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AF senior leaders caution against sequestration

By: Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

The Air Force's top two leaders justified their service's funding proposal in the fiscal year 2016 President's Budget request to members of the Senate Appropriations Committee during an Air Force posture hearing Feb. 25, in Washington, D.C.

"Rather than living with sequestration levels, we are coming in with a budget figure for (fiscal) 16 which is substantially closer to what we need to run the Air Force," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "It represents the difference between the Air Force our combatant commanders need to get their jobs done around the world, and the one our nation expects, vice the type of an Air Force we will be forced to live with under sequestration – which means we cannot meet the (Defense Strategic Guidance)."

Even with this higher figure, the Air Force still faces some tough choices, the secretary explained. Those choices include base realignments and closures, retiring old aircraft and slowing compensation growth.

"We realize none of this is popular and it's all hard," James said. "But with sequestration the choices will be all the more dire. Sequestration threatens everything and I'm sure that we can do better."

With the savings seen in these areas, the Air Force can focus on

recapitalizing and modernizing its force, procuring new platforms to ensure the safety of America into the future; investing in critical mission infrastructure to get units back to 100 percent combat readiness; and focusing on programs to improve the quality of life and service for Airmen and their families – all while meeting the most important needs of the combatant commanders.

"Today, more than ever, we need a fully capable, fully ready force," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. "We just can't continue to cut force structure in order to pay the cost of readiness and modernization, or we will risk becoming too small to succeed."

He explained the purposeful underfunding of infrastructure that produces combat capability is no longer a viable option for the Air Force moving forward. The training ranges, exercises and simulators must be improved and invested in to maintain combat readiness for the future.

"Air Forces that fall behind the technology curve fail," he said. "Joint forces without the full breadth of air, space and cyber capabilities that modern airpower brings will lose."

Recapitalizing and modernizing today's Air Force is something both James and Welsh believe cannot be done under sequestration fund-

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Hollywood Shouts Out Support for U.S. Military at the Oscars

By: George A. Smith
AFN Broadcast Center, Riverside CA.

An hour before actors started the walk down the red carpet into the Oscars, hundreds of people ignored rain, chill and elbows to cheer, then chant for the U.S. military.

It was a result of the Oscar's Red Carpet announcer asking the crowd to "show some love" for the U.S. military. An American Forces Network (AFN) team on the red carpet recorded it all while waiting to record shout-outs from the stars to the American military serving overseas. "It was ear-splitting," said a member of the five-person AFN team, Major Rosy Poulos. "They started out with this loud roar, then they spontaneously started chanting 'U.S.A.—U.S.A.' It made me proud to be an American."

Producer Eric Gabriel felt the reaction was the crowd's loudest of the night, "It's why

we're here. It gives us a chance to serve as a bridge between stars and troops and let Hollywood know we have an American military audience overseas that appreciates the Oscars



and all the entertainment the stars provide. Steve Carrell said he had no idea AFN aired Stateside movies and entertainment overseas."

Gabriel also feels AFN's coverage helps the

U.S. entertainment industry. "By AFN being here and getting shout-outs from the stars to the troops, I think it helps contradict the misconception some have that Hollywood isn't connected and doesn't care for the U.S. military. It's also a chance to give our overseas military viewers a morale boost from some of their favorite celebrities."

"Hollywood is very supportive of the U.S. military," noted Poulos. One reason is many stars have family in the military. "Ethan Hawke has a Green Beret brother, Julianne Moore's father served in Europe and Reese Witherspoon has several relatives who served in the military."

In their interviews, Moore said she grew up watching AFN in Germany when she attended Frankfurt American High School

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Photo Perspective



Master Sgt. Michael Munyon, 65th Security Forces Squadron, watches a flag folding ceremony in honor of his retirement, Feb. 25, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Guido Melo)



Guido Melo is presented a pin and certificate for 30 years of dedication and service to the U.S. Air Force by Col. Martin Rothrock and CMSgt David Klink, Feb. 24, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1Lt Corey Fratini)

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while her father was serving with the 3rd Armored Division. Witherspoon said her parents were military and she has an uncle and an aunt who served.

While noting his brother's service, Hawke thanked U.S. military personnel for "the courage of your convictions." He commented on film making too, saying that he was sometimes asked if it was a risk for him to take a part in certain films. "The answer is no," Hawke said. "It's a risk to put your life on the line (like the U.S. military does) for

your beliefs."

Of course one movie nominated for Best Picture has a direct military tie: "American Sniper." The film tells the story of former Seal Kris Kyle. It was AFN's interview with Kyle's widow, Taya, that impacted Poulos the most that night. "This woman was at her first Oscars, dealing with the stress of her husband's death and a trial but she still found the strength and dignity to seek us out and offer support for the troops."

In all, more than 60 Hollywood stars, producers and directors gave messages of support to

the U.S. military, including Clint Eastwood, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Hudson Robert Duvall, Renee Russo, Scarlett Johansson, and Michael Keaton.

One reason why the AFN team got so many interviews is that stars and publicists saw the American military network reps were on the red carpet and they sought them out. Others walked over when they saw the team's military personnel, Poulos and Air Force SSgt Rob Harden, in uniform, working with cameraman Rock Grant and photographer Fabian Montgomery, as well as Gabriel.

Base Announcements

Eagle Eyes

GTC Payment Options

Expanded Influenza Vaccine Available

New housing website

All members PCS'ing from Lajes Field with Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)

TMO Information

Civilian Personnel Newsletter

Non-command sponsored dependents memorandum

BAH Revalidation Required for All Airmen

65th Medical Group Closed for Training 2nd Tuesday of Each Month

JA Tax Center Opens

Dental Clinic Closed March 6

Protestant Service combined into one service at 1100

[Click to read for more Base Announcements](#)

Community Events

Wing Promotion Ceremony February 27

Wing Training Day March 10

S/UM Dinner March 16

Women's History Month Luncheon March 19

[Click to read for more Community Events](#)

Island Events

Praia Theater

March 13&14, 9 p.m. - Fifty Shades of Grey (rated R)

March 15, 6 p.m. -- Fifty Shades of Grey (rated R)

March 20 & 21, 9 p.m. - The Wedding Ringer (rated R)

March 21, 6 p.m. - The Spongebob Movie: Out of Water (rated PG)

March 22, 3 p.m. -- The Spongebob Movie: Out of Water (rated PG)

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Commander's Action Line

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