North Korean threat capabilities, we are partnering with the MDA to improve GMD reliability. To be sure, GMD is a system of systems. Only synergistic and comprehensive improvements across the entirety of the kill chain—intelligence, sensors, interceptors, and command and control—can ensure system confidence and maximize performance. We are working across the entire system to enhance system reliability. The complexity of the GMD system dictates an intricate interplay between development of new capability, operator tactics, component testing, and the continuous calibration of threat profiles.

We have worked closely with the MDA to maintain the right balance in developing and testing missile defense technologies, while increasing our readiness to execute this critical mission set. This requires that we achieve a cadence of at least one operational GMD intercept flight test annually. I am pleased with the successful flight test conducted in January 2013 and expect that future tests will serve to increase confidence in the fielded system.

Our BMD responsibilities include all potential missile threats, regardless of range or source. To evaluate our capability against a regional ballistic missile threat, we have conducted a series of tests and exercises using Joint, Deployable Integrated Air and Missile Defense systems in the protection of designated critical assets (such as population centers, major events, and critical infrastructure) against a limited air, cruise, or ballistic missile attack. These ongoing tests and exercises are oriented on the development of tactics, techniques, and procedures that integrate existing Aegis BMD, Patriot, and Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) systems into a layered defense. We will continue to pursue effective and efficient methods to improve our ability to protect the homeland. Our citizens expect our vigilance and rigor to protect them from a missile attack on our soil. We work diligently to maintain their trust.

Aerospace Warning and Control. A vital component of homeland defense is NORAD's Aerospace Warning and Control missions. Through the execution of Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE), NORAD defends North American airspace from unwanted and unauthorized aircraft on a 24/7 basis and accomplishes this critical mission with a combination of armed fighters on alert, air patrols, aerial refueling, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) surveillance platforms, the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System, and our ground-based Air Defense Sector surveillance detection capabilities. These assets allow NORAD to respond to both strategic and asymmetric air threats to the Homeland.

Since 9/11, more than 62,000 sorties have been flown in support of ONE. Our continued requirements for air domain awareness and intercept capabilities mean we must ensure that NORAD forces can protect our most critical national infrastructure, and that we maintain a basing architecture that defends key terrain and our most critical national infrastructure.

This has been an extremely busy year for the men and women of USNORTHCOM and NORAD, as we have successfully supported the DHS and the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) to plan and execute many National Special Security Events (NSSEs). These include the G-8 Summit at Camp David, Maryland; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Chicago, Illinois; the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida; the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina; the Presidential Inauguration, and the State of the Union Address in our nation's capital. In addition to NSSEs, the day-to-day operational planning and support generated by the 2012 National Election involved the cooperation and coordination of an array of interagency organizations. NORAD participated extensively in these efforts with a full array of support, when required by lead federal agencies. We are proud of NORAD's successful planning and execution for these critical national events.

NORAD continues to demonstrate the ability to respond quickly to potential strategic threats through Northern Sovereignty Operations, which involves the monitoring and detection of announced and unannounced Russian Military Aviation flights entering the United States and Canadian Air Defense Identification Zones. This year again, Russian Long-Range Aviation (LRA) continues a deliberate modernization plan with increasing operational capability. The successful detection and intercept of such flights demonstrates NORAD's ability and intention to defend not only the northern reaches of our sovereign airspace, but all of NORAD's area of operations. Whether in the continental United States or along the northern tier of Alaska and Canada, NORAD continues to successfully provide Aerospace Warning and Aerospace Control for North America.

Maritime Warning and Maritime Homeland Defense. NORAD's Maritime Warning Mission, which supplements the national intelligence analysis and warning capabilities of the United States and Canada, continues to mature, and we have achieved notable progress in building and maintaining relationships with mission partners and stakeholders in the maritime community of interest. My staff remains engaged with our Canadian partners through the Permanent Joint Board on Defense (PJBD) and the Military Cooperation Committee (MCC) as we continue to improve awareness and develop the NORAD Maritime Warning Mission.

Beyond maritime warning, USNORTHCOM supports the execution of the National Maritime Security Strategy through preparations to lead or act in a supporting role to ensure the security of the homeland in the face of a maritime threat. With the recent assignment of Navy North (NAVNORTH), I now have a service component commander and headquarters responsible for maritime operations in my area of responsibility. NAVNORTH will continue to build on the outstanding working relationships with our interagency and Service partners,

particularly the USCG, to ensure future operations are coordinated and integrated to the greatest extent possible.

Cyber Security. I share former Secretary Panetta’s concern that the United States may be in a “pre-9/11 moment” with regard to a major cyber attack. Global dependencies on electronic information technology offer adversaries attractive opportunities to wreak havoc in this domain. Cyber operations are non-kinetic, asymmetric options that have the added advantage of shrouded attribution. The potential effects of a targeted attack could have severe consequences for U.S. infrastructure and institutions, impede our homeland defense mission, degrade our ability to support military activities overseas, and strain our ability to provide relief to civil authorities. To address growing threats, USNORTHCOM and NORAD, in conjunction with U.S. Cyber Command, recently established a Joint Cyber Center (JCC) to recognize and assess when a cyberspace attack is being orchestrated against the homeland. Although in its infancy, the JCC’s goal is to provide timely and accurate information associated with the cyber domain through focused situational awareness and integrated operational cyberspace planning. We have also incorporated more robust cyber play in our exercises to refine our cyber-defense capability and enhance our effectiveness to operate within the confines of a degraded environment.

Antiterrorism and Force Protection. Consistent with our Unified Command Plan authorities and guidance from the Secretary of Defense “to preserve the Nation’s combat power,” USNORTHCOM executes an antiterrorism and force protection mission across our area of responsibility. This is achieved by implementing force protection and security-related policy, ensuring compliance with standards, developing new technologies, and engaging with key mission partners. To preempt insider threats as occurred at Fort Hood, USNORTHCOM

maintains a close, trusted partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to share threat information rapidly, and to synchronize the collective military response efforts of the Department.

Protection of our installations, people, and Defense Critical Infrastructure (DCI) is imperative to maintain mission assurance. USNORTHCOM advocates to ensure that sufficient resource requirements are considered in Military Department budget deliberations to implement Service Component antiterrorism and force protection programs. In addition, USNORTHCOM continues aggressive planning and collaboration with DOD components to ensure DCI most vital to mission owners is always available and mission capable, consistent with DoD guidance.

Defense Support of Civil Authorities

We assist our domestic mission partners across the spectrum of activities in the homeland. Our civil support actions range from support to law enforcement agencies (LEAs) on our borders, to mitigating the effects of man-made incidents or natural disasters. Unless otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, our assistance in this role is always in support of the lead federal agency.

USNORTHCOM, with its homeland in my area of responsibility, is uniquely characterized by domestic laws, policy, culture, and tradition. The nuances of the homeland, coupled with the evolutionary nature of the threat, highlight the criticality of USNORTHCOM's close relationship with law enforcement partners. Our continued investment and partnership with LEAs in the execution of their homeland security activities prevents operational seams and is the cornerstone of our ability to defend the nation. Underpinning the large majority of our relationship with LEAs is JTF-North, co-located with the El Paso Intelligence Center on key terrain of the Southwest border.

During 2012, we responded to multiple requests for assistance in support of CBP, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), USSS, FBI, and other agencies along the nation's Southwest border. Exchange of information and analysis allows DOD and LEAs to be partners in the layered defense and security of the homeland. Our partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies have never been stronger.

This last year speaks to the critical nature of our strong interagency partnerships and the continued requirement to support our partners. To complement the tremendous capacity of communities and states to deal with crises, DOD has capabilities that can save and sustain lives, reduce suffering, protect property, mitigate the damage to critical infrastructure, and get citizens quickly and solidly onto the path of resuming their daily lives. Our challenge in this environment is not to be late to need. DOD capabilities are only useful if they are accessible and responsive to relief requirements. To improve the agility and effectiveness of our support, we conduct detailed integrated regional planning to better understand concurrent employment challenges of federal military forces and National Guard, and we employ Dual Status Commanders (DSCs), made possible by the Congress, to improve unity of effort.

Dual Status Commanders. A fundamental change in how we execute our civil support mission is the use of DSCs—perhaps one of the most important initiatives taken in the area of DSCA in a decade. The Secretary of Defense and state governors authorize specially trained and certified senior military officers to command federal and state military forces employed by DOD and a state, respectively, in support of federal and state civil authorities, thereby promoting unity of effort in military assistance to the affected community. DSCs provide a link between the distinct and separate federal and state chains of command that is vital to facilitating unity of effort between the operations of federal and large state military force packages supporting civil

authorities. In 2012, the use of DSCs for the Waldo Canyon fire and Hurricane Sandy provided opportunities, through unity of effort, to strengthen USNORTHCOM's close collaboration with the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), FEMA, the NGB, and States' National Guard organizations. Multiple states requested and received DSC designations in 2012, including: California and Colorado (for wildland firefighting); and Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island (for hurricane response).

Wildland Firefighting. When the Waldo Canyon fire erupted less than 12 miles from my headquarters last June, our DSCA role was brought into sharp focus. No one could have predicted the June 26, 2012 firestorm that was fueled by 65 mile per hour winds and rapidly consumed 346 Colorado Springs homes, some of which belonged to members of my staff. In reaction to this crisis, immediate response support from Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base (AFB), Schriever AFB, and Buckley AFB was directed toward the effort, and the Secretary of Defense and the Governor of Colorado quickly authorized a DSC. At the request of NIFC, USNORTHCOM coordinated the deployment of Air National Guard C-130 aircraft, equipped with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) to support the federal wildland firefighting effort. Without hesitation, the courageous Airmen operating these aircraft continually put their lives at great risk to save and protect American lives and property during these wildfires. I would be remiss if I did not honor the names of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Mikeal, Major Joseph McCormick, Major Ryan David, and Senior Master Sergeant Robert Cannon from North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing, who selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice fighting wildfires in South Dakota last July.

With senior leaders from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Interior, NIFC, and the NGB, we are focused on getting ahead of the next fire

season. Through routine engagement, interagency teamwork, and a collaborative effort of working groups, we have expanded our collective understanding of the implications of and capabilities required to prepare for requests for assistance from our interagency partners' wildland firefighting operations. These include near-term proposals such as integrated training, improved processes for requesting and implementing support, and clarification of lines of authority, ensuring installation preparedness and necessary agreements are in place, and identifying technology transfers that can be accomplished before the next wildland fire season.

Hurricane Sandy Response. Hurricane Sandy challenged the agility of the National Response Framework while impacting key terrain in New York City and New Jersey. Working with FEMA (the lead agency for the federal response), the NGB, and the individual States, we estimated required support and prepositioned Title 10 resources in the region in order to respond as soon as requested. Throughout the response to the storm, USNORTHCOM was able to support our federal, state, and local partners by facilitating the Department's efforts in power restoration, dewatering, fuel distribution, transportation, and public health and safety. In addition, along with the NGB, USNORTHCOM supported the Secretary's approval of governors' requests for DSCs. As the hurricane made landfall, DSCs received orders to facilitate military unity of effort for the response and recovery efforts in New Jersey and New York. The DSCs provided critical leadership to promoting greater unity of effort between federal and state military forces responding to the devastating effects of this hurricane. As a result, USNORTHCOM was able to support our federal, state, and local partners by facilitating power restoration, dewatering, fuel distribution, transportation, and public health and safety.

As part of the Hurricane Sandy response and recovery effort, and with Military Department Secretary concurrence, we designated a number of Title 10 installations as Incident

Support Bases and Federal Team Staging Facilities (as requested by FEMA). Located throughout FEMA Regions I and II, these installations provided a platform for FEMA to stage commodities and equipment as well as response and recovery teams (such as Urban Search and Rescue Teams). Additionally, we designated four installations as Base Support Installations with the task to support logistically the Title 10 response effort. Fort Hamilton and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst simultaneously supported both FEMA and DOD response efforts.

During the course of execution, we rapidly recognized the incredible capacity and capability of U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The established authorities, interagency agreements, funding mechanisms, and operational flexibility of these organizations are critical to mitigating large-scale catastrophic events in the future.

Leveraging our relationships with USTRANSCOM and our interagency partners, USNORTHCOM executed the strategic air and ground movements of DOD assets and private/commercial power utility company trucks and personnel. Together, our teams completed 241 sorties, hauling 4,173 short tons and 1,225 passengers. These numbers included the movement of 262 power restoration vehicles and 429 support personnel from western States to New York and New Jersey. Based on our past hurricane response experience, we pre-identified Title 10 electrical generator and water pump availability as Hurricane Sandy approached the New Jersey and New York coasts. One hundred DOD water pumps and almost 300 pump operators were requested by FEMA and greatly contributed to the overall USACE pumping effort, which removed more than 475 million gallons of water from tunnels and other critical infrastructure.

USNORTHCOM's success in civil support during Sandy was characterized by anticipation and timely support of our partners' requests for assistance during domestic crises. As a result, I am overwhelmingly convinced that DSCs are the right answer to facilitating military unity of effort before, during, and after a natural or man-made disaster. DSCs are vital for a successful roadmap to readiness that links organizational learning and adaptation to a continuous improvement of interagency preparedness in disaster response.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Response. We understand bad actors are committed to gaining access to chemical and biological weapons, as well as nuclear and radiological material, and employing these weapons against us. This truth demands our preparedness and resiliency if a CBRN attack should occur in the homeland.

USNORTHCOM, in close collaboration with the NGB and our other military and civilian partners, has made significant progress improving our ability to respond in the aftermath of a CBRN incident by increasing the overall readiness of the nation's CBRN Response Enterprise. Following a series of external evaluations and confirmatory exercises, the Enterprise achieved full operational capability (FOC) on October 1, 2012. Despite the FOC designation, important work remains to be done to realize the full potential of the enterprise. Through our robust exercise program and partnerships, we are using both Title 10 exercises (e.g., VIBRANT RESPONSE) and regional state exercises (e.g., VIGILANT GUARD) to maximize preparedness for the entire range of CBRN threats and hazards.

Security Cooperation

Security Cooperation with Mexico and Countering Threat Networks. When it comes to the security of North America and the shared pursuit of enduring stability and prosperity, we cannot afford to work in isolation. The ties between the United States and Mexico are deep and growing. The Department of Defense views Mexico as a strategic partner in mutual regional and hemispheric security interests. At the center of our shared security concerns is the proliferation and influence of transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and other threat networks that greatly undermine citizen security in Mexico.

TCOs are sophisticated international enterprises representing a national security threat based on their unique ability to move people, drugs, money, and weapons across borders. According to the National Drug Intelligence Center, the demand for illegal drugs in the United States continues, fueling the nearly \$40 billion drug trade occurring in the region¹. Per the Trans-Border Institute, since 2006 there have been more than 50,000 TCO-related homicides in Mexico,² often the result of conflicts over lucrative territory for drug trafficking and other illicit activity, routes, and access points to the U.S. drug market. Although narco-related homicides continued to occur at disturbing levels in 2012, the number modestly declined for the first time in six years.

More broadly, we are deepening our defense and military partnership with Mexico in a whole host of areas, including strengthening our ability to work together in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, cyber security, defense planning, training and education, air and maritime defense, counter-terrorism, and defense acquisition and maintenance.

¹ Richard M. Stana, Director of Homeland and Security Issues. *Testimony before the U. S. Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control*. March 9, 2011.

² Trans-Border Institute. *Drug violence in Mexico, Data and Analysis through 2011*. March 2012.

In support of the President's July 2011 *Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime*, and his 2012 *National Drug Control Strategy*, USNORTHCOM works with mission partners throughout our region to increase collaboration to confront TCOs. Our current priority of effort resides with the Mexican military where, at their request, we work with the Mexican Security Forces to build our shared capabilities and capacities. With full respect for Mexico's sovereignty and with full understanding that efforts to counter transnational organized crime have a civilian law enforcement lead, over the past year we have worked together in three key areas: increased capacity to conduct intelligence-driven operations; improved awareness and practice in protecting human rights; and increased capacity to work on a whole-of-government basis to address the challenges posed by TCOs.

Mexico's southern border, an area of strategic importance in the counter-TCO effort, also represents a border between the areas of responsibility of U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) and USNORTHCOM, requiring close coordination between our commands to ensure mission success. Illustrative of our partnership, our commands co-sponsor Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize Border Region Workshops. These workshops bring together national security forces to address communications, border security, standard operating procedures, and air, land, and maritime surveillance. Another example of our efforts is the coordinated deployment of a ground-based radar and associated information sharing protocols for Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize.

Mexico and the United States are critical, strategic partners in the security sphere. My goal remains strengthening USNORTHCOM's relationship with the Mexican military. We look forward to working closely with the leadership of the Mexican Army (SEDENA) and Navy

(SEMAR) as they implement the strategy of President Peña Nieto and integrate their actions with those of Mexico's civilian agencies.

Through our positive partnership, both nations have improved their capacity to respond to TCOs, to terrorist threats, and to natural disasters. I consider my relationship with the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico of utmost importance in the execution of Department of Defense goals and objectives throughout the region and hemisphere. Ambassador Wayne is the U.S. Government lead for engagements with Mexico and, as such, is a vital partner in all coordination and execution of DoD and USNORTHCOM's security cooperation mission. Confronting the security challenges we face in the future will continue to require an integrated, whole-of-government approach at home and close cooperation with our partners abroad. Nothing is more important to our security and prosperity in this region than strengthening those partnerships.

Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). Located at Fort Benning, Georgia, WHINSEC remains a key component of DOD's security cooperation outreach in the Western Hemisphere. WHINSEC is the only U.S. Army School that teaches in Spanish and informs the thinking of future Latin American leaders about democracy, human rights, and military topics. It is a strategic tool for international engagement supporting principles set forth in the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter. The training offered at WHINSEC impacts approximately 800-1,000 Latin American leaders annually from military, law enforcement, and civilian institutions and serves to increase collaboration and improve foreign partner capacity in pursuit of USNORTHCOM's security cooperation objectives.

Security Cooperation with The Bahamas. The United States and The Bahamas share a strong bilateral relationship founded upon common interests in security, trade, disaster response, and the promotion of meaningful cultural exchange. These shared interests, including a common

belief in the rule of law and democratic values, and The Bahamas' geographic proximity to the United States have been integral in building this long-standing partnership. The Bahamian government is committed to close cooperation with the United States on law enforcement and maritime security concerns, as well as on counternarcotics efforts. This strong security cooperation relationship is highlighted by Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, a trilateral counternarcotics effort conducted by personnel of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, Royal Bahamas Defence Force, and the Turks and Caicos Islands police, with counterparts from the DEA, ICE, CBP, and the USCG.

One of the key focus areas in The Bahamas is the Hawk's Nest Forward Operating Base, a staging location for counternarcotics operations. Hawk's Nest is a centrally located facility on Great Exuma, used by Bahamian and interagency counternarcotics partners. We were ardent supporters of U.S. Embassy-Nassau in its successful effort to develop a cost-sharing agreement among the CBP, DEA, and FAA in an effort to maintain Hawk's Nest in a state of minimal operational capacity. The proximity of The Bahamas to the United States means that relatively small sites (like Hawk's Nest) have strategic importance for counter-illicit trafficking and Cooperative Defense mission areas.

Establishment of United States Special Operations Command, North (SOCNORTH). On December 31, 2012, the Secretary of Defense approved the establishment of SOCNORTH. This subordinate unified command is the logical progression from our previous Special Operations Detachment (SOD). Reorganizing my existing command structures will improve the Department's ability to command, through a designated accountable commander, special operations forces throughout my area of responsibility under USNORTHCOM's existing Defense Support of Civil Authorities, security cooperation, and Homeland Defense

responsibilities. The establishment of SOCNORTH provides USNORTHCOM with a command and control structure that matches that of all other Geographic Combatant Commands, where a component commander is placed in charge of things we are already doing with a staff element. SOCNORTH will enhance USNORTHCOM's ability to meet our current security cooperation mission requirements, and improve our ability to support our interagency and regional partners. This organizational change is consistent with the new Defense Strategic Guidance that calls for low-cost, small-footprint approaches to accomplish our national security objectives.

Partnership with Canada

We continue to build unprecedented levels of cooperation across our two nations, and Canadian and U.S. cooperation in defending our homelands has been seamless. One of the most important enablers to USNORTHCOM and NORAD mission accomplishment remains our ability to conduct sophisticated, multi-echeloned exercises with our mission partners. This past December, the Commander of the Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) and I signed the *Tri-Command Training and Exercise Statement of Intent*, which provides two years of training and exercise planning among USNORTHCOM, NORAD, and CJOC.

Beyond combining our exercises, the three commands have improved cooperative efforts in the Arctic. Rapid reductions in the extent and duration of summer ice cover in the Arctic region have led to increased human activity, primarily in the forms of scientific research, speculative shipping, and resource extraction. As countries and private businesses vie for regional access and influence in pursuit of economic interests, safety and security concerns will continue to rise. All Arctic nations have publicly stated their emphasis on cooperative approaches to peace and stability in the region.

The spike in regional activity may result in increased requests to militaries to provide support to other agencies, given the austere fiscal and operational environment. Other traditional military actors are already setting priorities for the region. Russia is actively recapitalizing its Arctic-focused fleet. Additionally, China, a nation without Arctic territory, is acquiring a second icebreaker.

In December 2012, USNORTHCOM, NORAD, and CJOC signed the *Framework for Arctic Cooperation*, which acknowledges that Canadian and U.S. forces will support other departments and agencies in response to threats and hazards in the region when requested or directed. The framework also strengthens an already mature partnership, ultimately enhancing joint and combined readiness in support of safety, security, and defense missions through information sharing, planning, and capability development. In this document, CJOC Commander Lieutenant-General Beare and I recognize that our near-term capability gaps in the Arctic are communications, maritime domain awareness, presence, and infrastructure. Along with the CJOC's JTF North, JTF-Alaska, which is my operational lead in the Arctic, is focused on how we will most effectively cooperate and partner to mitigate these capability gaps and effect mission success in this expansive region. Our commands will continue to seek opportunities to, in coordination with, and as part of wider U.S. government efforts, meet emerging needs associated with increased activities throughout the Arctic, and realize the full potential of our joint, interagency, intergovernmental, multinational, and private sector partnerships.

Engagement with Russia

We also continue to pursue our engagement with the Russian military, taking advantage of every opportunity to increase cooperation, interaction, and military-to-military training events.

I believe these efforts are particularly important to foster shared understanding, especially in light of expanded Russian modernization and training efforts that extend the range of patrol activities by their air forces. For example, NORAD and the Russian Federation Air Force conducted our third annual VIGILANT EAGLE counter-hijacking exercise in August 2012. By mutual agreement we conducted a non-flying, command post exercise (with each nation) with NORAD and Russian forces practicing procedures to track, intercept, and pass control for monitoring and escorting a simulated hijacked aircraft into the other's airspace. Like our 2011 event, the upcoming August, 2013 exercise will be a full-profile, live-fly event, involving a variety of NORAD and Russian military aircraft exercising a counter hijacking scenario. USNORTHCOM and NORAD are in the early stages of planning a similar cooperative counter-hijacking exercise with our Mexican partners. This exercise, known as AMALGAM EAGLE, will provide an opportunity to practice military and civilian roles in responding to a simulated hijacking situation in our respective airspaces.

In addition to fostering mutual trust and increased transparency with Russia, USNORTHCOM and NORAD have proposed connecting the Alaskan NORAD Region to the NATO/Russia Cooperative Airspace Initiative (CAI), currently operational in Europe. This proposal, called the Bering Strait Initiative, would provide Russian and NORAD air traffic controllers with information about tracks of mutual interest moving across the Bering Sea, using a web-enabled digital linkage to allow information exchange. Poland, Norway, and Turkey have already established a CAI link with Russia, and the system was declared operational in December 2011. We only await Russian concurrence to begin operational testing and implementation of the data link. This example of increased cooperation with Russia helps us to avoid unintended consequences associated with heightened tensions or misunderstandings.

Conclusion

We now face a security environment that is more violent, uncertain, and complex than ever before. This environment is distinguished by myriad global actors and destabilizing events including terrorism, cyber attacks, proliferators of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), turmoil in nations where WMD are stored, rogue threats, nations with nuclear weapons and those processing nuclear material, and transnational organized crime in the Western Hemisphere with a growing concern of a crime-terror nexus. Bad actors seek either to attack the homeland directly, or to diminish the nation's ability to build strong relationships that foster regional stability, security, peace, and prosperity. In the midst of this environment are near-peer competitors seeking geopolitical advantage over the United States while we are engaged in countering global threats. Since the homeland is the likely confluence of many of these threats, we face increased challenges as a nation and acknowledge the low level of national willingness to assume such risk. In the homeland, although the probability of existential and catastrophic attacks remains low, the consequences are unacceptable--driving us to seek preparedness and deterrence to reduce those probabilities as low as possible, and keep them there.

Robust, layered partnerships and steady improvement through rigorous training, education, and exercise programs have readied USNORTHCOM and NORAD to defend the homeland against a full spectrum of threats and support of civilian partners in providing life-saving and –sustaining assistance to the American people. We are guided by the belief that smart investment in relationship building with our partners in safety and security endeavors can prevent crises from reaching the nation by deterring and dissuading adversaries, and arresting threat streams. Should a transition to crisis occur, we are strengthened by the unity of effort and synergy of capabilities made possible by the depth of our partnerships. USNORTHCOM and

NORAD stand ready to deter, prevent, and defeat any aggression aimed at the United States and Canada as two commands oriented on a single vision: with our trusted partners, we will defend North America by outpacing all threats, maintaining faith with our people, and supporting them in their times of greatest need.

I am grateful for the support this committee has provided my commands and am truly honored to serve as the Commander of USNORTHCOM and NORAD. I look forward to your questions.

“WE HAVE THE WATCH”

APPENDIX: Missions and Organization

USNORTHCOM Mission: United States Northern Command partners to conduct homeland defense, civil support, and security cooperation to defend and secure the United States and its interests

- **Missile Defense:** execute and direct missile defense operations to protect the homeland from hostile acts while assisting the Missile Defense Agency in developing improved capability
- **Antiterrorism and Force Protection:** improve information sharing with our interagency partners and streamline reporting within the DOD to proactively detect emerging threats directed against our nation, our military personnel, and our critical capabilities and infrastructure
- **Civil Support:** support primary federal agencies, when requested, in responding quickly to natural and man-made disasters and to the effects of terrorist attacks in the homeland
- **Security Cooperation:** support and enable other agencies, advocate for complementary resources, and work toward common objectives to improve Interagency planning and coordination that synchronize U.S. support for building our partners' capacities
- **Arctic Activity:** prepare and plan for emerging Arctic challenges to ensure economic access and freedom of maneuver

Area of Responsibility: the USNORTHCOM geographic area of responsibility for the conduct of normal operations includes North America, the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, the Caribbean region (inclusive of the U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands), and approaches to the continent including significant portions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans

Subordinate Commands

Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region (Fort McNair, Washington D.C.)

Executes homeland defense, DSCA, and incident management in the National Capital Region

Joint Task Force Civil Support (Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia)

Plans and integrates DOD support to the designated Primary Agency for domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive consequence management operations

Joint Task Force North (Fort Bliss, Texas)

Supports federal law enforcement agencies in the interdiction of suspected transnational threats within and along the approaches to the continental United States

Joint Task Force Alaska (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska)

(Provisional) Deters, detects, prevents, and defeats threats within the Alaska Joint Operations Area to protect U.S. territory, citizens, interests, and as directed, conduct civil support

U.S. Special Operations Command, North (to be established)

NORAD Mission: conducts aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning in the defense of North America. NORAD utilizes a network of satellites, ground-based radars, airborne radars, and fighters to detect, intercept, and when necessary, engage threats to Canada and the United States. NORAD assists in the detection and monitoring of aircraft suspected of illegal drug trafficking, ultimately passing information to civilian law enforcement agencies to help combat the flow of illegal drugs into North America

Service Components

U.S. Army North (Fort Sam Houston, Texas)

Executes DOD's homeland defense and civil support operations in the land domain.

Develops, organizes and integrates DOD CBRN response capabilities and operations. Secures land approaches to the homeland

U.S. Naval Forces North (Norfolk, Virginia)

Provides maritime forces prepared to conduct homeland defense, civil support operations and security cooperation activities

U.S. Air Forces Northern (Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida)

Ensures the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States

U.S. Marine Forces North (New Orleans, Louisiana)

Executes antiterrorism program and force protection responsibilities. Coordinates with and supports USMC forces to conduct homeland defense operations and provide DSCA