



FY26 Supplemental Written Statement

Gen Dan Caine

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, and distinguished members of this committee.

I'm honored to appear today before you, alongside Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Rollins, to testify on the Department of War Fiscal Year 2026 Supplemental funding request.

As always, I am deeply grateful for this committee's continued partnership and support for our common defense.

I'd like to begin by expressing my deep condolences and the condolences of the Joint Force to the families our three fallen warriors killed in Jordan and one in Iraq this past weekend.

Today we remember 1LT Tyler Feehan, SGT Michael Swinton, and PVT Isabella Gonzales. The Department will release the final name when we can.

I am humbled daily by the profound commitment of the incredible 2.8 million Americans, just like these Americans I've mentioned, who make up our Joint Force.

On behalf the Joint Force and the Joint Chiefs, I also want to express my condolences to the family of Senator Graham for their loss, and to all of you on the loss of your colleague and friend.

The Joint Force is grateful for his 44 years of service to the United States, both in and out of uniform. He made a difference in the safety and security of our nation.

On July 22, 1940, General George C. Marshall said, "For almost twenty years we had all of the time and almost none of the money; today we have all of the money and no time."

His words resonate powerfully with me today as we find ourselves in a similar situation.

I have come to you today to request the necessary funds while the window of opportunity—while time—is still on our side.

The United States faces a global list of military challenges: in the Middle East, in Europe, in the Pacific, both nuclear and non-nuclear challenges, and the continued threat of terrorism.

We find ourselves living and leading in complex and dynamic times...our adversaries are aligning in their interests, creating simultaneous challenges across multiple domains. They are sharing intelligence, combat capabilities, and technology...technology that is accelerating the speed of war...

It is imperative that Americans understand that the character of war is changing. Advances in technology are fundamentally and irreversibly changing the way we fight which necessitates the capital to properly arm America's military.

Rapid advancements in AI and autonomous systems deliver critical technological advantages to our national defense and simultaneously introduce unprecedented strategic vulnerabilities and uncertainty across the world, to include right here at home.

The low barrier to entry created by affordable, ubiquitous unmanned systems means our adversaries, rogue actors, and violent extremists have access to disruptive and potentially lethal technologies – at scale. We've seen this in Ukraine, and we must adopt elements of this fight to future fights.

Conflict is never confined neatly to the land, sea, and air domains. The modern battlefield stretches from the seabed to cislunar space, cyberspace, and the information domain – all at the same time. Our nation must be prepared to fight and win across all of them, all the time, and all at once.

In addition, the light speed at which information travels now has compressed our leaders' decision space, taking what was once days down to milliseconds.

Your Joint Force must be ready, because the United States military is America's greatest insurance policy.

I acknowledge one of the most difficult things is to pay for insurance before you need it. But you must have insurance before the storm comes.

The armed forces of the United States serve as our nation's ultimate safeguard and our insurance policy to preserve, protect, and defend our national interests, security, and prosperity. To uphold this responsibility, we require consistent and predictable funding.

This will allow us to partner effectively with our Defense and National Industrial Base, building on acquisition reforms to guarantee that our warfighters receive capabilities, at scale, before they are required for combat.

I'm struck by the season of American history that we find ourselves in.

And I keep asking myself... "If not now, then when? If not us, then who?"

I acknowledge the political friction and the environment right now, but... I am struck by the ever-present constant reminder that before anyone registered with one political party or another, we are all Americans first.

I have come today to ask for your help and your support. America's armed forces need \$1.5 trillion dollars to meet the military challenges of the future...this supplemental is a part of this... and to be allowed to use this capital for military personnel, operations and maintenance expenses, and to accelerate investments in critical technologies and munitions production so that we can deliver a safer, more prosperous United States of America.

This is critical to stay ahead of our adversaries...we must have the funds before we are out of time.

In closing, let us please keep our service members deployed globally in our thoughts as they execute the missions our country has assigned them. Especially our Army teammates who lost friends this weekend and all of our families of those deployed.

And I ask that we again never forget our fallen, and their families, who continue to show us what courage and commitment look like.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to your questions.