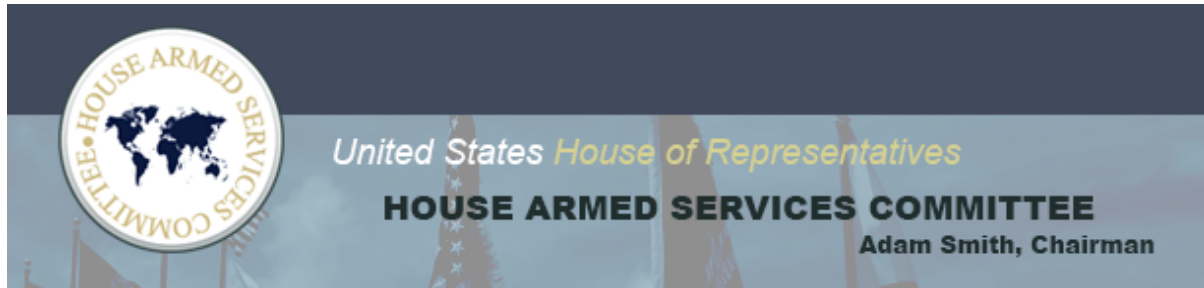


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## Opening Statement (As Prepared) Chairman Donald Norcross Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces Hearing: *"Fiscal Year 2023 Marine Corps Modernization Programs"* May 13, 2022

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

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Good morning everyone, and welcome to our second subcommittee hearing reviewing the Department's fiscal year 2023 budget request. . .

Today I'd like to welcome:

- **Mr. Frederick "Jay" Stefany**, Principal Civilian Deputy, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition (ASN/RDA);
- **Lieutenant General Mark R. Wise**, Deputy Commandant for Aviation (DCA); and
- **Lieutenant General Karsten S. Heckl**, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (CG MCCDC) and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I).

Thank you to each of you for joining us today, and I look forward to our discussion.

It is important that in this hearing we acknowledge the context of this year's Marine Corps modernization budget request. Three years ago, the Commandant of the Marine Corps embarked on a significant reorientation intended to better align the Marine Corps with the national security challenges posed by the realities of today and tomorrow's world.

Over these three years, Congress has found the Marine Corps modernization strategy generally relevant, stable, affordable, and achievable; and, accordingly, we have demonstrated our support.

However, modernization is not without challenges or risk. There are programs within and outside the jurisdiction of this subcommittee that merit continued scrutiny.

In today's hearing, we will specifically focus on rotary aviation and ground systems which --

across the Marine Corps' program -- appear in generally good shape.

We are particularly interested to hear our witnesses' assessments of the impact of the Department's equipment and munitions drawdowns in support of the conflict in Ukraine.

We also look forward to hearing their thoughts on modernization management and their use of new acquisition authorities intended to accelerate the research, development, and acquisition process.

Finally, we look forward to hearing updates on specific programs such as CH-53K, Amphibious Combat Vehicle, the tactical network, long-range anti-ship fires, and air defense.

We have much to cover this morning, so with that I'd like now to yield to my Tactical Air & Land oversight partner and good friend from Missouri, Mrs. Hartzler.

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