

Statement of Ranking Member Donald Norcross (As Prepared)
Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces
FY 2024 Army Modernization Hearing
April 26, 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks also to our witnesses this afternoon. This subcommittee meeting on Army research, development, and acquisition programs is one of the most important hearings we hold each year. And this year is critically important, given the global challenges facing the United States and our allies compounded by American leadership of international support for Ukraine's war against Russian's invasion. So, this afternoon we have two big objectives:

- We first want to understand how the Army's budget request for fiscal year 2024 will satisfy their equipment modernization requirements for today and into the future.
- And second, we want to ensure that Congress and the American people have a clear picture of the Army's success over the last year in managing the organization, production, transportation, and delivery of billions of dollars' worth of material support for Ukraine.

Army investments and management of weapon system, equipment, and munitions industrial base risk must now find a way to satisfy the urgency of today's challenges and at the same prepare for the future.

In managing munitions industrial base risk, it was 4 years ago that this subcommittee noted with concern the unacceptable risk to capability, capacity, and safety in the nation's organic ammunition industrial base. We first pressed the Army to develop and deliver an industrial base master plan to ensure identification of the highest priority modernization and safety improvements for urgent implementation. Then, working closely with the Army in each of the last three years, found additional resources to accelerate modernization of facilities and improve safety. Thanks to the Army's willingness to work with this subcommittee, today we are better prepared to deal with the industrial base challenges from our support of Ukraine.

Our goal today is to better understand how Congress can continue to help the Army achieve its modernization objectives and at the same time provide support for Ukraine requirements. We must help you manage risk at acceptable levels between investment priorities, current and future capabilities, and industrial base stability. I look forward to your testimony and welcome your observations and suggestions regarding the challenges I've mentioned.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.