1 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

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3 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008

4 U.S. Senate,

5 Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations,

6 Washington, DC.

7 The subcommittee met at 10:36 a.m., in room SD-192,

8 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Daniel K. Inouye

9 (chairman) presiding.

10 Present: Senators Inouye, Mikulski, Murray, Stevens,

11 Cochran, and Shelby.

12 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

13 Department of the Navy

14 Office of the Secretary

15 **STATEMENT OF HON. DONALD C. WINTER, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**

16 Opening Statement of Senator Daniel K. Inouye

17 Senator Inouye: Today we welcome the Honorable Donald

18 Winter, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of

19 Naval Operations, and General James Conway, Commandant of the

20 Marine Corps, to present testimony on the fiscal year 2009

21 budget for the Department of the Navy.

22 The President's budget request includes $149 billion to

23 support the Navy and Marine Corps in fiscal year 2009. Along

24 with the forthcoming request for supplemental, these funds

1 will support the forward deployment of sailors and marines to
2 the farthest corners of the globe. This forward presence
3 contributes to our security, by deterring conflict in
4 strategic regions, performing vital humanitarian relief
5 missions, and carrying out combat missions in the global war
6 on terrorism (GWOT).
7 Many Americans may not be aware of the full role of the
8 Navy and the Marine Corps in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
9 There are currently 25,600 marines and 7,800 sailors with
10 boots on the ground in these two countries. Our Nation owes
11 them, and all their fellow service members, a special debt of
12 gratitude.
13 One challenge to maintaining the posture of the Navy and
14 Marine Corps is to equip the forces with the tools they need
15 to complete their missions. Both today and into the future,
16 however high profile modernization programs, like the littoral
17 combat ship (LCS), the expeditionary combat vehicle, the
18 Presidential helicopter, have experienced problems with cost
19 and schedule.
20 The subcommittee intends to undertake a careful review of
21 these and other important programs, to determine the best
22 course to modernize our forces, in the most fiscally
23 responsible manner possible. Not only are there important
24 questions to be asked about the next generations of weapons

systems, but there are also concerns about how funds are being invested to meet the immediate needs of our service members.

The recent grounding of P-3 aircraft is one such concern. And just recently, new questions are being asked about whether the bureaucracy acted quickly enough, getting AMRAPS and other equipment to those currently serving in harms' way.

We look forward to our witnesses sharing their views on both the challenges and successes they have -- they see for the Navy and Marine Corps, and how the 2009 budget request addresses those issues. But before calling on our panel for their opening statements, there's one other matter I wish to raise.

As the subcommittee examines the fiscal year 2009 request, we must remember that they budget before us is based on recommendations made 6 months ago. And it will be several months before our bill may be approved and sent to the White House. If, for no other reason than the time it takes to assemble and review the budget request, as well as the information gleaned from these hearings, there are likely to be several changes warranted in your request, in order to best serve our national defense.

My co-chairman, Senator Stevens, and I worked for many years to propose adjustments that make sense. I believe our country is best served when Congress and the military services

1 work as partners in identifying and carrying out the
2 adjustments made during the appropriations process.
3 I look forward to working with each of you to continue
4 that same spirit of cooperation, which is now a tradition that
5 has served our Nation very well. The full statement of each
6 of the witnesses this morning will be included in the record.
7 And now, I'm pleased to turn to my co-chairman, Senator
8 Stevens, for his opening statement.
9 Statement of Senator Ted Stevens
10 Senator Stevens: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
11 And gentleman, we're pleased to have you before the
12 subcommittee, and I think you couldn't a more important time.
13 You -- I do join in thanking you for your service and for your
14 willingness to really take on these tasks that we all have.
15 And we welcome you on your first appearance -- I know you have
16 a challenging assignment and we look forward to working with
17 you in the Navy.
18 The demand for money surpasses the amounts that we can
19 make available, but we have to work together to make sure that
20 we meet the most pressing needs of the services. I think the
21 greatest thrill is the one that the five of us discussed
22 yesterday, and that is, how do we look over the horizon and
23 make sure we have the military of the future to meet the
24 threats the future generations will face.

1 Now that we know how long it takes to prepare those
2 systems, we have to be really clairvoyant and work hard to
3 make sure that we start the systems and find the ways to fund
4 them, so that there will be a superiority for all our forces
5 out there in the years ahead.
6 I look forward to working with you. Thank you.
7 Senator Inouye: Senator Shelby.
8 Statement of Senator Richard C. Shelby
9 Senator Shelby: Mr. Chairman, I ask that my written
10 statement be made part of the record. Mr. Chairman, thank
11 you.
12 Senator Shelby: I can't let this opportunity pass, to
13 observe that I think the leaders we have today, of the Navy,
14 the Marine Corps, and the Department of the Navy, are the best
15 qualified that I can ever remember. Their personal
16 experiences, their education backgrounds, their proven ability
17 to manage the United States Navy and Marine Corps, reflect
18 great credit, I think, on the military and our Government.
19 It's an honor to be involved in helping to decide how the
20 funding is allocated for the missions and the challenges that
21 face the Navy today.
22 But I think these individuals have reflected great credit
23 on the process and our great country. And it's a pleasure to
24 welcome them to the subcommittee for the annual review of the

1 budget request that's been submitted to the subommittee.

2 Senator Inouye: Thank you very much.

3 [The statement follows:]

4

5 **INSERT 6A (SHELBY.TXT) FOLLOWS**

1 Senator Inouye: And now, Mr. Secretary.

2 Dr. Winter: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Senator
3 Stevens, members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the
4 opportunity to appear before you here today. I'm here to
5 present the Department of the Navy's plan to support our
6 sailors and marines in their mission to defend our Nation
7 against current and future challenges.

8 The President's fiscal year 2009 budget will assist the
9 Navy and Marine Corps in accomplishing their complimentary and
10 reinforcing missions, while building capabilities necessary to
11 meet future threats. One of the primary responsibilities of
12 our Government is to provide for the Nation's defense. Those
13 responsibilities include the critical requirement to organize,
14 train, and equip our naval forces. For that vast majority of
15 citizens, the only cost imposed on us is financial.

16 America is able to provide for the national defense with
17 such a minimal impact on its citizenry, because we are blessed
18 to have among us, a generation of people, patriots all, who
19 volunteer to serve. They are the ones who bear many
20 hardships, accept many risks, and go in harms way. The pay
21 and benefit funding levels in our 2009 budget reflect the
22 compensation levels necessary to continue to attract and
23 retain quality personnel in the Navy and the Marine Corps.

24 Furthermore, although we are doing well in overall

1 recruiting and retention numbers, I emphasize the need for
2 special pays and bonuses to meet critical sub-specialty needs,
3 such as our requirements for nurses, physicians, and GWOT
4 stress communities, such as explosive ordinance disposal
5 personnel.
6 It is because of the hard work of our sailors and
7 marines, that we are making progress, fostering maritime
8 security, defeating terrorist networks, progressing toward a
9 stable Iraq, supporting the Afghan government, countering
10 piracy and proliferation of deadly technology, rendering
11 humanitarian assistance, and strengthening partnerships around
12 the world. Our sailors and marines have responded when
13 called, and superbly performed their many missions in our
14 Nation's defense. It is truly an honor and a privilege to
15 work with them and support them as their Secretary.
16 The Department of the Navy's fiscal year 2009 budget,
17 meets the challenge of resourcing the Navy and the Marine
18 Corps team across a range of missions, from partnership
19 building to combat operations. It invests in our ability to
20 operate, sustain, and develop forces that are engaged in the
21 global war on terrorism, while preparing the force for the
22 challenges and threats of the future. We are requesting a
23 total of $149 billion, a 7 percent increase over the fiscal
24 year 2008 baseline.

1 This increase is driven by factors, such as rising oil
2 costs, and the critical comprehensive growth of the Marine
3 Corps. Our fiscal year 2009 budget reflects three key
4 priorities, which are consistent with those of previous years.
5 They are, first of all, prevail in the global war on terror.
6 Second, take care of our sailors, marines, their families, and
7 particularly, our wounded. And last, prepare for a full
8 challenge across -- prepare for future challenges across the
9 full spectrum of operations.
10 To help meet our first priority, prevail in the GWOT, we
11 are adapting our force for current and future missions, to
12 include growing the Marine Corps, shaping the force by
13 recruiting and retaining the right people, and addressing
14 critical readiness needs. Among our most critical readiness
15 needs, is the ability to train our sailors and marines for the
16 threats that they may encounter. Unfortunately, our Navy has
17 encountered increasing encroachments in our ability to conduct
18 training. We recognize that there are, on occasion, impacts
19 on the citizenry at large, associated with such training, but
20 these are necessary costs that are critical to the defense of
21 our Nation. We take extensive precautions to minimize the
22 impact of our training. We owe it to the American people and
23 we owe it to those who serve, to acknowledge that, as in all
24 things in life, there are competing interests and tradeoffs,

1 and that we treat the risks of sonar operation at sea or the
2 impact of jet noise, the way we treat all public policy
3 issues, balancing risks and costs against legitimate national
4 security interests.
5 I commit to you today, that I will keep you appraised of
6 legal challenges in near implications for readiness that we
7 face over the course of the coming year. Mr. Chairman, if in
8 the future, we are unable to properly train our sailors and
9 marines, we will have failed to do our duty to them and to the
10 American people.
11 Another critical issue I would like to highlight concerns
12 doing right by those who go in harms way. As Secretary of
13 Defense Gates has stated, "Apart from the war itself, we have
14 no higher priority than to take care of our wounded." Our
15 wounded warriors and their families deserve the highest
16 priority care, respect, and treatment for their sacrifices.
17 Our 2009 budget honors our commitment to ensure that our
18 sailors and marines receive the appropriate care, training,
19 and financial support that they need.
20 Finally, to meet the challenges of the future, the 2009
21 budget provides for a balanced fleet of ships, aircraft, and
22 expeditionary capabilities, with the fighting power and
23 versatility to carry out blue, green, and brown water missions
24 wherever called upon.

1 Furthermore, I would like to note that, consistent with
2 our commitment to ensure affordability and timely delivery of
3 capabilities, we have launched and acquisition improvement
4 initiative to provide better integration of requirements in
5 acquisition decision processes, improve governance and insight
6 into the development, establishment, and execution of
7 acquisition programs, and formalize a framework to engage
8 senior Naval leadership.

9 Prepared Statement

10 Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the strong support this
11 Committee and the Congress at large has given our Navy and
12 Marine Corps team. I want to thank you on their behalf. Our
13 Navy and Marine Corps is a strong, capable, and dedicated
14 team. I appreciate the opportunity to represent them here
15 today and I look forward to your questions.

16 [The statement follows:]

17

18 **INSERT 11A (WINTER.TXT) FOLLOWS**

1 Senator Inouye: Mr. Chief of Naval Operations, do you
2 wish to testify?
3 **STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL GARY ROUGHEAD, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**
4 Admiral Roughead: Chairman Inouye, Senator Stevens,
5 distinguished members of the subcommittee. On behalf of our
6 600,000 sailors, Navy civilians, and families, it's an honor
7 to appear before you today. And together, with Secretary
8 Winter and General Conway, I'm privileged to be part of this
9 leadership team that provides for our Nation's safety,
10 security, and prosperity.
11 Today, your Navy stands ready with the agility, the
12 flexibility, and the competence to do what no other Navy in
13 the world can do. Three weeks ago, we successfully and
14 temporarily converted a portion of our Sea-based Ballistic
15 Missile Defense Program to engage a failing satellite. Sea-
16 based Ballistic Missile defense is here, it is real, and it
17 works, but that is only a part of what your Navy delivers to
18 our Nation.
19 We are exercising our new maritime strategy every day, a
20 strategy that is more than just a glossy brochure. Our
21 carriers are projecting power in the Arabian Gulf, our
22 destroyers are demonstrating our resolve in the Mediterranean,
23 an amphibious ship is engaged in counterpiracy operations on
24 the east coast of Africa, and another is delivering

1 humanitarian assistance on the west coast of that continent,
2 our frigates are intercepting drug traffickers in the
3 Caribbean Sea, and our Riverine Forces are patrolling vital
4 infrastructure on the Euphrates River in Iraq, and our
5 submarines patrol silently around the globe. We have 118
6 ships and over 58,000 people on deployment, out and about,
7 doing the work of the Nation. But as you so well know, our
8 operations come at a cost to our people, current readiness,
9 and the future fleet, those are my three focus areas.
10 Our people, our sailors, marines, and their families know
11 they have your support. We must continue to invest in their
12 futures, and in the young men and women of America, who will
13 follow in their wake. In the context of this generational
14 war, it is imperative that we continue to care for our wounded
15 warriors and support the healthcare needs of all of our
16 sailors and Navy civilians. Likewise, your support for the
17 critical skills, re-enlistment bonuses, has enabled us to
18 retain the sailors we need. Supporting our future force can
19 not be done without readiness to fight today.
20 To this end, quality shore installations, responsive
21 depot-level maintenance facilities, an unfettered ability to
22 train responsibly are necessities. Where area access and
23 shore support is denied, the Commandant and I have been moving
24 forward together with a sea-basing alternative. These

1 elements are essential to support our fleet response plan,
2 which has enabled us to meet requirements and will sustain us
3 through the requested temporary carrier force level
4 adjustment.
5 Of my three focus areas, building tomorrow's Navy to be a
6 balanced, appropriately sized force, is the most immediate
7 imperative and challenge. Fiscal realities, however, have led
8 us to assume more risk in ship building, ship operations, and
9 weapons. Achieving the 313 ship floor, at current funding
10 levels, will require us to improve processes, collaborate with
11 industry, and make difficult decisions in the near term.
12 I am pleased that the first two DDG-1000 contracts have
13 been awarded. Our surface combatants are an essential element
14 of our force, and it is important that we do not raid the
15 combatant line as we build to 313 ships. I remain strongly
16 committed to funding those programs that provide critical
17 capabilities to our forces. There is no substitute for the
18 littoral combat ship in closing the littoral capability gap.
19 Current F/A-18 Hornets are needed to swage a 2016 strike
20 fighter shortfall. Surface combatant superiority will be
21 maintained through DDG-51 modernization. Multimission
22 maritime aircraft will recapitalize our maritime patrol,
23 antisubmarine warfare capabilities. And sea-based ballistic
24 missile defense will ensure future theater and national

1 defense and enable access for our joint forces.

2 These critical programs for our future fleet require

3 appropriate, disciplined investments now. The 2009 budget and

4 its associated four-structure plans, will meet our current

5 challenges with a moderate degree of risk. Clearly, we have

6 many challenges, of which building tomorrow's fleet is the

7 greatest, but with these challenges is our opportunity to have

8 a balanced and global fleet, which will defend the nation and

9 assure our prosperity for generations to come.

10 Prepared Statement

11 On behalf of our sailors, our Navy civilians, and our

12 families, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before

13 you today, and thank you for your support of what we do today

14 and what we will do tomorrow. And I look forward to your

15 questions.

16 Senator Inouye: Thank you very much.

17 [The statement follows:]

18

19 **INSERT 15A (ROUGHHEAD.TXT) FOLLOWS**

Senator Inouye: Commandant?

STATEMENT OF GENERAL JAMES T. CONWAY, COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

General Conway: Mr. Chairman, Senator Stevens, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, I pledge to always provide you with forthright and honest assessments of your Marine Corps, and I bear that in mind today as I report to you on the posture of our service.

In a written statement, I provided you a list of priorities that would enable ~~you~~ your Corps to best serve our Nation's security interests, both today and in the uncertain future. But in brief, our young warriors in combat are my number one priority. Those magnificent patriots have been extremely effective in disrupting insurgents and the al Qaeda in the al-Anbar province. In the spirit of jointness, I must note that it hasn't been just marines, rather marines, sailors, and soldiers, a composite effort over time, that has brought success to the al-Anbar.

Quiet in their duty and determined in their approach, your marines are telling us loud and clear that wherever there is a job to be done, they'll shoulder that mission with enthusiasm. They're tough, and they'll do what it takes to win.

We are still supporting the surge in Iraq and have

1 already shifted from population protection to transitioning
2 security responsibilities to Iraqi security forces. They're
3 actively stepping up to the task. What may not be our core
4 competency, marines have addressed the nation-building aspect
5 of our duties with enthusiasm and determination.
6 And as to the most recent call from the Secretary of
7 Defense, we are also deploying more than 3,400 marines to
8 Afghanistan. Your marines will assist a joint force in either
9 gaining or maintaining momentum there. We fall on our
10 expeditionary ethos of living hard and fighting well, as part
11 of an air-ground team.
12 I just returned from a visit to Iraq and Afghanistan and,
13 ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to report to you that your
14 marines are demonstrating an amazing resiliency in the face of
15 multiple deployments to dangerous lands. In spite of a one-
16 to-one deployment to dwell regimen, that has virtually no
17 chance of getting better until the fall, the factors that we
18 track monthly to determine health of the force, those include
19 desertion and UA rates, suicide, divorce, child and spousal
20 abuse, retention and re-enlistment rates, are all as good or
21 better than they were in 2001.
22 We do have a significant issue with our families, simply
23 put, they're proud of their contributions to this war, but
24 they're tired. We owe it to those families to put our family

1 service programs on to a war time footing. For too long our
2 programs have been born on the backs of volunteers, acceptable
3 perhaps during peace time, but untellable during a protracted
4 conflict. The Congress has been exceptionally supportive in
5 enabling us to make good on our promises to do more.
6 Of course, we look beyond today in our obligation to the
7 Nation, and we have learned lessons in trying to build the
8 force as we fight. In response to a clear need, we are
9 growing the Corps to 202,000 marines. We do this without
10 lowering our standards, and we're ahead of our goals. During
11 the last fiscal year we needed to bring aboard or retain 5,000
12 additional marines. We actually grew 7,000 additional troops,
13 over 96 percent of them, high school graduates.
14 But more than just manpower, this growth requires
15 training, infrastructure, and equipment to meet the needs of
16 the country. You've helped us meet those requirements with
17 steady support and encouragement, and for that, we certainly
18 thank you.
19 The Marine Corps retains the mission to provide a multi-
20 capable force for our Nation, a two-fisted fighter, if you
21 will, able to destroy enemy formations with our air-ground
22 teams and major contingencies, but equally able to fall back
23 on our hard earned, irregular warfare skills, honed over
24 decades of conflict. By far, the most complex of our

1 congressionally mandated missions, amphibious operations,
2 require deliberate training and long-term resourcing to
3 achieve high levels of proficiency. The operational
4 expertise, special equipment sets, and amphibious lift are not
5 capabilities that we can rapidly created in the face of a
6 threat.

7 Prepared Statement

8 Finally, on behalf of your marines, I extend a great
9 appreciation for your support thus far, and I thank you in
10 advance for your efforts on behalf of your brave servicemen
11 and women in harms way. I assure you, that the Marine Corps
12 appreciates the increasing competitions for the Nation's
13 discretionary resources and will continue to provide a
14 tangible return for every dollar spent.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 [The statement follows:]

17

18 **INSERT 19A (CONWAY.TXT) FOLLOWS**

1 Senator Inouye: I thank you very much, Commandant. I'd
2 like to begin my questioning with you, sir.
3 At the present time, there are 350 marines and marine
4 reservists in Afghanistan, and you recently announced that
5 you'll be adding 3,200 marines to Afghanistan. In addition to
6 this, there are 25,300 marines and marine reservists deployed
7 in Iraq, and added to that, you have your commitments in Horn
8 of Africa, Kuwait, and other locations. And this from a small
9 number of 189,000. How will this additional 3,200 deployed in
10 Afghanistan impact your organization?
11 General Conway: Sir, the impact is significant, and I
12 would add, just in recent days, that number of 3,200 has
13 actually grown to some 3,400 because of requirements that we
14 see with regard to the battalion, the marine battalion, 2d
15 Battalion, 7th Marines. It will be dropped down into some
16 very bad-guy country. And to that regard, we saw the need for
17 a couple of more people -- a couple hundred more people --
18 with special capabilities.
19 But, to get at the essence of your question, it will keep
20 us at what we call surge capacity, that is one-to-one
21 deployment to dwell, or worse, in some cases through October
22 of this year. It's not something that we like to do. We have
23 told the Secretary, in his judgment, that we need that force
24 to respond to the request for forces that came from both

1 Afghanistan and CENTCOM, that in a very real sense, we're
2 taking one for the team because we were not able to raise the
3 force elsewhere. But the fact is, we believe that there's an
4 important time window there. I think my marines feel like it
5 is a very worthwhile mission, they said as much when I spoke
6 to them in Afghanistan. And through October, I think we'll be
7 able to bear up under that increased stress that the service
8 will experience.
9 Senator Inouye: How much more do you think you'll be
10 adding to your force?
11 General Conway: In terms of -- in what, capacity, sir?
12 If I could ask for a clarification?
13 Senator Inouye: The number of marines. You have plans
14 to add an additional 27,000.
15 General Conway: Yes, sir.
16 Senator Inouye: Through ~~2013~~. 2011
17 General Conway: Yes, sir. Sir, we will grow to 202,000
18 marines, as I referenced in our opening statement, we are
19 ahead of our program.
20 We thought we would originally grow to about 189,000 this
21 year, that's roughly 5,000 for each of the first couple of
22 years. We're ahead of that schedule, and we think we can stay
23 ahead of it this year.
24 So, our target is actually something closer to 192,000

1 marines. And, of course what that means on the deck, is the
2 creation of new units to put against, especially, some of our
3 low-density, high-stressed organizations, to be able to do
4 something about this deployment-to-dwell.
5 Senator Inouye: Thank you very much.
6 I'd like to ask the CNO, the DDG-1000 program that you
7 spoke of has been in development in one form or another since
8 the 1990s, to address the land attack requirements. The
9 number of ships the Navy plans to buy has declined to seven.
10 The cost estimates of the first of these new destroyers have
11 increased to at least $3 billion apiece. Can you explain
12 where the DDG-1000 fits into the future of the surface Navy,
13 and do you believe this is the right ship?
14 Admiral Roughead: Senator, the DDG-1000, as you've said,
15 has been some time in coming. But what the DDG-1000 brings to
16 our Navy and the two ships that we put on contract recently,
17 is the introduction of new technologies that will be very
18 important to how we go forward.
19 In most instances, when we introduce a new class of ship,
20 there are only a couple of new advances on those ships. In
21 the case of the DDG-1000 there are about 10.
22 The one that is most important, I believe, for the future
23 of our Navy, is the effort that has been put into the design,
24 that brings the crew size of these very complex ships down to

1 numbers that we have never seen before. So, I believe that
2 that is absolutely a critical step forward for us, in the DDG-
3 1000.
4 With regard to the reduced number of ships that we have
5 in this year's proposed budget, that's really being driven by
6 the -- not having four littoral combat ships in there, because
7 of some of the issues we've been facing with that program.
8 But I do believe that both of these ships portend the
9 Navy of the future. In the case of the littoral combat ship,
10 it's not as if we're replacing a capability we already have.
11 We have gaps in our ability to operate in the littoral areas,
12 and that is something that we must have for the future, in my
13 professional opinion.
14 The DDG-1000 will bring the longest-reach shore-fire
15 support gun that we've ever had, but most importantly, the
16 DDG-1000 brings the technologies that will shape our Navy for
17 the future.
18 Senator Inouye: Mr. Secretary, I presume you agree with
19 that?
20 Dr. Winter: Most definitely, sir. I think that the
21 addition of the DDG-1000 has been well-thought out. As you
22 pointed out, it's been under development for a number of
23 years. We've made significant investments in the technology
24 developments that underpin this new vessel. We've had more

1 engineering development models on this particular vessel than
2 we've ever had before, we've also gone, to a much greater
3 degree, of detailed design prior to the signing of the
4 contract and start of construction than we ever have before.
5 So, I'm comfortable that we're proceeding on a well-thought
6 out process here.
7 At the same time, as the CNO pointed out, DDG-1000 by
8 itself does not solve the future surface Navy issues. There
9 were many other issues -- not the least of which -- is the
10 littoral combat ship.
11 We have adjusted the pace of acquisition there, from one
12 that proved to be too aggressive and too fast, to one that I
13 believe is more appropriate to the development of a new class
14 of vessel. That development is now proceeding along a well-
15 established route. We have good progress being made on both
16 of the individual vessels, the hulls. And we're also having
17 exceptionally good development on mission modules that will
18 support that particular activity.
19 We will, even with this slower acquisition of the LCS,
20 still have the desired number, 55, as part of the target 313
21 ships that we will achieve in the 2019 time period. So, I'm
22 very comfortable with the acquisition process, and the budget
23 that's been laid out for that.
24 Senator Inouye: So, you're comfortable and you're

1 pleased with the present progress of the LCS?

2 Dr. Winter: I look at it very carefully. I'm never

3 pleased by any of these development activities, but I think

4 that recognizing the amount of new development that is

5 associated with this new vessel, that we're making good

6 progress there, and I'm pleased to see that progress

7 continuing to be made.

8 I'm also particularly pleased, I will note, to see that

9 we're able to bring along the mission modules, as well. We

10 have taken delivery already on the first of those modules, the

11 mine warfare module, the first of the mine warfare modules,

12 and we expect to take delivery of the first of the surface

13 warfare in the first of the ASW modules later this year.

14 Senator Inouye: Thank you very much.

15 Senator Stevens.

16 Senator Stevens: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

17 Secretary Winter, we've been told that the Navy has

18 announced now its award to rebuild Walter Reed at Bethesda.

19 You will be in charge of that, right?

20 Dr. Winter: Yes, sir.

21 Senator Stevens: Do you know what the total cost of that

22 is?

23 Dr. Winter: The current estimate cost is a little over

24 $900 million, sir. I can get you the exact figure if you'd

1 like.

2 Senator Stevens: There's a base realignment and closure

3 (BRAC) deadline on that, is there?

4 Dr. Winter: There is a BRAC deadline, there is also an

5 acceleration of the activity that we have committed to. The

6 cost growth is, in part -- a small part -- due to the

7 acceleration process. There's also additional costs

8 associated with the significant expansions that we have made

9 to the plans for the integration of these two great

10 facilities, to ensure that they truly represent a world-class

11 medical treatment facility for all of our service members.

12 Senator Stevens: Well, the subcommittee will probably be

13 disturbed with me, because I felt the same way about moving

14 the installations from Germany to Italy. We moved two massive

15 installations out of Germany, down to Italy, now we're going

16 to replace Walter Reed -- which is still functioning -- all

17 during wartime. Do you think this is the right time to be

18 doing that?

19 Dr. Winter: Sir, we've made a priority to ensure that

20 the continuity of care for all of those who are treated at

21 Bethesda is maintained during this process. That has been a

22 major priority that has been established for the architects

23 and engineers that are going through the overall development

24 process.

1 Senator Stevens: Well, respectfully, Walter Reed has
2 been considered an Army facility.
3 Dr. Winter: Yes, sir.
4 Senator Stevens: But the Navy is going to take it over?
5 Dr. Winter: Well, sir, it's going to be worked as a
6 joint activity. We have the responsibility for the facilities
7 implementation of the joint activity, here.
8 Senator Stevens: All right, well put me down as one who
9 disagrees, but it doesn't do any good. I just think that it's
10 the wrong time to be doing that, and that the Army ought to
11 have its facility, just as the Navy has had its, over the
12 years.
13 General Conway, the V-22 Osprey squadron was deployed
14 last year, as you know, I had the honor to be the first member
15 of the Congress to fly that -- how did it do?
16 General Conway: Sir, they're about 2 months from coming
17 home from that 7 month deployment, I've made it a point to
18 visit with them both times that I've been in-theater while
19 they've been over.
20 I will tell you, sir, you're asking the question because
21 we have purposefully suppressed information coming out of the
22 theater until such time as the deployment is over. But the
23 fact is, they're performing very, very well. They've flown
24 over 2,700 hours with the aircraft without incident, they're

1 performing all manner and function of missions of the aircraft
2 that the Osprey is replacing -- the venerable old CH-46 and
3 the CH-53 Delta.
4 It cruises at 13,000 feet, well above the small arms and
5 the rocketry that have taken down other of our aircraft. It
6 cuts the time one-half or to one-third, that it takes to
7 transit in and around the theater. It's performing very, very
8 well, sir, on the first-time deployment of an aircraft in
9 combat, to a very austere environment.
10 Senator Stevens: Well, the chairman and I caught a
11 little hell over that -- keeping that alive, as you recall.
12 And so many people -- after the instance occurred in its
13 initial operation, wanted to retire it. I'd just put in a
14 request that when they do get back that we can get a de-brief
15 from those guys as to how it really functioned. I thought --
16 we thought -- that was absolutely necessary system for the
17 marines, and I'm glad to hear that.
18 General Conway: Appreciate your support, sir. And we
19 have that as a takeaway.
20 Senator Stevens: Tell me, you're trying to accelerate
21 growth, and I hope that you understand what I'm saying -- this
22 is to appear to continue the engagement, now how does that
23 work out? It takes some period of time before you can deploy
24 those people, doesn't it?

1 General Conway: Yes, sir, it does. And what happens,
2 sir, is that as we grow the force, our initial target were,
3 again, those low-density, high-use MOS fields that are being
4 most stressed in our Corps. It takes time to get those
5 marines recruited, through their entry-level training, into
6 their MOS schools, mated with the right equipment and so
7 forth.
8 But, in the case of two of the three infantry battalions,
9 Senator, that we have grown -- those people are already
10 scheduled to go to Iraq.
11 So, the process is underway, it is working very well. As
12 I mentioned in my opening statement, we're seeing no
13 diminution in terms of quality of the marines that are joining
14 us, and it's working very much like we would have hoped,
15 again, or even in excess of goals, compared to where we
16 thought we would be today.
17 Senator Stevens: Do you have the resources to do that,
18 while the war is going on?
19 General Conway: Sir, we have had augmentation through
20 supplemental, in terms of resources required. We hope that
21 for this year, for 2009, that it will go into a baseline
22 budget, so that we will have that money -- that available
23 money, then -- to continue to work as we continue to grow the
24 force.

1 We are some behind, as you might imagine, with regard to
2 the infrastructure. The infrastructure has not caught up to
3 the increased growth, or even the advanced pace of our growth,
4 and in a ~~Corps~~ coarse sort of way, the fact that we have so many
5 marines deployed is helping us in that capacity, because we
6 don't have to create so many temporary structures.
7 Senator Stevens: You're talking about facilities here,
8 at home, to house them, when they come home?
9 General Conway: Precisely, sir. Facilities, ranges,
10 equipment -- those types of --
11 Senator Stevens: I've got to get you up to Alaska, and
12 let you look around.
13 General Conway: I'd love to do that, sir.
14 Senator Stevens: Secretary Winter, is that right? Is
15 the money in here to handle the scope for the marines?
16 Dr. Winter: Yes, Senator. And, in particular, just to
17 parlay on with the Commandant's comments about the facilities,
18 we have put in additional resources into the budget to
19 accelerate the construction of the new barracks. We expect to
20 be able to have all of the barracks for the previous force by
21 2012, with the additional force being accommodated by 2014.
22 In the interim, we're doing two things to accommodate the
23 additional personnel, one of which has to do with the use of
24 temporary facilities, which are being constructed rapidly at

1 the required locations, and there is also some activity going
2 on to retrofit and improve some of the older facilities to
3 ensure they're able to accommodate the marines.
4 Senator Stevens: Is part of that at Guam?
5 Dr. Winter: Not yes, sir. But, in Guam, we have a major
6 activity going on associated with the planning of the move
7 from Okinawa to Guam of the marines, about 8,000 marines
8 there.
9 Right now, the activity is focused in two areas, one of
10 which is the Military Master Plan for Guam, and the other is
11 the associated environmental impact study (EIS) that needs to
12 be established prior to the start of construction in Guam.
13 Senator Stevens: Thank you.
14 Admiral Roughead, you mentioned, I think, your top
15 unfunded priority for 2009 is for a critical maritime patrol
16 improvements. I don't quite understand -- what is that
17 funding and how does it relate to the maritime domain
18 awareness initiative?
19 Admiral Roughead: Senator, the top unfunded requirement
20 applies to our P-3 maritime patrol airplanes, which have been
21 used extensively in the Central Command area of operations,
22 because of their very, very good intelligence, surveillance,
23 and reconnaissance capability.
24 Senator Stevens: Is that in the drug area?

1 Admiral Roughead: No, sir. This is -- they're being
2 used in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.
3 Senator Stevens: You have a replacement P-3 coming yet?
4 Admiral Roughead: Yes, sir, we do. We have the new P-8,
5 which is moving along quite nicely, that program is doing
6 well, and it will make its initial operational capability
7 (IOC) in 2013. And -- but going back to the P-3s, we have
8 detected cracking in the wings, because they have been flown
9 far in excess of what their flight life was projected to be.
10 And the additional funding that we will seek is for repairs to
11 those wings.
12 We've grounded 39 airplanes, 28 of which are deployed,
13 which represents about --
14 Senator Stevens: P-3s, or --
15 Admiral Roughead: These are the P-3s that we've had to
16 ground. That represents about one-quarter of our Maritime
17 Patrol Force.
18 Senator Stevens: When will the nines be delivered?
19 Admiral Roughead: I'm sorry, sir?
20 Senator Stevens: When's the replacement?
21 Admiral Roughead: Replacement will IOC in 2013. Their
22 initial operational capability will be in 2013.
23 Senator Stevens: Are these going to get you through to
24 that time?

1 Admiral Roughead: Yes, sir, we will -- we have a plan
2 for the re-winging of the affected airplanes, and they -- we
3 will diminish our inventory as we work our way through that.
4 It is a rather lengthy process to make the repairs on the P-
5 3s, but that's why I've place it so high on the priority list.
6 Senator Stevens: Well, thank you very much. I manage a
7 bill on the floor, I'm going to have to leave. I'll tell you,
8 to us from the World War II era, we are really honored to be
9 able to work with you in this generation as we've got now.
10 They are all volunteers, they're the new greatest generation.
11 They'll go down in history, I think, in a way that will be
12 very favorable to them. They've taken on every task and done
13 well.
14 And despite the horrors of some of these engagements,
15 their enlistments are increasing. So, I think we really owe a
16 debt of gratitude, the whole country, to this new generation.
17 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
18 Dr. Winter: Thank you, sir.
19 Admiral Roughead: Thank you, sir.
20 Senator Shelby: Mr. Chairman.
21 Mr. Secretary, we noticed that the LPD-17 amphibious ship
22 is at the top of the Marine Corps unfunded program list, and
23 it's also on the Navy's unfunded list. And this, I guess, in
24 parlance means these are important. These are some of the

1 most important requests being made for funding.

2 And I wonder if you would agree that if LPD-26 was to be
3 funded in fiscal year 2009 would it provide the needed war
4 fighting capability to the fleet at the earliest opportunity?
5 And would it take advantage of the learning curve effect found
6 in continuous production?

7 Dr. Winter: Thank you for your interest, sir, in our
8 shipbuilding activities, and LPD, in particular.

9 I think as you noted, appropriately, the LPD requirement
10 has become a significant issue, both for the Marine Corps, and
11 for the Navy. We accept the established requirement now for
12 11 operational LPDs, and recognize that that has got to be
13 part of what we eventually develop as our integrated fleet
14 plan.

15 At that point in time, we have nine LPDs in the fleet.
16 We have six of the older Austin class, and three of the new
17 San Antonio class, that have all been commissioned.

18 We also have six additional LPD-17, the San Antonio
19 class, that have been ordered. Four of those six are under
20 construction. The two that have been more recently ordered,
21 the ones in the last 1-1/2 years, have not yet started
22 construction, which is to say, their keels have not been laid.

23 We have several mechanisms of ensuring that we're able to
24 get to, and maintain, 11 LPDs over the period of interest

1 associated with the 30-year shipbuilding plan. We're
2 currently going through an evaluation of that, as part of our
3 POM 2010 evaluation, and I think we'll be able to lay out an
4 appropriate course of action, here as part of the 2010 build
5 that will establish an appropriate mechanism of ensuring that
6 we get to the desired fleet.
7 Senator Shelby: Thank you.
8 Admiral Roughead, I know that you are aware that cost
9 increases and delays in scheduling in several programs have
10 had an impact -- adverse impact -- on Navy shipbuilding plans,
11 and adjustments are necessary. But it's a concern that's been
12 brought to my attention that $1.6 billion has been moved away
13 from new ship construction for fiscal year 2009 and that could
14 have been used to fund the 10th LPD-17 requirement. What is
15 your observation?
16 Admiral Roughead: Well, Senator, when we put together
17 the plan for our current shipbuilding plan for the future,
18 balancing all of the other requirements that the Navy is
19 doing, and other future needs that we have, the decision was
20 to submit the plan as it is currently constructed -- with the
21 7 ships in there -- and to hold off on the 10th LPD.
22 I believe that is the best way forward to apportion the
23 resources that we have and still fulfill the needs of building
24 the fleet for tomorrow.

1 Senator Shelby: Thank you.

2 General Conway, the Navy's budget request includes the
3 first procurement of the joint high-speed vessel. I
4 understand these vessels are highly flexible and adaptable to
5 a variety of missions, they're faster and can operate in
6 shallower and more austere ports than larger vessels. Would
7 you advise us how you plan to use these vessels, and how
8 important is funding this program to the global war on
9 terrorism?

10 General Conway: Sir, we see a significant use for these
11 joint high-speed vessels (JSV). Senator Stevens referenced
12 Guam a moment ago -- when we move to Guam -- assuming that
13 negotiations work out and that that happens in the vicinity of
14 2014 or so, Guam will not offer the training opportunities
15 that we currently have on Okinawa, so as part of the planning
16 that the Secretary of the Navy spoke to was looking elsewhere
17 in the Pacific basin, immediately in the vicinity of Guam, the
18 Marshall and Palau Islands, to determine what training
19 opportunities exist there.

20 And we're also in discussion with the Australians -- of
21 course, we have some training opportunity in Korea, we have
22 training opportunity on mainland Japan, we'd like to expand
23 the opportunities with the Philippines -- all of that requires
24 inter-Pacific transit kind of capability. And we think the

1 JSV, in addition, perhaps, to some amphibs, could very well
2 satisfy those types of requirements.
3 That's just one potential use. The qualities of the
4 vessel that you mentioned open up another whole panorama of
5 opportunities to getting to locations we might not otherwise
6 be able to go with small numbers of marines aboard those high-
7 speed vessels.
8 We have some concern about their ability to operate in
9 rough seas, and we hope that engineering and so forth, will
10 overcome some of those shortfalls, and make them fully capable
11 over a wide spectrum of sea states.
12 Senator Shelby: Thank you very much.
13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Senator Inouye: Thank you.
15 Senator Mikulski.
16 Senator Mikulski: Mr. Chairman, General Conway, Admiral,
17 Secretary.
18 First of all, we feel very close to the Navy. We have
19 the Naval Academy in our State, we have Naval Bethesda which
20 has been talked about, Patuxent River, and of course the
21 marines, the marines that are a favorite everywhere.
22 My question is going to go to really, the family
23 readiness, the family support services, but first, one quick
24 work about Naval Bethesda.

1 I understand the concern of Senator Inouye, but as I
2 understand, the intellectual underpinnings of merging Bethesda
3 with Walter Reed is, the marines are an expeditionary force.
4 The kinds of wounds of war that they endure parallel what our
5 Army also endures from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to
6 traumatic brain injury, to those permanent wounds of war. So
7 there's a symmetry now in -- rather than such, between a
8 surface wound and a wounded Army. And I think that's the
9 intellectual underpinning of working together.
10 What I'm excited about, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sorry that
11 Senator Stevens had to go, is that Naval Bethesda-Walter Reed
12 is directly across the street from the National Institutes of
13 Health (NIH). It's right across the street, too, from the
14 Institute of Medicine, and then you have the military medical
15 school in the same campus as this. So, we have the
16 possibility for incredible new thinking, new ideas, the
17 training of the next generation of commissions, doctors,
18 nurses, with the best ideas coming out of military medicine,
19 as well as civilian medicine.
20 Am I right about what you anticipate as the symmetry of
21 this? Knowing Walter Reed is an icon, world-known, did not
22 seek this, but what it is, is that we think it could be really
23 of stunning quality to serve our marines and our naval forces.
24 Dr. Winter: Yes, Senator, I believe that the structure

1 that we're building right now at Bethesda is intended to
2 provide the Centers of Excellence that really are critical,
3 that have been defined, recognizing the types of injuries that
4 we see amongst all of our service members that have been
5 deployed overseas.
6 There are some unique issues, traumatic brain injuries,
7 and post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) that really require
8 some new developments, and require the integration, if you
9 will, of a diverse set of clinical and nonclinical
10 specialists. Having that all together at one location at
11 Bethesda, gives us the ability to leverage the totality that's
12 available within the growing medical community of Maryland.
13 And I look forward to the ability that that conglomeration,
14 that integrated capability will be able to provide for our
15 medical service personnel.
16 Senator Mikulski: Well, we want to continue to work with
17 you. What we're concerned about is the ability for State and
18 local infrastructure, namely that with all those geniuses I
19 just described, it could all be at the same traffic light at
20 the same time, on Wisconsin Avenue, all calling me. And I'm
21 going to say, but they do call me when they're all at the
22 traffic light at the same time. So, we look forward to, our
23 physical infrastructure.
24 Dr. Winter: Senator, we're taking the issues there

1 associated with the road, and access, very seriously. It's a
2 major part of the environmental impact study that we are
3 working through right now, and I fully expect that we will be
4 able to provide appropriate mechanisms of mitigating all of
5 those --
6 Senator Mikulski: And I'd like to talk with you more
7 about it, if I may.
8 Dr. Winter: I'd be pleased to, ma'am.
9 Senator Mikulski: If I could change to both the Marine
10 Corps and the Navy and the family support services.
11 General Conway, I was so pleased to hear what you said
12 about the Family Readiness Programs, and the reliance of the
13 marines on volunteers. You've all been very creative, and
14 whether it's the young marine -- I've heard anecdotal
15 information about how in California you're in something called
16 "Boot camp for Dads," it's a weekend program for new fathers,
17 to learn what to do with a baby, and you even do, kind of
18 manly things like, you hold a baby like a football, just don't
19 toss him or run with them -- but really, in ways that help
20 these modern men, who need to be involved with their families.
21 But then when you get that pre-deployment and post-
22 deployment -- we cannot do this on volunteers. We note that
23 you've added about $400,000 to a $30 million program -- could
24 you share with us, now, with the intensity of the deployments,

1 there is certainly the Marine Corps rest time is better than
2 the Army -- how you see what you need to do to keep that
3 spirit of volunteerism that's been a characteristic of
4 supporting a marine and his family, or her family, but what
5 you need to bring to this to really help them in pre-
6 deployment, and also the reintegration when they come back
7 home, with spouses, with children, ironing out what might have
8 been financial wrinkles that have developed -- things along
9 those lines.
10 General Conway: Yes, ma'am, I'd be happy to.
11 Senator Mikulski: As well as the very crucial, important
12 medical services.
13 But, as you know, the social fabric, often, of a family
14 has been worn and tattered during deployment time.
15 General Conway: Yes, ma'am.
16 I would highlight one thing, ma'am. We're very proud of
17 our contribution to this war, and it equates to, essentially,
18 what the U.S. Army is doing, as well. In a 28-month period, a
19 soldier will be deployed for 15 months, home for 12 -- that's
20 a 27-month period. In a 28-month period, a marine will be
21 gone for 14, home for 14. So, it balances out over time, even
22 though you are correct, our deployment cycle is very
23 different. And the marines prefer the 7-month deployments,
24 quite frankly.

1 In terms of what we've done with our family programs, we
2 have had some global war on terrorism monies as sort of a
3 windfall for this year, and we hope now, for next year. We're
4 using those monies to enhance our child care, which is the
5 number one demand coming from our families -- in really, all
6 of our bases and stations. We're including some respite care
7 in that as well, in some of our exceptional family member
8 programs.
9 But, what we're doing, essentially, is trying to
10 professionalize where we have relied on volunteers in the
11 past. That is, in no way, demeaning what our volunteers have
12 given.
13 Senator Mikulski: What does that mean?
14 General Conway: Well, ma'am, every unit, battalion size,
15 squadron size, or larger has a family readiness officer. That
16 family readiness officer has been a volunteer in seasons past,
17 and that person normally was a spouse from the deploying
18 battalion or squadron. Their duties were all-encompassing --
19 create the organization, create the notification chains, stay
20 current with information, do the socials, take care of
21 families --
22 Senator Mikulski: And they did it on their own time?
23 General Conway: Absolutely.
24 Senator Mikulski: And in many instances, their own -- I

1 mean the families, where the families raised money --

2 General Conway: Absolutely.

3 Senator Mikulski: You know, we'll call it the "bake

4 sale" way of --

5 General Conway: Yes, it was very much a bake sale kind

6 of operation. And we have simply now been able to one, put

7 more of our own budget against that, but also, again, through

8 the benefit of some of the GWOT monies, enhance those efforts

9 to where -- we still have volunteers, and it's still an

10 absolute requirement for some of what we do. But not nearly

11 on the scale that we have previously relied on, over the past

12 4 years.

13 Senator Mikulski: So, now -- is this true, then, in

14 every marine base, you will have, then, someone in charge of

15 these efforts, whose full-time duty is that?

16 General Conway: Yes, ma'am.

17 Senator Mikulski: And it will be a paid person? Because

18 volunteer, you still -- we know this even from the nonprofits

19 sector. Volunteers are great, but you need paid professional

20 staff to know how to organize -- first of all, to create,

21 develop, and organize what this is needed.

22 General Conway: I would asterisk your comment, ma'am,

23 with just a couple of things.

24 It still is the Commander's program. He has, at his

1 discretion, the opportunity to hire someone, or if he chooses,
2 if you have, say, a ~~staff and CNO~~ STAFF NON-COMMISSIONED officer that's been deployed
3 three or four times in that unit, and he wants to leave that
4 person back, he can name that person as his family readiness
5 officer. So, it's the Commander's option, but certainly he
6 didn't have those options before.
7 Senator Mikulski: Well, I know my time is moving along,
8 I'd like to have a real, a more complete description of what
9 this Readiness Program is, and moving along in this, because
10 you have families, you have families there with special needs,
11 which -- we're so glad you even named, because quite frankly,
12 the Army doesn't -- and the National Guard, quite frankly, the
13 Director of Personnel for the Army didn't think enough to put
14 it in the Guard.
15 So, we want to help you, because behind every marine is a
16 family and its morale.
17 But, we know, for example, on one base, they organized a
18 group called "Grannies for the Marines." These were people
19 who were grandparents in an area that would volunteer 5 hours,
20 say, a month, to help a Marine Corps spouse, be able to take
21 care of some things. That's -- you can't organize volunteers
22 with a volunteer. It just takes too much to do it. But
23 beyond that, you have to have pre-deployment counseling, when
24 they come back home it takes an organized effort for

1 reintegration in the family -- spouse, children and if there's
2 intense medical needs, that could go on for a long time -- we
3 really have to have a program.
4 General Conway: Yes, ma'am.
5 And, ma'am, to the credit of the Navy Medical Services, a
6 marine who deploys will typically, before he goes and after he
7 gets back, will have four such counseling periods. And the
8 Navy has also established a forward footprint, with teams
9 actually in the theater, who are able to respond if a marine
10 has a traumatic incident and needs counseling on the way.
11 Senator Mikulski: Could we hear, then, from the Navy,
12 and that'll be the summary of my questions.
13 Admiral Roughead: Yes, ma'am.
14 As you know, we've been a deploying force for centuries,
15 but even with that, we've made enhancements to what we are
16 providing for our families in our fleet and family readiness,
17 or support centers.
18 We, too, like the marines, have also expanded our child
19 care, which is a very important dimension of our families'
20 interests. But, we have also deployed our Navy differently in
21 this war. We've deployed our sailors as individual
22 augmentees. in fact, many don't realize that the United
23 States Navy has more people on the ground in the Central
24 Command area than we have at sea.

1 And so, what we've done is we've created an organization
2 and a separate element within that organization that deals
3 with the welfare of those individual deployers, and the
4 ability to support the families of those who have been
5 individually deployed.
6 And I can tell you, in the time that I've been in the
7 Navy, there has been no more focus provided by senior
8 leadership, than that which we are providing for our
9 individually deployed sailors and their families.
10 Senator Mikulski: Well, I know this is also a keen
11 interest of all members of the subcommittee, but I know,
12 Senator Murray and I are trying to see from pre-deployment to
13 battle assignment to coming back home, to also, then, as they
14 come back for medical care or move back into the VA, that we
15 really are developing this system that the family needs, as
16 well as the warfighter.
17 Our position is that even though other -- the warfighter
18 might not be literally wounded, with shrapnel or IED, they are
19 permanently impacted. And we need to stick with them all the
20 way through.
21 So, starting with pre-deployment all the way through is
22 what we're interested in, so we can help you, and behind every
23 great soldier, seaman, Marine, is a family that supports them,
24 but a mission that supports the family.

1 So, thank you, and we look forward to more conversation
2 on this.
3 Senator Inouye: Thank you.
4 Senator Shelby.
5 Senator Shelby: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Secretary Winter, this may -- I stepped out a few
7 minutes, and this may have been asked, and it may not have.
8 The littoral combat ship that you alluded to earlier is
9 vitally important to the future of our Navy, and I think
10 you've said that many times. And I believe it represents an
11 important capability for the Navy, and will give our forces a
12 new transformational system with the maneuverability to
13 operate anywhere, especially in shallow waters, is that
14 correct?
15 Dr. Winter: Yes, sir.
16 Senator Shelby: While I know there have been issues that
17 we've talked about with the LCS acquisition program, can you
18 discuss the way forward on the littoral combat ship program?
19 Dr. Winter: Thank you very much, Senator, for your
20 interest in this area. I think that we've restructured the
21 LCS program into an acquisition process now which is
22 appropriate for the development of a new class of vessel, and
23 still gets us to the desired fleet size of 55 LCS ships as
24 part of the 313 that we're targeting for in 2019.

1 What we've done right now is, I believe you're aware, is
2 to focus on the first two individual vessels -- one of each
3 type -- so as to ensure that we can get through the initial
4 construction phase there, understand any issues in
5 construction, take them out to sea, be able to go through the
6 initial sea trials, and be able to take benefit from all of
7 that as part of the next procurement.
8 We have approval and funding for one additional vessel in
9 2008, and we are requesting funding for two additional vessels
10 in 2009. Our desire there is to go out on the acquisition of
11 three additional vessels with the idea that we would have a
12 competition -- one contractor getting two, one contractor
13 getting one -- providing some motivation for the contractors
14 but maintaining the competitive base through that period of
15 time.
16 That would lay the groundwork for the future, full-scale
17 acquisition process, which would be informed by the full
18 benefits of the sea trials, as well as the development
19 activities that have taken place.
20 Senator Shelby: Would you just take a minute and tell us
21 again for the record, how important the littoral combat ship
22 program is to the Navy, and the future capability, and how we
23 deal with the threats in the shallow water?
24 Dr. Winter: I will touch lightly on three specific items

1 there, and then ask the CNO to add specifically from an
2 operational point of view.
3 What we've stressed on the design and development of the
4 LCS, is really three things. Number one, having speed, speed
5 consistent with the evolving threat that we're seeing out in
6 the Middle East and elsewhere around the world. Second of
7 all, shallow draft -- the ability to operate safely and
8 effectively in the littoral regions, which is becoming more
9 and more of a focus for our Navy. And last, having the
10 capability to use what we call mission modules, the ability to
11 switch the mission capability to adapt to the challenges that
12 we see at any given point in time.
13 This provides us with a huge increase in flexibility, of
14 responding to the threat, whether that's a surface threat,
15 submarine threat, or mine threat. And also gives us the
16 ability to continue to evolve this class of vessels to deal
17 with future, perhaps unidentified threats, that we may need to
18 deal with in many years to come.
19 And with that, I'd like the CNO to comment on the
20 operational aspects.
21 Admiral Roughead: Sure, thank you, Mr. Secretary.
22 And --
23 Senator Shelby: How important is it, Admiral?
24 Admiral Roughead: It is extraordinarily important. And

1 in my perspective, as based on being fortunate to come into
2 this job as one of two officers who has commanded the Pacific
3 Fleet and the Atlantic Fleet. And from my experiences, and
4 the types of operations that we are involved in now, and the
5 fact that we do not have a capability that allows us to work
6 in close to shore, work in the larger archipelagos that are in
7 the world today, the LCS gives us that flexibility -- the
8 speed, the shallow draft which expands the amount of ocean we
9 can operate in, and the flexibility to change mission
10 capabilities in that ship rapidly.
11 There is nothing on the books now, or on the boards now,
12 that fulfills that need, and that is why that ship is so
13 important to us.
14 Senator Shelby: Thank you, this question may have been
15 asked, Admiral -- I understand the Navy's fiscal year 2009
16 budget that LPD-17 production will conclude after 9 ships.
17 It's my understanding that the Marine Corps top-funded
18 priority for this year is acquiring another LDP. Do you feel
19 that the future amphibious fleet should include 11 LPDs? What
20 are your thoughts, here?
21 Admiral Roughead: Yes, sir, I do agree with that.
22 General Conway and I have had several discussions about
23 the future of where we are going. I believe that the world
24 that we will live in, in the future, the Navy and Marine Corps

1 will be a force of choice, because of our ability to move
2 quickly, to be able to move into areas where access may be
3 denied, and our amphibious fleet, the assault echelon, as well
4 as the maritime pre-position force of the future, will give
5 the Navy and Marine Corps that flexibility.
6 I support his requirement of 11 LPDs, and that's why it
7 also appears on my unfunded program list.
8 Senator Shelby: General, you want to comment? You just
9 agree with the -- do you agree or disagree?
10 General Conway: Sir, I agree wholeheartedly. We've had
11 some very productive discussions, and both the Navy and the
12 Marine Corps agree upon the requirement of the ships.
13 We have accepted some risk already, with the idea of 30
14 amphibious ships to satisfy two bridge requirement. The Navy
15 has been forthcoming in trying to sort of stretch the rubber
16 band to satisfy our needs, they have agreed to potentially
17 extend some of the older amphibious ships. But even with
18 their best effort, that leaves us another 9 percent, or so,
19 short of be able to project those brigades, so a 30 percent
20 shortfall, or so, roughly, is still not something that we're
21 comfortable with, so we have asked for newer ships, larger
22 ships, really, that allow us to put more aboard.
23 Senator Shelby: Thank you, gentlemen.
24 Chairman, thank you.

1 Senator Inouye: Thank you.

2 Senator Murray.

3 Senator Murray: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

4 Thank you to all of you for your service and for being

5 here today.

6 Secretary Winter, I want to follow up on, a little about

7 what Senator Mikulski talked about, I think we're still

8 playing catch-up for the poor planning that we went into after

9 very long operations now -- 7 years in Afghanistan, almost 5

10 years in Iraq.

11 And, a large concern I have is the slow change of tide

12 regarding the perception and attitude about psychological

13 health. And wanted to ask -- I know you talked a lot about

14 the programs themselves. But what about -- what are we doing

15 to really change the attitude, all the way down to the bottom

16 levels, about sailors, marines, feeling comfortable talking

17 about needing help with the psychological issues?

18 Dr. Winter: I think, ma'am, the stigma issue, if you

19 will, is I think a very critical issue. We recognize it, I

20 think it's been recognized at all levels within both the Navy

21 and the Marine Corps, and has been attacked from the very

22 senior levels, all the way on down.

23 The issue there, I think, is to first of all make clear

24 what the leadership position is on this, to make sure people

1 understand the view. To provide mechanisms of facilities
2 access, so that people can access medical care.
3 This has gone to the point of including forward-deployed
4 mental health professionals, as part of our OSCAR Program, the
5 operational stress combat -- I'm trying to remember the
6 details of the acronym, there -- program in which we are
7 actually deploying mental health professionals with the
8 forces, to be able to provide close proximity and access.
9 We're also providing training for many people who have
10 peripheral access to such issues -- our chaplains and
11 religious professionals -- who have the ability to guide
12 individual service members to seek medical care when it is
13 needed and appropriate.
14 We're also trying to get marines and sailors to help each
15 other. And this has been a longstanding tradition, and I
16 think some of the ways in which we are able to get that
17 message out, and have individual marines recognize, and be
18 able to go marine-to-marine, I think, has a huge benefit.
19 Last, we're trying to work with the families, and one of
20 the issues that keeps on coming up is, how do you deal with
21 this issue post-deployment, and post-discharge? We try to do
22 the normal checkups and all the reviews and things of that
23 nature, and we're looking to be able to reevaluate --
24 Senator Murray: It's oftentimes the spouse that

1 recognizes PTSD or other --

2 Dr. Winter: Exactly.

3 Senator Murray: And I know you talked about some of the
4 programs you have for spouses -- they're great. But you need
5 professionals who are helping the families understand what to
6 look for, too. How are you doing with that?

7 Dr. Winter: And what we're trying to do there, ma'am, is
8 to first of all, help the spouses and the families recognize
9 the issues, and then ensuring that they understand how to get
10 help. And that includes a series of outreach activities, as
11 well as resources that they can draw upon, by phone, by
12 internet, and by visiting personnel -- whether they're at
13 fleet concentration areas, major bases, and operations, or out
14 on the economy. And so, we're trying to facilitate that
15 access so that they know where they can turn and understand
16 the resources that are available to them.

17 Senator Murray: General?

18 General Conway: If I could augment a very complete
19 answer just a little bit, I agree with you that we need
20 professionals and we need programs, but we can also help
21 ourselves, and we're endeavoring to do that.

22 First of all, you get at why a marine feels like there
23 may be some stigma associated with it, and quite frankly,
24 Sergeant Major and I, when we go and visit, and in

publications are saying, "You don't get PTSD unless you're a warrior. You have had experiences that, in some cases, no one else has had. So, you don't start out being weak or a wimp in this business, PTSD, to begin with."

Second, some of our most senior people are experiencing it. We have a couple of sergeants major, or master ~~guard~~ gunnery sergeants out there who are experiencing these kind of things, and it's just as true for them that we want to help you with this injury, because we consider it an injury, just as certainly as an external wound, we want to help you with this, and we want to get you through it, because you can recover.

We want to change the name, from "disorder" to something else. Because, it has, I think, a negative connotation with it.

And the last thing is -- you're right -- spouses sometimes recognize it even before the service member does, and sometimes the dialogue is, "Well, don't report it or they'll toss you out." Well, we're not doing that. We want to get people through it, and we want to keep them as productive members of our Corps, and --

Senator Murray: And you're giving that message to --

General Conway: Absolutely.

Senator Murray: -- all the way down?

General Conway: Absolutely.

1 Senator Murray: And what about the IAs, in particular?
2 Admiral Roughead: We have a screening process for our
3 IAs and not just our active force. I think the greatest
4 challenge we have are for IAs who are Reservists who come
5 back, and then go back into their communities. So, at the
6 operational support centers, we're paying particular attention
7 to that.
8 We also, in the Navy, have taken about 1,300 positions
9 that involve medical providers, chaplains and other
10 individuals, and have spent some additional time and resources
11 on them to make sure that they too are familiar with the types
12 of things that they must be aware of.
13 And similarly with the Marine Corps, the effort to de-
14 stigmatize the PTSD issue. And I do believe we're making some
15 good progress in this regard.
16 Senator Murray: So we have enough resources to hire the
17 mental health professionals that you need?
18 Dr. Winter: I think, ma'am, we have the resources, the
19 issue is in actually being able to hire.
20 Senator Murray: To fill them?
21 Dr. Winter: The availability of mental health
22 professionals, particularly psychologists and psychiatrists,
23 has been a challenge. We've done a little bit better with the
24 mental health nurses, we've done very well with social workers

1 that we've be able to use in certain, limited, mental health
2 capacities, but for psychologists and psychiatrists, this is a
3 national challenge.
4 Senator Murray: Okay.
5 Admiral Roughead: Mr. Secretary -- if I may.
6 Senator Murray: Absolutely.
7 Admiral Roughead: Senator, that's why the provisions
8 that you have provided us, in the form of the incentives and
9 the bonuses is so very important, particularly in the mental
10 area, so we thank you for that.
11 Senator Murray: Okay, well I can assure you that a
12 number of us on this subcommittee really want to continue to
13 work with you to get that message all the way down to the man
14 or woman at the bottom, but also to provide the services we
15 need. And certainly, I think, we do have to worry about the
16 capability of hiring enough professionals out there, and want
17 to continue to work with you on that.
18 Dr. Winter: Greatly appreciate the support, ma'am.
19 Senator Murray: Thank you.
20 To change the topic, a little bit, I wanted to ask you
21 about the military's ability to jam and use electronic warfare
22 in Iraq and Afghanistan -- certainly critical as we all know.
23 But historically, as we've seen threats decrease, our
24 electronic warfare capability has decreased, and we have not

1 invested in platforms and technologies and communities.

2 Can you give me a current assessment of where we are on

3 that?

4 Dr. Winter: Well, right now, ma'am, our principal

5 activity is the development of the Growler, which is the

6 replacement for the EA6B Prowler aircraft. The EA6B is being

7 used extensively in the theater right now. It is also the

8 only mechanism we have of prosecuting electronic attack at

9 this point in time.

10 It is being used extensively, and we are starting to get

11 concerned about the life-limiting features associated with it.

12 Our analyses suggest that we -- an 84-aircraft Growler

13 fleet is what we need to build to. We have requested funds

14 for 22 Growlers in this budget as part of that. That's in

15 addition to five Growlers that are pending from the

16 supplemental request from 2008. We believe that that is a

17 proper course toward providing satisfaction of the 84 aircraft

18 requirement.

19 I will note that that sizing of 84 aircraft presume that

20 the aircraft would also participate in the development of

21 additional electronic attack capabilities --

22 Senator Murray: Are you concerned that other agencies

23 aren't investing?

24 Dr. Winter: We will be looking at that, ma'am, as part

1 of the 2010 POM evaluation, and determining whether or not
2 we're still comfortable with that assumption, and if that
3 assumption is in need of revisitation, we will take a look at
4 the implications of that.
5 Senator Murray: Thank you.
6 I also want to ask you, as you know, Naval Station
7 Everett is one of the three west coast locations under
8 consideration as home port for the DDG-1000 that we talked
9 about earlier. My understanding is that three of these ships
10 will be stationed at a selected location -- and with all
11 respect to my chairman -- I think Naval Station Everett,
12 obviously, is an ideal location.
13 But can -- barring that -- can you give us a quick
14 assessment of where we are in the process and criteria that
15 will be used to develop that? Admiral?
16 Admiral Roughead: Senator, what we are doing is looking
17 at what the lay down of our force should be. When I came into
18 this position a few months ago, I wanted to have a very
19 thoughtful approach to where forces should be, my staff is
20 working on that, and I look forward to having that presented
21 to me, and then making the appropriate recommendations.
22 Senator Murray: Okay, we look forward to hearing that,
23 very much.
24 And finally, Mr. Chairman, if I could, I just wanted to

1 mention that the Navy is preparing a major overhaul of an
2 existing maintenance pier at Navel Base Kitsap in Bremerton,
3 I'm sure you're aware of it. It's $160 million project, and
4 very important to all of us -- there's no doubt that we all
5 know how critical it is.
6 But, I just was made aware of, recently, that there's
7 several concerns that have been raised at the local level
8 about the Navy's consultation with some of the impacted
9 parties, and I was hoping that you could just work with us
10 later, and make sure we're working with those local
11 constituencies.
12 Admiral Roughead: Yes, ma'am, we are, and --
13 Senator Murray: Are you aware of the problems?
14 Admiral Roughead: I'm aware of that, and the meetings
15 that we've been having -- I'm committed to continuing to
16 address the issues that have been put on the table. And as
17 you pointed out, it is very critical that it get resolved,
18 because of the availabilities that will be coming into the
19 shipyard and that will need that facility there.
20 Senator Murray: Okay. Thank you very much, I appreciate
21 that.
22 Senator Inouye: Thank you very much.
23 Admiral Roughead, the subcommittee wishes to congratulate
24 you and the men and women of your command for the very

1 successful interception of the failing NRO satellite, 2 weeks
2 ago.
3 However, I note that there are many aegis ships deployed
4 with long-range surveillance and tracking capabilities, but
5 very few equipped with the missile itself. When are you going
6 to have this transition from the Missile Defense Agency (MDA),
7 so you can take over?
8 Admiral Roughead: Thank you for the question, Senator.
9 I believe that what our, what we demonstrated three weeks
10 ago showed that our capability is one that is very valuable to
11 the Nation, even though we had to modify significant portions
12 of it, to be able to go after a satellite as opposed to
13 ballistic missiles.
14 But, over the years, as we have demonstrated at Barking
15 Sands, at the range in Hawaii, the success of our program, I
16 believe is a function of having some great capability that was
17 purchased without the intent of what we're using it for now.
18 But most importantly, it shows that our capability is in
19 the operational Navy. It has grown up in the operational
20 Navy, the tests that have been performed, the engagement of
21 the satellite were done by sailors, in their ships, using
22 systems that they use every day.
23 I believe that the investment that MDA makes in the Navy,
24 which is roughly 10 percent of their budget, is an investment

1 well spent. I also believe that it is an appropriate time to
2 consider the migration of what is referred to as the fielding
3 wedge for the capability, for that to migrate to the Navy, so
4 we can move forward quickly and robustly in maritime ballistic
5 missile defense.
6 Senator Inouye: So, you plan to equip the aegis vessels
7 with missiles?
8 Admiral Roughead: Yes, sir, I believe that we will have
9 to increase the inventory of missiles. As I look around the
10 world today, the proliferation and the sophistication of
11 ballistic missile development in many places in the world will
12 be important for us to ensure access, to protect our forces,
13 and also to support our partners and allies.
14 Additional Committee Questions
15 Senator Inouye: Mr. Secretary, I have a lot of questions
16 I'd like to submit to you and your colleagues for their
17 responses.
18 Senator Inouye: And Senator Cochran, do you have any
19 questions?
20 If not, I'd like to thank you, Mr. Secretary, Admiral
21 Roughead and General Conway for your testimony this morning
22 before the subcommittee. And we appreciate your continuing
23 service to our country.
24 [The following questions were not asked at the hearing,

1 but were submitted to the Department for response subsequent

2 to the hearing:]

3

4 **INSERT 63A FOLLOWS**

1 Subcommittee recess

2 Senator Inouye: This subcommittee will reconvene on
3 Wednesday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m., when we will receive
4 testimony on the fiscal year 2009 budget request from the
5 Department of the Air Force.

6 We will stand in recess.

7 [Whereupon, at 11:57 a.m., Wednesday, March 5, the
8 subcommittee was recessed, to reconvene at 10:30 a.m.,
9 Wednesday, March 12.]