Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy
Questions as Prepared for Delivery
Full Committee Hearing on "The State of the Military"
House Armed Services Committee
February 7, 2017

Witnesses
General Daniel B. Allyn, USA
Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

Admiral William F. Moran, USN
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

General Stephen W. Wilson, USAF
Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force

General Glenn M. Walters, USMC
Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

Questions

Gentlemen, thank you for your service and for appearing today. I have two questions that I will ask in succession, and then give you the time you need to answer within my allotted five minutes.

Admiral Moran: In January 2016, the Navy released a document entitled "A Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority," which will guide the Navy's behavior and investments going forward. Execution of the design is built along four lines of effort: warfighting, learning faster, strengthening the Navy team, and building partnerships. Within the warfighting line of effort, the document notes the importance of developing concepts and capabilities to provide more options to national leaders, and testing and refining those concepts through focused war-gaming, modeling, and simulations.

I represent Florida's 7th District, which includes Naval Support Activity Orlando, which is home to a variety of government, private industry and academic organizations, many of which specialize in high-tech R&D, including modeling and simulation, and are known collectively as "Team Orlando."

Modeling and simulation helps ensure that our service members are being trained in the most realistic way possible, without risking the loss of life or an expensive piece of taxpayer-funded equipment.

Admiral, can you describe what investments the Navy will be making to support modeling and simulation in its Fiscal Year 2018 budget request and future budget requests? To the other witnesses, can you describe how modeling and simulation fits into your service's training regimen and readiness strategy?

Then a broader question: How do we ensure that the military services are acquiring state-of-the-art training equipment before that equipment becomes something less than state-of-the-art? Put another way, is there a mismatch between the times it takes to acquire this modeling and simulation technology and the rapid pace at which such technology is evolving?

My second line of questioning involves a recent article I read about an Associated Press examination into the effectiveness of a Department of Defense program, run out of U.S. Central Command, to counter the online propaganda of ISIL. The investigation raised questions about whether DoD employees and contractors are sufficiently skilled in Arabic and adequately knowledgeable about Islam to serve as an effective counterweight to online recruiters seeking to radicalize young men and women throughout the Arab and Muslim world. Given the importance of this effort, what can we do to improve it?