

Joe:

Now let me take just a couple of minutes to introduce the chairman and founder of MDAA, Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, Mr. Riki Ellison. Of which many of you know, but then again, there are a number of you that do not. His passion for missile defense began while he was attending the University of Southern California on a football scholarship. He was inspired by President Reagan's 1983 speech on SDI and by Dr. Edward Teller, the father of the hydrogen bomb, while Riki served as an intern with Lockheed Martin. As you doubtlessly know, Mr. Ellison played a little football, while doing so he began advocating for missile defense during off seasons of his 10-year NFL career. His first professional work began on the exoatmospheric re-entry interceptor eras in 1984, the nation's second successful missile intercept by use of kinetic energy.

Joe:

He won three Super Bowl championships with the San Francisco 49ers, while achieving All Rookie, All Madden and alternate All Pro Rushing before retiring in 1992. If you see a pattern here, it is that he is a winner. And that is what winning looks like, tastes like and feels like. He brings that passion and experience to missile defense.

Joe:

While visiting missile defense installations around the world. He spends time with the warfighters and recognizes their sacrifices, which he will speak to in a few minutes. He's highly sought after for his missile defense expertise, by the administration, about military leadership and members of Congress and policy makers. And ladies and gentlemen, let's please give a warm virtual welcome to our special guest for this morning's Space and Missile Defense Group meeting; the great American and a winner, a true winner, and a true champion, Riki Ellison. Riki, it's all yours.

Riki Ellison:

Yep. Thank you. Thanks Joe. It's an honor to be here. I know you've brought me in. Throughout those 19 years, you really are my relationship with Huntsville that started many years ago. Joe, I just want to thank you for hosting that Breakfast of Champions. We host a Breakfast of Champions every year at that conference and this year was very special because of the COVID19 and the unpredictability of what was going on. We made that event very, very special to everybody in the community and to SMDC and our warfighters. And I want to really thank you for that great opportunity to do that.

Riki Ellison:

Huntsville's always been very special. As we're looking at the history of missile defense, one of the projects we are working on right now, going all the way back to the early '50s where Von Braun brought this to the Army and the Army became somewhat dominant in the space exoatmospheric capabilities, in developing their Nike and Hercules aspects of it.

Riki Ellison:

And really your base being the center of the missile defense world for the United States. And there's nobody else like you that have done that. I was very fortunate to be hired by Julie Davidson in 1984 and work with Huntsville directly way back then, as we push forward on that era's program, that is one of the founding elements for our next generation NGI aspect of it. So it's an honor to continue this relationship and to help you as an entity, as a community and enable us to continue to grow this mission

and to be able to give the best tools to our warfighters that we possibly can, at the quickest time, we possibly can, to make this world stable. It is, as you can see, we're going to be tested and we'll go through my slide sheets on that.

Riki Ellison:

But it is so important that we get everybody. And again, it's a team play, like Bill Walsh would tell us, all of us have the job to get that football to the quarterback, no matter what that job is. Whether you're receptionist or whether you're on the field or off the field, you got to get that ball to the decision maker, to give them an opportunity to win with. So we've got to do that and we're going to do that. And I'd like to help all of you with really what my perspective is on what's going on here in Washington, D.C., where we're at on missile defense going in with a new President and new administration. But also, I'll be very receptive to your feelings and your gut and where you come from, from your perspective, so we can synergize and help each other make this thing where it needs to be.

Riki Ellison:

We got to have missile defense. There's no question. And it can't be singular. It can't be one service only. It can't be one country only anymore. Those days are done and we have to do cross domain. We have to do cross allies. We have to cross service. We have to go big and we will go big.

Riki Ellison:

So that's where I like to kick off on that. So Bob, I got to do this. It is painful, but I got to do this. Bob, can you put my slides on? Start with slide one, please. No, I don't think that's slide one. I know what slide one is. There's slide one. So Joe, winners associate with winners to win and usually have to wait until August to be humble with you on congratulations-

Joe:

You bet.

Riki Ellison:

... Alabama for that dominance.

Joe:

Absolutely.

Riki Ellison:

That's dominance. Nick Saban has done a great job. And a lot of credit to you during a COVID stricken season to find the way to win, but to be so dominant on that game. So I want to give a congratulations to everyone and they are the best team legitimately in the country. What a great organization. So, that's my hats off.

Joe:

Thank you, Riki.

Riki Ellison:

The Rolling Tide. Thanks a lot, Bob. Winners associate with winners. So I also want to congratulate you with this tremendous move that was made to put Space COCOM in Huntsville. And that too is indicative of where we need to go. That merge between space and missile defense is absolutely critical. For our ballistic and hypersonic intercepts, we are dependent, in fact on all of them, to some extent we are dependent on space. And housing, the Space COCOM with Jim Dickinson, the first four-star Army Air Defense General, in the history of the United States, the first Army General to command Space COCOM. The former SMDC Commander is housing right next to SMDC. You could not ask for a perfect match than that. That is solid. And we need to develop that aspect with those two organizations and build that unity in there.

Riki Ellison:

MDAA is housed there too, the industry's housed there too. So this is something you have to, from my perspective, build and solidify, and make those crosses directly with missile defense. I know SPACECOM's got other missions, but this one is critical to keeping this community growing and keeping the country and the world safer because of unity of force on this.

Riki Ellison:

So we will be fighting for that. We will be advocating for that mix between SMDC and SPACECOM, I think strategically it's already being done. So we're very excited about that. And congratulations, Joe, because I think obviously the community had a lot to do with this, to get that move over. I mentioned it before, the rational key thing was I think that the cost of living and when you look at an organization like this compared to cost of living in L.A., or in Colorado Springs, or in these other places where that affordability to get the best people in is not there. So, that's the rationale. There'll be politics. And we'll see how that fights out, but it's yours to lose.

Joe:

We got to keep fighting. We got to keep fighting. We got to keep fighting and we're going to win this. Absolutely.

Riki Ellison:

Right. That just sort of tell you where you got to go on this from. From our perspective, you got to really get that branding and that relationship with MDA, with SMDC and Space COCOM right there. I mean, just get that moving. Bob, next slide please.

Riki Ellison:

So briefly, I mean, this is what we've done in our career. We've had a stellar year this year as an organization. It's probably our greatest year we've ever had in the history of MDAA. And we've enhanced our ability to influence tremendously. We have the former Under Secretary of Defense on our board. We've done some things here that have stood out and led. We have the COCOMS working with us to get their narratives out correctly on the demand for missile defense. So we've done some pretty remarkable virtuals with the highest commanders, four stars, in moving, messaging a narrative and setting the narrative on this.

Riki Ellison:

Again, we can do things and we can say things that nobody else can do. Government can't do it. Contractors can't do it. The military can't do it. There's restrictions. So we're doing the very best we can to be a truth teller on this issue. And we are moving the ball aggressively. We accelerated during COVID. We did not sit back. We did not go along like a lot of people, we accelerated. And though we couldn't go out to the warfighters like we normally do, we also replaced that with virtual events doing it. Next slide, Bob.

Riki Ellison:

So it is, regardless of everything else, it's people first. And I think COVID-19 made it people first. It's more important than anything else is that single fact. And you've got to get the best people, you've got to recognize the best people. You got to recruit the best people. And you got to associate yourself with winners to win. To excel where you need to go. It is all about getting the best people around you. And you've got to recognize them. Not the machines, not the systems, that people that make this mission great and what it is today.

Riki Ellison:

So we are doing our part. These are the couple of things we're coming forward with. We've got our INDOPACOM. For the entire Indo-Pacific region, we're going to bring in the best missile defender from each of the services, including the new Space Force. Will be done, I think that's coming in April. We're doing the event in New Jersey for our Aegis team next month. And we are going to honor Michelle Evans, one of our greatest female, but on merit, engineers for that Aegis System. We're going to give her a memorial on that. It means a lot to everybody that we continue to do this. And we do this as a joint team. We do this with MDA, with the warfighters, with industry, recognizing everybody together. Joe, you know what we do. And if you've been to our Breakfast of Champions, that's a smaller version of what we do. Next slide, please.

Riki Ellison:

Our premier event of the year is held at the anniversary of the first Patriot intercept and we couldn't do it this year because of what took place with COVID. And certainly the stress the Capitol region was under during this past month. So we have moved this event and this is big for us because it is the single best missile defender from each service that we're recognizing and the war fighters are selecting, those not me. They are selecting those. And so we are going to host this on the anniversary of President Reagan's Free Defense Initiative, March 23rd. And we are looking at Vandenberg Air Force Base. And we're looking at the Reagan Library to do this. So I would encourage you to be part of this. It brings the community together. It brings jointness together for this critical mission. Next slide.

Riki Ellison:

So, as we talked about, we will continue to do these virtual round tables of bringing the best we can bring in, to help educate specifically on the requirements and the needs from the war fighter who's demanding those requirements. That's where this comes from. So we all have to listen to that. We all have to make do, and try to give them the very best tools they're asking for. They know the fight. We don't. They know the fight.

Riki Ellison:

So we are opening up avenues in space and COCOM regions, in different issues that need to be thought out and heard. And we will continue to do this thought provoking messaging that leads, sets the

narrative for these critical things that grow out our missile defense capabilities, that push the limits, that ask you to get better stuff quicker to those warfighters. You got to do this. This is what they want. And I know we are challenged by that. We are challenged by the bureaucracy. We are challenged by our culture, and we've got to start breaking out of that to move quicker and to be able to do things that the war fighters are requiring to do. Because they've got to deter first and to create stability first in these regions right now, which will be tested, which are being tested...

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:23:04]

Riki Ellison:

In these regions right now, which are being tested as we speak today. And we encourage your thoughts on some of those issues, too. With your ability to listen to these things, I would strongly encourage it, Joe. You know when we do these, that they're open to the public on that. Next slide, please.

Speaker 1:

We will get the word out on every announcement. Over.

Riki Ellison:

Thank you. So we welcome our new president and for me, as a former linebacker that's played with great quarterbacks, for me, it's about getting the ball to the quarterback. I don't control or really care about how they run the game plan, how they throw the ball, if they make touchdowns, or if they throw interceptions. My job is to keep giving them the ball and stopping the other people from scoring. That's all that is. This is going to be the eighth president that I've advocated missile defense with on doing it.

Riki Ellison:

And I'm excited about it because it's going to be a challenge. It's going to be a certainly different challenge and a great challenge than the previous president. So we know there's some history with the president, as the vice-president, in a different era in the world with missile defense. And an era where we were not a MDR, we were a BMDR. So the movement here is definite, but I'm also well aware that the briefings of his team have not put missile defense in the top priorities, from my understanding.

Riki Ellison:

So it's going to be a challenge, and I think we have to recognize that. I think you have to understand where we're going with that, but we're going to need our voices heard, and are to do it correctly on this.

Riki Ellison:

So I think there's some great ways that missile defense has not been used by the previous president that this president can use it for. And that's coalition for structure, ally participation in our AORs to do that, to share the burden, share the load, and to bring us in. And there's an opportunity really, to look back as we have a new service and say, what are the roles and responsibilities of missile defense?

Riki Ellison:

So there is some great opportunity here. We are seizing that. And we will continue to increase our voice wisely, strategically, to ensure the best we can to get the missile defense mission thriving. It has to be thriving. Next slide, please.

Riki Ellison:

We are very excited and very impressed with our new secretary of defense. We were out front a couple months ago when President Biden announced Lloyd Austin to be his secretary of defense. I think we all should be excited about that. And the reason, him being a war fighter in CENTCOM with the high demand he had of missile defense and the lack of it was paramount in his ability to stabilize that region. He is a fan of missile defense at that level, and he is qualified and he has been the vice of the Army. He has been an ability to see what the fore-structure is, understand the issues with it, and I think he's going to be a great, strong advocate for us.

Riki Ellison:

I would venture further to say that this administration will be State Department heavy, State Department driven over the Department of Defense. So I think we can see a little bit of that right now with the START Treaty going forward. And I think we have to be cognizant of that.

Riki Ellison:

I think we have to be also stay in our lanes. We're not part of the strategic offense here. We shouldn't be involved in the new START Treaty or arms treaties. That's not where we belong. We got to stay outside of that box and not get into that fight. That's going to be a tremendous fight here with think tanks and conservatives on that, on those types of treaties that may be inducted or may be reversed, or maybe stay forward. But that is not our concern. Next slide.

Riki Ellison:

And the reason why we are not that concerned is this group, this country is going to create the need for this administration. There's no doubt that North Korea will be launching ICBMs. You saw their new submarine-capable missile. So they have a big vote in missile defense. They have a huge vote in missile defense. They have a voice bigger than all of us in missile defense. They have a huge vote for the NGI.

Riki Ellison:

So I would expect that this group, this country is going to launch, test, and provoke President Biden. They know they're not going to get a one-on-one face-to-face that President Trump gave them. They know what they did when President Biden was the vice president under President Obama. So it's coming. So I think that is something that we all, in the back of our minds, know and we've got to get the NGI moving. I know it's moving. These contracts are coming up pretty quickly. And we're going to have to fight for it because it's a low-hanging fruit. It's a lot of money. It's a new program. So there'll be some people in groups out there trying to take it out. And that's critical for us. We have to have a multiple-kill vehicle on a GBI. We have to have that.

Riki Ellison:

We cannot afford single unitary third generation GBIs anymore. That's not good enough to defend our country. In 10 years, in five years, these guys are coming with new stuff, complex warheads, MIRV capability. We've got to play hard. So I'm going to tell you right off the bat, that's a fight. We got to win that fight. And that's going to start early, because CAPE and the whole group, we got to fight. That next slide.

Riki Ellison:

And we have them now popping up, basically for the same reason North Korea is. They see an opportunity now to negotiate, to redo their treaty. And we saw, and I wrote about it yesterday, they tested 715 missiles this week in an exercise directly showing the entire Arab world their ability to project force. I think was 715. That's real. And they shot one, I think, 1,500 kilometers in the Indian Ocean.

Riki Ellison:

This is a problem. And these are the same people that a year ago did a layered attack on our bases, against us, knowing it was us, targeting us, and targeting our sites that did not have missile defense capabilities around it, because we don't have enough missile defense. Another message for everybody here. And again, that's the chief of the US Air Force saying we want our bases defended. They're not defended. We don't have the capacity to do so. And when we don't have the capacity to do so, those guys were smart enough to target places where we don't have missile defense capability. And thank God for our missile defense warning, our intel, to be able to at least do a passive missile defense capability to move people away from it and bunker in to protect it.

Riki Ellison:

But Iran is showing its game, and it's not a ballistic-only game. It's a 360-missile defense game. And they know we don't have it. We don't have it. And we got to get on that. That's critical right now. But I think when you look at Iran, they're also positioning to try to break up the Israel partnership with UAE and [Qatar 00:34:12] in that whole Middle Eastern position. They are scared of that unity. And we have to build a new coalition for missile defense amongst both the GCC partners in Israel. I am not saying Israel missile defense systems. I'm saying Israel intel, to be able to create a combined layered interoperable allied capability, because we don't have the capacity to defend to get 750 missiles. We don't. So that's got to be done. And that's right up front. Again, these guys get a vote and that's going to be pushed. As you can see, they did that on purpose last week just for President Biden. Let's go to the next slide, please.

Riki Ellison:

We look at Russia, and Russia also is playing strong right now. I think there were some good things that came out of that phone call with the president and Putin, but they are pushing because they know where we're at. And I think this is an area where we need to re-engage our NATO partners to be able to work that integration. There are some good things here because Israel was moved out of EUCOM and so our US Air Defense in Europe, now it doesn't have to be two-hatted anymore. It was crazy. Those guys had to defend Europe and defend Israel at the same time. So thank goodness we made the choice to pull Israel and put them in CENTCOM where they belong, and let our missile defense be focused in Europe. And the base defenses are pretty paramount to the commander of Europe, to General Walters. And we've got to figure that out. And we've got to figure out how do we be interoperable with our NATO partners. A, in how to get the systems that currently are out there integrated as soon as possible and get full movement in there.

Riki Ellison:

I think this offers a lot of opportunity. I think President Biden's going to focus on Russia and Europe, because I think he's going to get a lot of wins from that focus. And so we want to make sure missile offense is part of that win for his focus and bringing the allies together. The thing that we struggle with the most is there's no huge integrated air missile defense exercise for everybody. There's not. There never has been, is that if you go back 20 years or whatever, but there hasn't been. We've done little spot

ones with a couple countries in different systems around Europe. We've got to mix it together. That's the force of it, to create that deterrent so that's there. Next slide.

Riki Ellison:

And this, ladies and gentlemen, is the threat to the Western World. There's no question, none at all. And we should never take the eye off the ball against these guys. And that's where we have to go for 360-layered missile defense. This is hypersonic defense. This is where we have to start breaking China, pushing the envelope to do it smarter than what they're doing offensively. This is the combination of space. This is the JADC2. This is artificial intelligence. This is getting the information ISR to our decision maker quicker than they can. It is getting that information globally, persistently, and be able to spit it out to the effectors. We can't do what we've been doing to compete with these guys. These guys have turned it up and I know this is basically an Air Force-Navy issue. And we've got to get the Army involved with it in some capacity. They got to get involved with this.

Riki Ellison:

So this is where I think everybody's on the same page. And I think we've got to continue to make sure that's not lost amongst priorities for North Korea, Iran and Russia. This is your grandchildren. This is what we have to defend our way of life against them. And that's for real.

Riki Ellison:

So when you have a great competitor, you're forced to be great. You're forced to be greater than that competitor. You should welcome that. You should welcome the challenges that they bring upon you, which we have, the hypersonic, with General Thurgood and Johnny Wolfe, that you guys are building there. That's where we're going. We've got to get to that level to play in that game and to be deterrent. Next slide please.

Riki Ellison:

And it's just the reality is missiles are being used everywhere and it's accelerating. So I think all this should be, we cannot accept no growth in missile defense. There's no way we can ever accept that. There are too many threats out there that continue to grow that we have to have solutions for. And I'm not saying it's all missile defense, because we got to have offensive strike, we got to have right of launch and left of launch, excuse me, to be able to attack this. But we got to have it all, because we're exposing our troops, our allies, to this kind of threat that is definitely growing. It's not going away. It's growing. Next slide.

Riki Ellison:

So I think we can see, from my perspective, these are critical programs we got to fight for right now. So the NGL, we've got our long-range radar that's getting installed up there. INDOPACOM looking at the Hawaii one on that. We got to get the space stuff up ladies and gentlemen. We have to have the ability to see hypersonics persistent globally.

Riki Ellison:

And so again, that's Space COCOM. That's where you're at, in Huntsville, to get that thing up. If you can't see it, you can't do anything about it. So I think that's number one. I think it's moving in the right direction. We've got our SM-3 Block IIA, which is again, a policy decision. We're going to see where that



goes. That's going to be a fight, because we just shot an ICBM off that thing. So that gives us a layer that we didn't have before that could be used. And that's going to be challenged.

Riki Ellison:

I'm sure the Russians are going to be saying, "Hey, no way. I want an elimination of the SM-3 Block IIA." I'm sure they're going to say that. So that's going to be a fight on this. And we've got to start this thing up, guys. We got to get hypersonic missile offense going. It's not going. Not enough money, not nearly enough money in there. That is got to go. We've got to turn it up. And I think you're going to see an arms race. You've seen an arms race with hypersonics, and they're going to try and treaty it, in arms control it in. But we've not been very successful with that. So I think we got to put some pressure to that. Those are kind of where I think the big programs are. We can talk about anything else. But next slide please.

Riki Ellison:

And then we already talked about this, but this is going to have to be partnershiped up better than we've ever done before. We're unable politically to get these countries together to work together. And that's a problem. So I think President Biden and State Department will be much better at bringing some of these countries together. And we've got some momentum already. We've already got a couple of them together. We got to continue that momentum on and bring them in to help us with that. And again, 360 missile offense here for the Army is huge. That's huge right there. Next slide.

Riki Ellison:

We've already talked about this. I've given you my perspective that we have to have an integrated large-scale exercise every two years to show the gaps, to create the interoperability with our most trusted allies over there, and to share some of the burden. That's got to be done. Next slide.

Riki Ellison:

I think here, this is the game changer. This is the peak. This is where the money is. This is where the major threat is. And this is where the solution will be. And that is the defensive of Guam. So that is heightened. There's nobody else new AOR that I think will drive the future of missile defense with the most power and the fastest than this AOR.

Riki Ellison:

All right, I've said a lot. Next slide. Because this is the truth. That is the truth. That's the truth on everything we do. Winning matters, and people first. That concludes my presentation. Next slide.

Riki Ellison:

And I am now willing to answer some of those questions that you may have on this, but I assure you, we are winning and we are creating...

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [00:46:04]

Riki Ellison:

We are winning, and we are creating winners to help up with this fight. I know, Joe, you need to be with us. I know you are with us, but it's a hell of a fight.

Joe:

It certainly is. I'll open it up for questions, but let me ask you what you think the pressures are going to be. You indicated throughout this briefing that we're in a fight. We're in a fight for the recognition of the importance of the fight we're engaged in in this new administration. What do you think the pressure's going to be on the budgets going forward? Where do we need to apply our efforts in that regard? As it pertains to ... Because what I'm seeing is the administration is not, at least currently, looking at missile defense, in terms of its priority, the necessity of it at all, and is looking more at, let's just say strategic systems and so on, to answer the call there.

Joe:

But what I'm getting at is that we're engaged in a fight for the future. In terms of defeating the threat. I understood in your perspective on the recognition of the importance of missile defense, and where we need to apply our efforts in terms of supporting budgets. I think there's certainly a pressure, there will be an extraordinary pressure on defense. It will be a bill payer if we're not careful, going forward. For General Austin, or excuse me, Secretary Austin, will come in on that regard as well. Your thoughts on that? On budgets, and going forward in missile defense?

Riki Ellison:

I think there's going to be a huge movement to reduce the Army budget and to move that funding over to the Air Force and Navy, and the Space Force. That's most likely going to happen. I think that this is a time to not duplicate missile defense acquisition across the services. That we now have to really assign and focus those systems that can do everything to the separate services to man training equip. I think that's where we have to go. That's a big lift. I think MDA stays the same, and we should preserve the developer for all of it. But again, the cruise missile defense, all those other things, They've got to be part of this decision making process. You're seeing the stress right now between the Air Force and the Army, they've got to have it.

Riki Ellison:

The Army's not going to ... With a reduced budget, they're not going to be able to answer the demand for the Air Force to do what they want to do. I think this is at a very high level. This is at a high level with Catherine Hicks, who's going to be the under. With Lloyd Austin, who's going to be very calculated, very powerful in that position. There's a lot of politics going on here. You've seen the Army driving the fact with the National Guard, how important they are. No one in the service can put 25,000 troops in Washington DC like that. You've got to be patient. I think it's going to happen. But I think they're going to try to readjust the right systems with the right services, to be more efficient with what they're doing.

Bob:

Any other questions, gentlemen?

Joe:

I know we touched on this a little bit earlier, when you were talking about the administration's view. But can you elaborate further on what Senator Biden and Senator Harris's position and advocacy for missile defense has been recently?

Riki Ellison:

Well I don't think, Bob, there hasn't been any statements recently from them. I was just giving you briefings from the transition team perspective. I have not seen an official position yet on that. A new president, and a new vice president, obviously we'll re-look at the strategic doctrine that we have, against [inaudible 00:51:05]. They have a vote on that, if they want to re-discuss that and re-open that up, they can do that. We have not, and we cannot comment on something that nobody's, they haven't made a mark yet. Let's be cognizant of that, and not say, "Hey, four years ago, you did this." Four years ago is four years ago. Let's stay real, stay on top of it, it'll happen. And we will go with it and the that is, on it. I'm looking forward to that. And to be honest with you, I don't think anything's going to come out until North Korea launches something.

Clay Davis:

Ricky, good morning, it's Clay Davis NRC Federal. With the focus on China that you articulated, and obviously the prodigality there, and trying to build in that layer of defense, then taking the defense of Guam into consideration, do you think that with the new administration, because the decision was made in the last administration to pull back from Aegis Ashore by the Japanese, do you think the Japan Aegis Ashore is dead fully? Or do you think that there may be a possibility that that might come back? Or are there other systems or other things that might wind up taking the place of that?

Riki Ellison:

There are two different issues here, Clay. One's the Japan issue, and one's the Guam issue. I want to stay on the Guam issue, I'll comment on the Japan issue. But today, with the SM-3 Block IIA Intercept, the only ability that's proven and in production and can do this the quickest, that puts something on land in Guam to release the THAAD battery, and to release the ship that's in picket, is Aegis Ashore. There's no question. That is the truth. The fact is, as a Navy, as you know, and I sent that out, just so you know, does not want to man that mission. He is right, that is not his mission. It is not the Navy's mission to do land-based. I think I wrote that piece, if you saw that piece, Invest to Divest, this has got to be transferred over to the Army, regardless. This has to be for it to function correctly.

Riki Ellison:

Bob, and the tow-in, there's tremendous politics here. But from a war-fighter position, not the politics, that is the quickest capability to put in there. If you're going to put that capability in there, that relieves a \$2.5 billion destroyer, and relieves a billion dollar battery, why would you not have all the agency's combat system with it? Which includes the anti-ship, which includes the anti-cruise SM-6. It includes a capability with a C2 system that's already cyber-proof, cross-domain, in use, that's on engage on remote to other ships and other things, why would you not do this?

Riki Ellison:

Then you put it on land, and like a ship, you have unlimited power, you have unlimited magazine loads. I get passionate about it, but this is a no-brainer. Because you can develop stuff. The stuff that they've developing is not even close to being ... If we want to do this, that's the quickest way to do it. Whether you segregate it or not, or whatever you do, and I think that's what they want, right? Great. We can have that next solution 5 years from now or 10 years from now, but that's not now. That's real. That SM-3 Block IIA test made that real. There's politics with that because that means the Russians are going to go all nuts on that, because of the two Aegis destroyer sites in Europe. They're going to fight that. Believe me, they're going to fight that.

Riki Ellison:

That's that problem. The other problem is the Japan problem. Which is they, again, the land forces don't have the political power as their ships, and they can get that faster with their ships. But it doesn't give them persistent capability. There was some other considerations. But if we're going to do the Guam thing, the Japan thing needs to be, I think, if the world watches what we do there, I think that's going to go everywhere. If you've got the solution today, we're leading the charge on this. Again, I don't know what the format's going to be. But I'm just giving you a perspective from that. From the Japanese perspective, they didn't want to put the cost there. They wanted to put the cost on the ships, because it creates more jobs, et cetera, all that. There is more to that than persistent overhead for a land-based system in Japan.

Riki Ellison:

But certainly if Guam goes, they're going to revisit, and a lot of people are going to revisit it. That's a current fight. As you know, there's no way the Army's going to want to take this.

Clay Davis:

Right, right. Thank you.

Joe:

Any other questions, gentlemen? Ricky, can you speak to Taiwan for a minute? Obviously Taiwan, they have patriot, that's my understanding, is the only air defense system that they have. Air missile defense system that they have. I happen to believe that they'll come into play earlier than Guam, from that standpoint. But I don't know what Taiwan's future is, and how it's going to manifest itself in terms of obviously in missile defense, there's limited ability, over. Can you comment?

Riki Ellison:

Yeah, I'll comment on that. That's another big position of how President Biden and this State Department reflect that arrangement. That is gray, between us and them, on supporting the defensive, then, on that. I think you're seeing China demonstrate. You saw the bomber aircraft strategic runs, you've seen the missile buildup, they can take Taiwan. There is concern that an opportunity, when the weather calms down in the spring, that they may try that. We're in a position where you can't put enough stuff there to stop that. You can't do that. That becomes an offensive deterrent capability. That is the courage of our government, to be putting our aircraft carriers, and putting our ships in those straights on a regular basis.

Riki Ellison:

To force them either to take on us, and to deter them that way. That's a big decision, that is going to be by President Biden on how he wants to play this. You can either not be aggressive and back off a little bit, or you stay the pace. And China, believe me, as you all know, the 5 year, 10 year, 20 year plan, one Silk Road, that they're going to take Taiwan at some point. Whether it's 50 years from now, or 20 years from now, just like they took Hong Kong. Everybody knows that. Look what happened to Hong Kong. Did anybody stand up for that? They'll take the criticism publicly. They don't care. I think that's a critical piece. And as you know, that's the island chain, the first island chain, on that.

Riki Ellison:

The thing about that, though, if they don't do anything about Taiwan, Japan will nuclearize, no question. Do you want a nuclear Japan in that region? Because we failed to defend or stand up on Taiwan? There's big politics here. Big strategy here. It's going to unfold. You bet China's going to test that, and our administration's going to have to respond to that. Does that answer your question?

Joe:

It certainly does. It certainly does. Obviously, at this point, aside from consideration of Iran and North Korea, I mean Russia and China are the existential threats to our planet, as it were. To our system of government.

Riki Ellison:

But you could either challenge those ...

Joe:

But I mean, that being said, we're going to align with one or the other, or we are ... There's some things in play here that we play, I mean that have to take place. Your comments on that, I appreciate it.

Riki Ellison:

Well I think you're exactly right. That's up to the President and the State Department on how they want to do this. Do they want to reset relations with China like they did with Russia? That's on the board. Because if you look at the bigger picture, it's by globalization. Our biggest money makers in the world are global markets. Do the globalists want to take on China? No. They want to reset the relationship so they can create more markets and make more money from China. China knows that. That pressure, and those guys certainly are supporters. They're both candidates. They have a lot of pressure to open up and reset relations with China. Economically, you've got to look at that. That president's going to have to weigh, our president's going to have to weigh that decision.

Riki Ellison:

Or do you stand strong up to them and go through their A2/AD areas? Because they're starting to build those things out, and continue to challenge them. And say, "If you want to fight, you're going to have to sink one of our ships, and it's a war." So don't fight. We're waiting for that. We'll see that. Because I don't think it's us, I think it's China that's going to make that ... They're already making those decisions. It's whether we're going to be reactive to that, or we're going to reset and try to be diplomatic and try to open up the good for the world global markets.

Riki Ellison:

Joe, I can't speak to that. I'm just giving you the options that are out there that are real. I think Russia's a little different. They're not as strong as a market. But they are politically desirable for Europe. I'm sure a Nobel Peace Prize is in the making, very quickly, if something comes to terms with a new start treaty deal, and relieving all of the Europeans on the threat from Russia and all that. That's another consideration that could happen. We've been down this path. But the lucky thing is that he's been down that path. So he also knows what the repercussions were, and knew that they got taken by the Russians on the previous reset.

Riki Ellison:

Again, this is a fresh start for him on this. This is big stuff, Joe. This is what we're working for. It's going to unfold. But those are the realities and how it affects us or doesn't affect us. But we still have to say and believe, which we do, that missile defense is a trump card of everything because it creates a stability for you, to allow you to have diplomatic negotiation. If you're going to be a diplomat, you want to negotiate all these deals, you'd better be able to stabilize the threat to you while you're doing this. I think it's a change of how we express that.

Bob:

You're muted, Joe.

Joe:

That has to be our strength going forward. That is our play, in terms of stability, or allowing us the time, or giving us the ability to stabilize and negotiate, and thereby deter these actions, while these things are going on. That has to be the strength of missile defense. I hope that's how we're ... Are you producing White Papers and the providing them to the administration and all? Obviously, hopefully, they're listening and paying attention to world events, as well as our positions going forward, your advocacy and your papers.

Riki Ellison:

Joe, I don't think white ...

Joe:

I know, I know, I know.

Riki Ellison:

It's like Kenny Rodgers, man. They're not as effective as they used to be. It's a different kind of music, you don't play it that way. Nobody's going to read a 20 page ... yeah. No, we are certainly, we have ability and relationships that we are pushing in there, buddy, at the highest levels.

Joe:

To your point, I mean, things are going to have to happen. And things are going to happen. They're not going to have to happen, they're going to happen to press the test, in terms of threat regimes. And tests, missile tests, and other adversarial actions that are going to test us. That will wake folks up, and we're going to need to be prepared to take action. Back to the budget issue though, as we all know, we've got three buckets, we've got force structure, we've got readiness, and we've got modernization. I just see that, I don't know if we're going to have the ... Given the economy, given what we're doing relative to COVID relief and all, there is going to be such, such pressure on budgets, to prioritize every nickel and every dollar on the defense budget overall.

Joe:

Down from that, I don't know which account's going to be paying for this. But I suspect that we might see some pressure on readiness, as well as force structure. Or modernization, certainly. But I don't know which account's going to get hit hardest, let me put it that way. But I know modernization accounts in this kind of environment, modernization accounts usually get hit the hardest. That means that development accounts, R&D, and new starts, and so forth, we've got to make sure that missile defense

is seen as inviolate, inviolate. You cannot and you should not eliminate those kind of options. Over. Your call.

Riki Ellison:

Joe you're right, the easiest fruit is the modernization and development, absolutely. For a four year term, that's the easiest thing to do. Kit knows that. With command and control, JADC2 and some of the bigger things, that's why I'm saying some of these programs that are just developing are going to be susceptible. We have to fight for that. But I think realignment on some of the things that we are duplicating amongst the services is a smarter thing to do, because I think we can be more efficient if we focus on giving one service certain things, and the other service certain things, and not mix it. We're mixing it right now. It's a wastage. I think you know that.

Riki Ellison:

It's not us to do it, at the highest level, it has to clear that a little bit, and you've got a brand-new service. Why wouldn't you leverage that brand-new service with its trained men equip? Why wouldn't that new service have the responsibility for the things it uses and its domain? Why wouldn't that service have sensors and interceptors that are used in its domain to man train [inaudible 01:08:21]? That's logical. Why would you not? I mean, these things have to be thought through.

Joe:

Really, there is overlap in the needs for particularly space assets by services. They want their control, they want their independence, they want some degree of autonomy. There's overlap. Basically as you know, the Army is the defense's ... We're the largest user of space, and there's some indigenous space assets and space capability that is going to be hard for the Army to give up.

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [01:09:04]

Joe:

That is going to be hard for the army to give up. Because just like anything, you've got to guarantee quality of service. And that's the fear factor, is the quality of service. When I want space assets over target, I can't always guarantee that the Air Force is going to provide it to me.

Riki Ellison:

Joe, the players are in place.

Joe:

Yeah.

Riki Ellison:

General Dickinson-

Joe:

I agree.

Riki Ellison:

... is head of Space COCOM. Space COCOM is in Huntsville next to SMDC. You don't think the COCOM commander wants control of all the stuff that he uses up there? [crosstalk 01:09:44] There's always going to be some gray, but fundamentally he should have all the sensors that are looking in the space around this country, around the world, but those should be under his command. Why would they not? And shooters that shoot things in space should be under his command. Why would they not? Tell me with that, if you disagree with it.

Joe:

No, I agree in principle, obviously like I say it's the quality of service argument, that always has been throughout history.

Riki Ellison:

The thing that I think that's the common denominator is MDA is the developer. We're not going to create a whole new development. I think that's going to be a challenge, to the space development agency. I think MDA remains the developer for each of the services for this mission set that it can handle it. Right now it can't handle Cruise Missile Defense. I'd love for MDA to be all end all, but I don't think that's going to happen. I think one of the services are going to do that, but that would be what we would best think of doing. But I think again, transferring some of this stuff out into Space COCOM or Space Force is the smart thing to do. I mean, we've got to think big Joe, you can't just think about 2022. You got to think about 2050. We've got a big fight. We've got to fight it with the right staff and with the right people and the right domains.

Joe:

Absolutely, absolutely agree. Gentlemen, any other questions? Any questions from anyone? We've got a little time here. Please pipe up. Come on. There's got to be. There's not a shy person among this group, so I know that you have some good questions. Go ahead and articulate them, please.

Speaker 2:

There was one in the chat, Joe. He checked that.

Joe:

Okay. There's one here that says, comments about MDA standing. It's charter being ping pong that is and status of hypersonic programs. So the charter as it pertains to MDA and hypersonic programs.

Riki Ellison:

Well, I'm concerned about that because I think Ellen Lord took some of their, as we all saw, right? It took some of that away from them, and they didn't fight back enough to get it, retain it. So that's going in a downward position right now on that. I think MDA has to perform to be able to make the argument, to give us back that power. So they have to get a couple more successes in place quickly for that to retain what they had before. But the big building doesn't like MDA with its special charter on that. And I think that pressures come from the war fighters who are saying, "Hey, we're not getting what we need and why aren't they under the other roles?" "They're under these new rules, but we're still not getting what we need.

Riki Ellison:



So I think that it's really now up to, to Admiral Hill and he's doing a good job. He's being more efficient, and the NGI is going to be a big thing on this, but those powers have been shrunken. You can't bring them back at this point until I think they show productivity and getting the right tools or fighter as quick as they can to readdress that aspect of it. As to hypersonic defense, it was completely from my perspective, completely ignored. I mean they put a shell amount of money in that aspect of it. I know the philosophy I think is to develop the space sensors first, before you do the interceptor. So their priority with limited funding, right? With limited funding on a budget is to what's the most important thing first, which is me, is the HBTSS, a wide view, narrow view, and get those commercial sets up all over the place before you start doing the shooter.

Riki Ellison:

As we all know how long it takes to develop and test the interceptor that's got to be funded. And I think that this is where the political optics are going to be, right? Are we going to fuel the arms race? Because you're going to hear a lot of think tanks and anti-nuke and arms race critics come chasing this. Why are we forcing an arms race around the world by creating hypersonic missile defense. So I think that's going to be a hard one. And I guess that's what we're built for Joe. That's going to be a fight, but I think for the best benefit of everybody, we've got to build a hypersonic defense. I mean they're building these offensive capabilities. And our peers are, not our peers, but our allies are doing it too. So for us not to do it puts us at a major disadvantage and China sees this. That's why they're crushing it on that.

Joe:

There's another question. It says one hasn't been answered is the political and rice bowl mentalities within the services and commands, to comment on that. I think you already have them.

Riki Ellison:

I think the services that are all established have ceilings. They all have ceilings. The only one that don't have a ceiling is Space Force. So those have ceilings. They're going to fight like hell for their primary programs. They're not going to missile offense is not a priority for any of them. I think but I would say...It is a part, but it's not their number one priority. I think you got to look at missile defense in each of these services for what it does for them. So for the army, you go back to General Patton and Bradley when they had those Cold Wars inside of Germany, that handle that [inaudible 01:16:19] with 40 brigades or battalions of air defense.

Riki Ellison:

The army has got to have an ability to defend this maneuvering force, hands down 360 mobile. If you, look at it, right? If you look strategically at it, that is their number one...There combat brigade team and their ability to put force anywhere in the world is number one. So protecting that ability to protect force and with what we've seen in the evolution of missile attack on that mobile force, you got to have that. So I'm just... [crosstalk 01:16:55]

Joe:

I mean, there's Navy is to protect the fleet.

Riki Ellison:

Joe they're ahead of everybody because they've had to keep their eye on China and they've got a full 360 layered missile defense capability on its ship that does that. So they're ahead of all the other services on this offense, and that's the truth, and that's why we're using some other stuff because they're ahead of everybody.

Joe:

Yeah.

Riki Ellison:

You can't argue with that, you cannot argue with a [inaudible 01:17:22] ship with its ability to go into space all the way down to small rockets to defend itself and its carrier group. They know how to do it. So if they are... They're advanced on it. And then you got the Air Force is command and control. They were assigned the mission, but they give to the army.

Joe:

Yeah. The clarification that this is getting back to the basing of the COCOM the headquarters US Space Command here. And that is, as it relates to the duplication of infrastructure, that would be necessary elsewhere. That was, that was one of the, the comments here, it would not be in the best interest of taxpayers to duplicate what we already have and that sort of thing. And the synergies that we spoke to during our discussion here. I'll agree, however politics is going to... Whatever politics is at play, will carry a lot of water in this going forward. So to Ricky's and my point, the fight, we have to continue the fight and to make absolute certain that the administration and those in leadership know that this was, and is the right decision.

Joe:

And continue that play, continue that fight for quite a number of years now. And as this unfolds, to make sure that this is not changed in some way, because like I said, it is a fight, we're in a fight, we're in a fight for that. And that it was the right decision and stay the course and hopefully General Austin they'll have... Well, my belief is that, that they do have bigger fish to fry, although that's a big fish the service secretaries and the defense secretary have larger issues at play rather than engaging in a political fight and use their political capital that they need for, for defending their budgets, use that appropriately rather than engaging in this basing decision. So this is... Although it's a big decision for us, it may not be for the Department of Defense. Over. Comments on that?

Riki Ellison:

Joe, we have to get in a different mindset than we were the last four years. And we're going to have to support good decisions and fight bad decisions. And we have to continue to get ahead of it a little bit, as much as we can to just get the right information out. That's a lot of my... It still astounds me when I talked to congressional staff on the Hill that they don't know this issue very well at all. And so they swing very easily with different agendas coming on them very easily. So that's something we fight, but I think we have to be... We got to be motivated and understand what could happen, and be with God, let this thing unfold a little bit to see what that direction is going to be.

Riki Ellison:

And I'm really hoping that missile defense is no longer a partisan issue. It hasn't been, and with this new administration coming in, keeping it that way, that's going to be a huge win. That was the 20 year fight. So that one to me, and I think we've done it, but I just want to see it, to believe it. Right? And I think we want to keep the pressure on the near peers, because that's what drives everything. Instead of just be a little North Korea, Iranian problem solver. That's not what we want to be. So I think we got to be consonant of that. And if in fact we're going to be a diplomatic reset strategy, we've got to push most of the offense for that stability reason, on that aspect of it. So that's what we have to wait out. And I think we...I just...There are a couple of things that we're doing there is just phenomenal. Nobody's has [inaudible 01:22:13] that's phenomenal. You understand how powerful that is a global around the world.

Riki Ellison:

I mean, so you have this, the capability anymore. So we, we didn't, we never had that. So that's a tool in the basket and brand new tool. And I think the NGI is remarkable because it can reduce the cost of the intercept tremendously, right? I mean, why would you not want that? Just on cost on that aspect of it. So but again, we can't look at missile offense, like we've been looking at, it's got to be fit in the big picture of full integration with our offensive, right and left of launch with space.

Riki Ellison:

And we've got to support the space growth, and we've got to fit into the space world, and we've got to transfer our missile defense stuff. That's in space to the right COCOM to handle that. And all the other COCOMS have got to trust space to be the integrator space should be the global integrated for missile defense. So, I mean, we haven't done any of this stuff.

Riki Ellison:

I'm just giving you where I think it needs to go. It should go that way. I think the Navy is going to be on their own. They know what they're doing. They're developed, they're successful, they're protecting the fleet. They're not protecting land. They're going to protect the fleet. And they'll be called back. If we don't have the capability on land, they'll be called back to do that. They don't want to do it, but they have no choice, but doing it, a fact does need to happen on that. And I think we've got to show how to defend an Island in the Pacific. How do we do that? We haven't gotten a solution, that's critical, and the Chinese know that. So we got to figure that out big time.

Joe:

Do our decision makers know that, do our lobby, do our members of Congress know this, and-

Riki Ellison:

Certainly Hawaii does, but I mean, they're the only Island out there.

Joe:

Right.

Riki Ellison:

Its my representation, but I think what I'm trying to say is that solution set should be the model for everything. I mean, we should be able to pull that and put that A2/AD in space and the A2/AD for qualm.

So if we prove that out, we can put that anywhere, CENTCOM, EUCOM whatever you want to do. That's from the war fighters perspective, I know there's politics and all sorts of other stuff.

Joe:

Right.

Riki Ellison:

But that to me and I...Where does army play in that? I mean, Army's developing, IBCS they are developing [inaudible 01:24:44] they are developing all these other stuff, but they got to get...I'm just... It's not here. Aegis is here.

Joe:

Good point. I think the best, you might say the best lobbyists are the Iran and North Korea. They're the best lobbyists that we can have for an argument on the Hill.

Riki Ellison:

Well, Joel, we got to be careful cause that will just go back to Ballistic Missile Defense Review with the China... [crosstalk 01:25:15] Don't go...We're bigger than we've already graduated from that level.

Joe:

Okay. [inaudible 01:25:21]

Riki Ellison:

Right?

Joe:

Right.

Riki Ellison:

We've got to stay big. You cannot let China off the hook. China is where the growth of missile defense is going to be in the long run.

Joe:

Yep. Yeah. Any other questions gentlemen? Or we close it out. Any other questions at all?

Larry:

So just one quick one. Now, Rik I really appreciate your time. Always very invaluable your insights. And I was a little late to the meeting. So please forgive me if you've already addressed this, just wave me off. I'll get it from Joe. But the Homeland Defense Radar for a Hawaii, that was going to take an out of MBA's budget, my understanding, but it was being revisited on the Hill that there were some, some political support for bringing that back. And any insights on that. It has there been any movement there?

Riki Ellison:

Sure. Again, the previous deputy NorQuest and that group and Mike Griffin took that out of the budget, the PDI, which is being funded, it looks like which is a great initiative, has re-included that or readdressed that aspect of it in there. Politically, you have a much different position with the voice of Hawaii being heard than you did before. Again, I haven't seen the stack of it yet. So that condition is obviously a little bit more favorable than it has been. So it's not a done deal. It's not... It's something. And they got to look at that aspect of it. I don't think it's the priority and the PDI, the PDI priority is qualm, and that will well will fall back. But certainly you want to talk about low-hanging fruit. If you got reduced budgets, that would probably be the lowest hanging fruit for MDA over NGI or any other programs. That's where, that's where it's going to be a political decision. It's not going to be a war fighter decision from my perspective.

Larry:

Thanks Sir.

Joe:

Any other questions, gentlemen? Good question Larry. Any other questions at all before we close it out? Ricky, I'll leave the last couple of minutes to you to put some final comments, if you wish, predictions on the super bowl would be in order. I don't know where your money is out in Vegas, but how many points you give me?

Riki Ellison:

Joe want to thank you for enabling me to educate. And I think it's really up to all of us on this call. You've heard what I've said. I mean, this is pretty high level strategy, and I would recommend and advocate for each of you to take what you heard today and put it in your own words and be able to move this a little bit as much as you can cause you're in the community, because there are some great concepts we're talking about here, and we need to be educated on what's going on first, before we can galvanize together. Because if we're not educated and we're going in different directions on some of these stuff, it never works. So I would encourage you to take what you heard today, put it in your thoughts and start talking to people about it, talking to your associates with you, talking to everybody about it, that's in this business.

Riki Ellison:

So we can start moving and getting momentum when we need to have it. You guys are in a great spot, but like Joe has said, and I've said, we're going to fight. So you have to get ready to fight. We're excited to do that on that. So it's important. You're critical. Your voices are important. And I would encourage you. I enjoyed talking to you because again, it helps me articulate, what's going on and on that, I'd encourage you guys to all... Joe will know when I start doing virtuals and when these engagements we will have with COCOMS and MDA and all that, you should, certainly partake in those things.

Riki Ellison:

As for the super bowl, its whoever, as I always said, whoever can stop, the other team. Obviously, Kansas city would be the team to win this thing hands down, because basically you don't have enough... Like us right now. You don't have enough defense to double cover the receiver. Their tight end and pass rush. You don't have enough capacity. They don't, so Tampa Bay doesn't have that. So there's no way I don't see any way. Unless Patrick Mahomes gets knocked out, unless there's some [inaudible 00:21:27]

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going on. I don't see this thing happened, but Kansas City to win their second back to back. Thank you so much for that.

Joe:

Ricky, thank you so much for joining us today. It's extremely insightful when we hear you, because you bring such a breadth, it's not a... You're not a one trick pony. Let me just put it that way at all. Such a breadth of coverage and of ideas and of insights that we sell them. I sell them. See, and I hope that those in leadership, across our services, as well as our political leaders recognize that, and take advantage of you because of the perspective that you bring. It's enlightening. So any other final comments, gentlemen, before we close out, we're going to have another [inaudible 00:22:18] working group meeting in February. I'm looking at the, the 25th at this point. So mark down on your calendars. I've got a special guest lined up, but I look forward to having our next working group meeting.

PART 4 OF 4 ENDS [01:31:29]