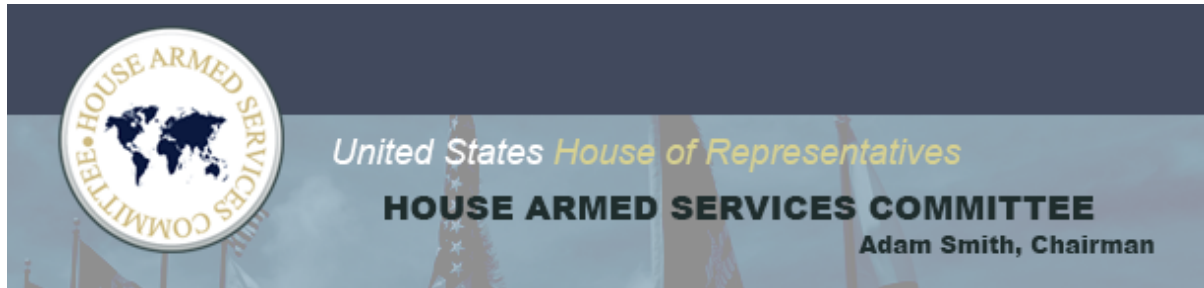


[View this email in your browser.](#)



Opening Statement (As Prepared) Chairman Donald Norcross

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces: "Fiscal Year 2023 Army Modernization Programs"

May 17, 2022

Click [here](#) to stream the hearing.

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to our third Subcommittee hearing reviewing the Department's fiscal year 2023 budget request.

First off, I'd like to thank our witnesses for being with us today and for the work done to put together this year's budget requests to Congress. The Committee is eager to hear details from today's witnesses on how the budget will satisfy the equipment modernization requirements of the Army, both today and in the future.

First and foremost, we are pleased to finally have a confirmed Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics who, by all accounts, is already helping to refocus and recalibrate Army modernization in a more stable, affordable, and achievable direction. Secretary Bush, we once again welcome you back to the Subcommittee and look forward to your testimony. We also welcome today – all the way from Austin, Texas – Lieutenant General Jim Richardson, Acting Commanding General of U.S. Army Futures Command, to the Subcommittee. General, I believe this is your first time testifying and we are very pleased you can be with us. And finally, we are pleased to welcome Lieutenant General Erik C. Peterson, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 and look forward to your testimony.

As Chairman Smith noted in his opening comments at last week's Army posture hearing, Army modernization must work toward stable, affordable, and achievable priorities. It seems that 31+4 is no longer the end-all, be-all for Army modernization and that it may be time to reinforce success and manage risk with programs that are not maturing or demonstrating their potential as hoped. More importantly perhaps, current events demonstrate that the nation will ask the Army to provide support and assist in ways that surprise everyone and ultimately strain an already fragile industrial base. Events in Ukraine have done just that: while Congress and the Army have been planning and preparing for the force of 2028, we suddenly find ourselves watching a full-scale conflict unfold in

Eastern Europe, the likes of which we haven't seen since the end of the Second World War. Modernization must now find a way to both satisfy the urgency of today's challenges and simultaneously prepare for the future. Our goal today is to better understand how Congress can help the Army achieve those objectives while offsetting "acceptable risk" between investment priorities, current and future capabilities, and industrial base stability.

Today we ask our witnesses to clearly state that, given the FY23 request and planned funding levels across the next five years, all their priority modernization programs are affordable and therefore achievable.

The distinguished Army leaders before the Subcommittee today are well qualified to explain their modernization plans. I look forward to your testimony and welcome your suggestions and observations regarding the challenges I've mentioned. Before we begin, I would like to turn to our Ranking Member from Missouri, Mrs. Hartzler, for any comments she may want to make.

###

Connect With Us on Social Media:



House Armed Services Committee Democrats

Rayburn House Office Building I Room 2216
Washington, D.C. 20515

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).