

TRANSCRIPT

The Save America's Military Coalition
Senate Video Telethon 2.0:
**Supporting Pete Hegseth,
Opposing Cultural Marxism in the Services**

Thursday, Jan 2, 2025

<https://saveamericasmilitary.org/sam/senate-video-telethon-2-0-supporting-pete-hegseth-opposing-cultural-marxism-in-the-services/>

Media file: SAM_Telethon_2.mp4

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

[00:00:05] **Dede Laugesen:** Hello, everyone. Thanks for joining us today. I'm Dede Laugesen, program producer for Save America's Military. Thanks to all of those joining us today, especially our weekly subscribers to the Committee on the Present Danger, China's China Threat Webinar series. For those who are subscribed, we will also have a standard CPDC webinar tomorrow, Friday, January [00:00:30] 3rd, on the topic of China's military buildup at 1 p.m. Eastern. Please check PresentDangerChina.org for information on that program. This is a special program. You can find more information on the Save America military coalition website, and sign up for updates at SaveAmericasMilitary.com. Our moderator today is Frank Gaffney. Frank is President of the Institute for the American Future, [00:01:00] founder of Save America's Military Coalition and vice chair for the Committee on the Present Danger: China.

[00:01:07] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you very much, Dede, and thank you to all of you for joining this very special program, the second of two that we have done as the Save America's Military coalition with a similar purpose, namely, impressing upon members of the United States Senate [00:01:30] the serious problems that have been inflicted upon America's military by, as we'll discuss in the course of this program, assorted, well, cultural Marxists, other radicals, political appointees, elected officials, and not a few senior officers [00:02:00] in the form of critical race theory and diversity, equity and inclusion, and other ideological agenda items of people who hate this country and most

especially, seek to take it down. And obviously, it is important if you wish to take down a country like the United States, [00:02:30] that you cause as much disarray, as much disorder, as much dysfunction in her armed forces as possible. We did the first of these two to date as a Senate video telethon back in September of 2023. The object at the time was as a whole, slew of [00:03:00] military officers were being promoted by the Biden administration, many of them having these characteristics that the Senate needed to do the job. It was given by the framers of our Constitution, namely, to serve as quality control officers, to make sure that people who were clearly unfit were not promoted, and that hopefully, as a result, the military would be spared some of the calculated [00:03:30] problems that have in fact been its fate of late.

[00:03:35] **Frank Gaffney:** Today's program is, we're happy to report, a different kind of conversation with the United States Senate. We hope a conversation in which we talk about the steps that are now in prospect to fix the problems that we discussed in the first go around, specifically to [00:04:00] ensure that the United States Defense Department has the kind of leadership that is required to take these corrective actions, and not least that military personnel who are unfit to be part of that very, very much needed, long overdue and in fact, essential course correction in our military are no longer in a position to obstruct [00:04:30] a return to what we call make America's military great again. We're going to talk with a number of people. I just want to take one moment to clarify something. Dede said, I am the president of a new organization and proud to say she is the chief of staff of it. It's called the Institute for the American Future. [00:05:00] You can learn more about it at [US future.org](https://usfuture.org). Its purpose is to help coalitions like the Save America's military coalition to have maximum impact in affecting ideally, and we're very hopeful after the 20th of January, especially, to be able to do so with people inside the United States government seeking to make the sorts of changes that are needed in this [00:05:30] case, for the purposes that I've just mentioned with respect to making America's military great again.

[00:05:35] **Frank Gaffney:** So we're very proud to have that institution online and in the fight, and we look forward to talking more about that in the days to come. But for the moment, we're going to talk about the mission at hand, and I can't think of a better person to lead this conversation than a man who has served himself at the very highest ranks of the United States Air Force, [00:06:00] as well as in joint positions in the course of his long and distinguished career. His name is Lieutenant General Rod Bishop, and

he has in his post-military life served a very important purpose, particularly over the past five years or so as the chairman, the founding chairman of a wonderful organization called Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism [00:06:30] in the services. Better known by its acronym STARRS, he is one of several folks who are part of that extraordinarily important team that we'll be hearing from in the course of the program, but we're asked. General Bishop in a prerecorded video to set the stage for the work at hand, and we're very delighted to have him here to do so. Let's go to the Bishop video now.

[00:06:58] **Rod Bishop:** And just refer your viewers and [00:07:00] listeners to our website. STARRS with two Rs, STARRS.us. There they will find over 2000 different accounts of people just telling us how divisive this ideology it is. Instead, I'd like to concentrate on just three simple things about what used to be known as critical race theory. Got a bad rap now known as diversity, equity and inclusion. Nicer sounding words. And those three things simply are number one, it's rooted in Marxism. You know, when I [00:07:30] tell people that, they just shrug their shoulders sometimes and shake their head, eyes roll and I say, okay, well, if it didn't come from Herbert Marcuse and his fellow Marxists who set up the Marxist school, name changed later to the Frankfurt School at Frankfurt, Germany, and brought that over to Columbia University of all places. Escaping Nazi Germany. And where did it come from? Nobody's ever suggested a different origin. And isn't it ironic when you stop and think that [00:08:00] we as America, spent almost a thousand 100,000 lives fighting this ideology in Korea and Vietnam alone, and spent trillions of our national treasury, and here we are letting it right in the front door. It's just crazy. It is very definitely a domestic enemy that every officer takes an oath to swear and support the Constitution, support and defend the Constitution against. Number two the intent is to divide [00:08:30] and it does so just by splitting people up into little identity groups, mostly on race, sometimes on gender and religion.

[00:08:38] **Rod Bishop:** Identity politics on steroids. When Air Force Academy cadet called me, called it to me. And number three, as an instrument of division. It's working. Consider if it wasn't being divisive, then why would the corporate world Toyota, Ford, Tractor Supply, Jack Daniels, Coors, Harley-Davidson, John Deere, [00:09:00] Walmart and Boeing all have walked away or scrapped their Dei programs. Recently. 28 states as well have joined in the fray, so to speak, and have either passed legislation or have

legislation pending severely curtailing their Dei programs. And tens of universities consider this from the New York Times. Of all sources, the old Gray Lady reports that the University of Michigan's uber-woke program, [00:09:30] the largest DEI bureaucracy of any public university, has not only helped build a culture of grievance, but that has boosted racial tension and deepened division. It has made the entire campus miserable. Need we say more? So where are we? The incoming administration is telling us that, you know, the military is going to be next up for this cleansing. And I can tell you that the star's leadership can suggest [00:10:00] and recommend no one better than Pete Hegseth to take on that mission. He is a warrior himself. He's deployed guarding the terrorists in Guantanamo Bay, fighting the terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[00:10:14] **Rod Bishop:** And he has such a deep understanding about this. He's written two books battle for the American Mind and The War on Warriors and the STARRS is just so proud of Pete, the work he's done and, in this world, and this, this arena.

[00:10:30] And we're also proud to have been associated with him for the last several years, sharing with him some of the just horrible examples and stories that people serving have shared with us that made the War on warrior is such a powerful book. So just as die plunged the knife into the heart and soul of what should be or what is behind the success of every military operation, and that's unity and cohesiveness. Now let's take that knife, cut [00:11:00] out the cancer, and return our military to what it's supposed to be all about. So if we as a nation want to see retention and recruiting disappear, those challenges disappear. Strongly. Star strongly recommends that the United States Senate confirmed Pete as our next secretary of defense. He's the warrior. And we'll watch him return our military to the merit based organization [00:11:30] that it is focused on unity and not divisiveness, focused on readiness and its mission of fighting our nation's wars. Not participating in the social justice wars that have swept our nation.

[00:11:42] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you. General. I should have said just a word of personnel that we've assembled for the purpose of laying out the case for the Senate to confirm Pete Hegseth as the next secretary of defense, and to support the kinds of policies that he and President Trump will [00:12:00] be pursuing to, again, make the American military great again to right the ship, if you will. These are national security professionals, many of them warriors, veterans like General Bishop and our next presenter. Others are simply patriots who have worked hard to try to support the military

and the families of those who serve, who sacrificed tremendously, [00:12:30] as do those in uniform. I couldn't be more proud of the group that has come together, and we're thankful to them for their participation. And even though their remarks are very brief, there's a lot more where that came from. And we will invite you to stay in touch with us at Save America's military.org for more about their views and the purpose that we are here to serve. We're going to hear next, as I mentioned from a warrior. His name is Robert Muse. He served for some 13 [00:13:00] years in the Marine Corps, first as an infantry officer and then as a judge advocate. He is an attorney, of course, and has been a co-founder with our colleague David Yerushalmi, of a wonderful public interest law firm specializing in protecting our freedoms. Named the American Freedom Law Center, the American Freedom Law Center has been intimately involved in trying [00:13:30] to help American servicemen and women who have been subjected in the course of the Covid pandemic to particularly outrageous treatment, in some cases, various punishments, in other cases separation unwilling and indeed sometimes dishonorable separation from the military. We couldn't be more pleased to have Rob muse here to tell us a little bit about this example of what is broken in today's military, [00:14:00] and what now needs to be fixed by Pete Hegseth and the incoming Trump team. Rob, welcome over to you, sir.

[00:14:08] **Rob Muise:** Thank you. You know, we were we have been and still are intimately involved in challenging this this Covid vaccine mandate. You know, the service members we represented throughout all this. And right now we still have a case on a that's it's working its way through the courts. On behalf of four Navy Seals, the service members recognize what this Covid mandate was, and it was to see who would bend [00:14:30] their knee to, you know, to these types of these types of policies. And we represent for Navy Seals who certainly would not do so. And when you think about this, this Covid vaccine mandate, right. Navy Seals are probably the most fit men in all the world. And in fact, even the four seals we represented had Covid. So they had natural immunity. But yet still the government was forcing them and they sidelined them. These men were taking off the front lines. Some of them are in Seal team six. We [00:15:00] had to file a motion for them to appear pseudonymously, meaning not by their real names, but just by Navy Seal one two, three, four because of the important work they do and we, the me, the American military, the Department of Defense sidelined these warriors who were who were, you know, trained, trained to perform the missions of the for the United States of America. They sidelined these men because

they wouldn't take a Covid vaccine and they had a military exemption [00:15:30] requests. And there's a federal law called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that prohibits the government from enforcing somebody to violate their religious beliefs unless the government has a compelling interest to do so.

[00:15:43] **Rob Muise:** And so we actually filed it. And it's kind of interesting how this is working itself out. We filed a an injunction against the government so they wouldn't be able to get back into service and not be sidelined because of this vaccine. It was denied by our district court judge in Washington, D.C., who claimed that, well, this is really for the military's judgment, not for the [00:16:00] judgment of the court. But yet this same judge in 2017 struck down a restriction that the Trump administration put in place on having transgendered in the military. So, so much for military judgment when it doesn't fit that ideology of that particular of that particular judge. Should we appeal to the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit? And during the pendency of that appeal, the government rescinded that mandate as part of an appropriations bill in December of 2022, which, if anything, that goes to show you the government didn't [00:16:30] have a compelling interest in having to force this mandate on them. So when this came back down to the district court, she immediately said, oh, this case is moot now because the mandate has been rescinded. But one of the things that we did in our lawsuit, and this is an important under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, that federal law, the Supreme Court had said in 2020 that you can bring damage claims for this. So we brought damage claims against Admiral Gilday, the chief naval operations officer, the CNO, who was the one that was actually responsible for either granting or denying these religious exemptions. [00:17:00]

[00:17:00] **Rob Muise:** And, of course, he denied all of them, particularly those with the Navy Seals. And so this case is proceeding. And the point here is that, you know, we need to hold these military commanders who are making these types of decisions that are undermining the vitality of our military. We need to hold them responsible. And we're seeking to do that in this lawsuit. You know, they wanted this to go away. Oh, we rescind the mandate and let's just move on. But no, we're going forward and we're going after damages against Admiral Gilday and his official [00:17:30] capacity. And I know from all that I've seen and heard and read about Pete Hegseth, is that he is going to hold people accountable. And that's the one thing with the Trump administration that I really appreciate is that he does hold people accountable. Right. Where was the

accountability after that Afghanistan withdrawal debacle? Right. And I know that this new administration coming in and under the leadership of Pete Hegseth, they will hold people responsible. And I know the American Freedom Law Center, with our litigation, the work we do. We're [00:18:00] also ensure that our military commanders and all our government officials will be held accountable. If I'm so delighted with the with this new administration, with the selection of Pete Hegseth, because I think that's something that he will do on day one, is hold people accountable for their actions.

[00:18:17] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you very much. We appreciate your service. And thank you for reading us in on this important suit and your defense of our men and women in uniform. We're going to turn next to another veteran, a warrior. [00:18:30] They call him a mustang. Having joined the US Air Force as an enlisted man working on one of the most hazardous lines of duty explosive ordnance disposal. Worked his way up through the ranks to full colonel. His name is Colonel Rob Maness, United States Air Force. Retired. Among the various positions he had as an officer was the commander of a B-1 bomber squadron. The vice commander of [00:19:00] the largest airborne intelligence wing, and most recently, at his retirement, the commander of the sixth largest facility in the United States military, Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. It's great to have you with us, Rob. He is also the host, by the way, of the Rob Maness Show, and I commend it to you. Let's hear from you next if we can, sir.

[00:19:24] **Rob Maness:** Thank you. Frank. And I want to thank the Save our America's military coalition for [00:19:30] having me. And it's an honor to be among these esteemed professionals and lovers of the United States of America and our military. You know, yesterday's events do a lot of things, but mostly they highlight what's known as the Red Green Alliance. And General Bishop talked about the Marxist bent on the dye that is infected our entire United States armed forces and our Department of Defense [00:20:00] and many of our other institutions in the US government, and all the way down to preschool. In many cases here in the civilian institutions in America and the Red green Alliance is the alliance between Marxism and jihadism. And when we see continual use of American soldiers and members of the military that have been able to become indoctrinated in both Marxism and then turn towards [00:20:30] jihadism and actually act on it. And we've seen this several times. We should be very concerned. And that's why it's I just want to give a call out to the United States Senate that the quickness of the confirmation of Pete Hegseth is paramount at this point. It was

important already because of the situation with Di. But it is paramount now because we have to get this man in [00:21:00] office so that his deputies and his assistant secretaries can get in place and get this department cleaned out from this vast infection that, as you can see, goes all the way down to the lowest enlisted ranks.

[00:21:16] **Rob Maness:** And this Marxist indoctrination when combined with jihadism is not only dangerous internally, but as we saw from yesterday's events, it's extremely dangerous to our society. We haven't [00:21:30] seen that kind of activity from the extremists that Lloyd Austin was looking for or started looking for in 2021, and turned our entire policy internally into, in DoD towards looking for extremists that don't act on these indoctrinated messages and away from looking for folks that are insiders that could do damage not only to our military installations, but, as you can see, [00:22:00] conduct massive, massive terrorist attacks that could result in the loss of life like we saw in New Orleans, where we're up to 15 fatalities at this point and over 35 wounded from that one attack. And we're just very fortunate that the incident that I think is a terrorist attack out in Las Vegas with the Cybertruck at Trump Tower didn't cause more injury and death than it already [00:22:30] has. There's a lot of things that still need to be found out about those, but this is a continuous use of American soldiers and military personnel to conduct these types of terrorist attacks. It goes all the way back when you look at the opening night of Iraqi freedom a jihadist Army sergeant killed one of my good friends is one of the first two men that died in Iraqi freedom that night.

[00:22:56] **Rob Maness:** In the early hours, when you look at the Fort Hood assassin, [00:23:00] jihadi assassin who was an army officer and in the medical field when you look at yesterday in New Orleans in the early hours of 2025 another US Army soldier and then the attack with the Cybertruck that came a few hours later. For goodness sake, it may even be true that this man is a Special Operations Forces soldier on active duty, and that will be a first, as far as I'm aware. Or [00:23:30] a special operations soldier in any of the special operations field has succumbed to this type of indoctrination and this type of turn away from what we stand for in the United States of America of, you know, liberty and freedom and towards this tyranny of Marxism and jihadism combined together. So it's extremely important that the US Senate get Mr. Hegseth appointed or confirmed as quickly as possible so [00:24:00] that his team can get in place rapidly and dive down deep into this issue and eradicate all of these individuals from the United States armed forces before an even worse attack happens. And believe

me, as you know, Frank, I believe that more are coming when it comes to this type of activity. Thank you very much.

[00:24:22] **Frank Gaffney:** Yes, Colonel Maness, we had an extraordinarily interesting conversation about all this with those at Am Fest a [00:24:30] couple of weekends ago. The chaos that may be in store for us makes all the more important getting this Trump team and Pete Hegseth in place as quickly as possible. Speaking of special forces, the first enlisted member of the special forces to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor is with us. He's another Mustang. His name is Major Drew Dix, a United States Army, retired. He has had a number of [00:25:00] important positions throughout his military career. And now in post-military life, he is the president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. We are very grateful to him for finding some time to speak about the Hegseth nomination and what's needed to. Well, as I said, right. The ship in our military. Major. Thank you. And we are so appreciative of your extraordinary service to our country, sir.

[00:25:25] **Drew Dix:** I'm really proud to be here and sit alongside of all the brilliant [00:25:30] individuals that bring their experience to trying to right this ship. Now I look at myself as being more of in the trenches. And seeing how it was years ago and how it's gradually changed. I, I think we need to first of all, get back and realize that the mission of the Department of Defense is a very simple mission. It's [00:26:00] to defend this country with the men and women that we have available to do that work. We have to use the greatest amount of resources to do that. We have to have the strongest, most capable people to be called warriors. We just can't have someone say they're a warrior because they raise their right hand and demand to be a part of it. You know, when I look back at the times [00:26:30] when I led a combat company rifle company in Vietnam, the average age was just under 19. We were diverse, but that's because we drafted people from the farms and ranches, welders, construction people that had skills. We didn't create a diversity that had some false sense of making ourselves more lethal. What was really discouraging [00:27:00] recently, and I've been involved in the military right up until just a couple of years ago.

[00:27:06] **Drew Dix:** So I'm not just talking about how it was 30, 40 years ago. I've seen a gradual degradation and the ethos of the warrior. We're getting where we're over supervised by this vast number of colonels and generals and flag officers that are

making [00:27:30] without the with the lack of leadership, they're coming up with weird ideas. What gives a purpose to the military? And that's this dangerous diversity die that we've come across? I mean, where do you think that it's important to have a coed fighting vessel, a submarine? What does that do for anybody? What is the cost of that in lethality or in just the cost of development? [00:28:00] Where do all those females that are expecting to go to that ship and the ship is lost in a war. Where do they go? Do they have to hot bunk it in another submarine? We got to face the facts, and I think Pete Hegseth is one of those that can do it. He's going to have a struggle because there's a vast number of retired flag officers in positions of responsibility in the DoD industrial complex that you [00:28:30] would think have the integrity and or believable. And I just had a conversation with a very respected general officer that I respected, and I asked him a simple question about what he thought of Dei.

[00:28:44] **Drew Dix:** This was in an email, and it took 2 or 3 days for him to answer me, which was unusual three pages of justification. Why some of these individuals are making the military better. [00:29:00] That tells you right there that we got a big problem. Pete Headsets is a guy that's going to see through this. And I just hope and I pray that he's able to see through the challenges that's going to be faced. He's going to be faced with what military would prescribe hormone changing drugs to reduce [00:29:30] muscle mass and strength. Can you imagine that? It ought to be the other way around. So I'm very pleased that we're looking at this at a practical sense and not it's not complicated. Department of defense has the clearest mission there is. Let's get somebody in charge of it to bring us back to where we need to be to win our nation's war and build a military that's so strong that nobody will mess with us. I want to thank [00:30:00] you, and I look forward to Were hearing from the rest of the participants and the members of the Senate. Stick with this. This make the decisions based on what you see is right, not what you want it to be. A cultural experiment.

[00:30:16] **Frank Gaffney:** Major Dix. Thank you. Extremely well-put. We're going to hear next from a woman who, apart from people inside the military service, has, I think, probably as keen an appreciation of the culture of the military [00:30:30] as any civilian, for sure, and has done more in her role as president of the center for Military Readiness, to raise awareness on the part of millions of Americans who know very little, if anything, about military life and what it means to sacrifice for our country's security. Her name is Elaine Donnelly. She is the founder and president of that organization, the

center for Military Readiness. I commend to you it's extraordinarily important work [00:31:00] at CMR link.org. Elaine has served on a number of Defense Department Secretary of Defense level and presidential level commissions. To bring her insights into these matters of the culture of the military, the assaults on those, the culture and what it's doing to our armed forces. She's also been of counsel to countless members of Congress as they've tried to repair [00:31:30] some of the damage that's been done here. We're delighted to have her with us. Elaine Donnelly, welcome. The floor is yours.

[00:31:36] **Elaine Donnelly:** It's an honor to be part of this distinguished group. I'll say at the outset I'm speaking only for myself. Certainly not for Pete Hegseth, a longtime friend. I certainly support his nomination. I hope he is quickly confirmed. And my reason I'm going to focus on two issues, in particular, the military personnel issues that he has not flinched or hesitated to discuss [00:32:00] transgenders in the military and women in combat, and what we've seen in recent days. An awful lot of misinformation, words stuffed into the mouth of Pete Hegseth, things he never said. So I want to clarify right now, he actually has a very reasonable, moderate approach that I think, based on what I've seen and reading his book, that he would pursue. And I would recommend that the administration do this. We have a new article on our website calling. It's called How to End [00:32:30] Wokeism in the military. And it goes through several issues, including the two that I mentioned. The reason we have transgenders in the military right now is not because of a vote of Congress. Congress never voted on this. A Department of Defense instruction was changed under Barack Obama to include gender identity as a nondiscrimination category, even though the Obama administration, and certainly when the 1993 law was repealed. They kept promising they would never do that, [00:33:00] which of course they did.

[00:33:02] **Elaine Donnelly:** The transgender policy was extended under Joe Biden. But in between, along came President Trump. And contrary to popular legend, he did not make policy with a tweet or with no study or thought. He set up a panel of experts and the experts looked at the issue. They found very high costs and problematic non deployability issues. They also recommended that people who are [00:33:30] confused about gender identity deserve compassion and the best medical care possible. But gender dysphoria has always been among the categories of psychological conditions that make you ineligible to serve in the military. Now, here's number one fact that we need to keep straight in everybody's mind. President Trump did not implement a ban on

transgenders in the military. I know you keep hearing that, but that isn't true at all. It was [00:34:00] a nuanced policy and it said that persons who even if they said they were transgender, but they did not suffer from gender dysphoria for 36 months, they could serve. And those who do suffer from gender dysphoria were deemed not eligible. And it said that people who came out under the Obama administration were allowed to stay in that policy was challenged in court. And guess what? The lawsuits failed. If the administration, the white House, had not changed hands, the [00:34:30] Trump nuanced policy regarding gender dysphoria likely would have been upheld by the Supreme Court.

[00:34:38] **Elaine Donnelly:** But we all know what happened. Along came Joe Biden, and he made it very clear that if you change a gender marker, it's a bureaucratic symbol to change your sex assigned at birth. Who does the assigning? They never made that clear. Then other people's privacy rights, women's privacy rights would be secondary. [00:35:00] And that access to the private areas of women would be made available to the men. There is no dispute about this. Why have we not heard about problems? Well, it's very clever. The Biden administration said that there cannot be discussion of problematic issues that occur under the transgender policy, unless it goes to the very highest level in the Pentagon. So we haven't heard about a lot of these problems. And the first thing the Trump administration should do coming in is [00:35:30] find out, pick up where the first administration left off. How many cases have there been? What are the costs have been what is non deployability been. And then he needs to reconsider whether implementing his previous policy would be a good idea. Congress needs to be involved in some way. Congress could say we will not have biological Males using the private facilities of biological females, we could get rid of the ridiculous pronoun policies.

[00:35:59] **Elaine Donnelly:** There's a lot [00:36:00] of things that could be done, but not overnight. This whole idea that all of a sudden, thousands of people claiming to be transgender are going to be kicked out of the military. No, that's not going to happen. Nobody's even asking for that. So I think we can count on Pete Hegseth to do the right thing there. And all the side issues such as Pride days, drag queens, those are all minor things compared to the primary issue. If you have a psychological or physical condition that makes you non-deployable, [00:36:30] then you should not be considered eligible to be in the armed forces, and the administration needs to figure out the best way to do that so that it will sustain legal challenge in court, as the previous Trump policy did. Now

I want to move quickly to women in combat. This issue has not been heard at a hearing in Congress since the late 1970s, when my presidential commission on which I served spent a full year. Congress didn't even give. Well, I got five [00:37:00] minutes one day to testify. This issue needs to be examined. Why is the Army Combat Fitness Test showing that when you treat women like men, the injury rates and failure rates are more than double among women than they are among men.

[00:37:17] **Elaine Donnelly:** No one is questioning the courage of women in the armed forces. The first thing that I'll leave you with this very primary fact the definition of combat is critically important to understanding this. We have [00:37:30] women serving in harm's way. They are courageous. Nobody questions their courage. They are not well lately. They are, because the administration changed policy over the objection of the Marine Corps. But direct ground combat means to engage the enemy with deliberate offensive action. Okay. Deliberate offensive. Offensive action. The infantry, special operations forces and the like. Being in danger, in harm's way. We respect and honor anybody who [00:38:00] serves our country in danger. But women in combat is a topic that is long overdue for examination in all of its component parts, including training physical disparities and getting rid of the gender quotas that really distort everything the promotions and putting people being forced into infantry units. A lot of women have been forced. I've I understand we need to get data on this. They don't want to go in the infantry, but that's [00:38:30] where they're being assigned in order to make the Dei quotas. I think Pete Hegseth will do a very good job in looking at all these issues objectively. And this will benefit both men and women in the armed forces.

[00:38:43] **Frank Gaffney:** Elaine Donnelly, thank you so much. Very, very important points about what's broken at the moment and is in need of fixing. And we're appreciative of your very attentive work in all of these spaces. We're going to hear next from doctor Carol Swain. She was one [00:39:00] of the stars of the first of these programs, because I think she has a deep appreciation of this cultural Marxist agenda. She is the author of 11 books, including The Adversity of Diversity and the book entitled Black Eye for America How Critical Race Theory Is Burning Down the House. She has [00:39:30] served as a tenured professor at some of America's finest educational institutions, and she has been a member of the 19, excuse me, 1776 commission under the President Trump. We're so appreciative of your time, Carol. Thank you for lending it to us. Over to you.

[00:39:49] **Carol Swain:** Thank you so much for hosting this panel. And I'm here today as a friend of Pete Hegseth and also as an American who [00:40:00] cares deeply about our nation. And I can attest to the fact that during the Obama administration, one of the things that was reported through the news and also through the data that came out from the military, there seemed to have been a purging of high profile officers who took seriously their oath of office to defend the United States against foreign and domestic enemies. [00:40:30] And since that time, during the Obama administration, we know that just gradually we have reached the point where the military is no longer the military that we once respected, the military that once stood as a model for people that wanted to achieve racial justice in America. I can remember when the military was seen as the one institution that got [00:41:00] it correct when it came to race relations, that everything was a meritocracy. And what we have found is that gradually the Marxism has seeped into the military institutions as well as it has seeped in through the, through the people that have come in, as well as the teachers at the various institutions. And we have a situation now where diversity, equity [00:41:30] and inclusion, which I call affirmative action on steroids, has just decimated the place. And what we find is a loss of mission, that mission creep where institutions forget what they were set up to accomplish. And as a consequence, there isn't the readiness that we need. And when it comes to women in combat, there are studies that show that women are not as effective [00:42:00] as males in certain roles, and certainly in combat roles. They can jeopardize the lives of the people around them as well as their own lives.

[00:42:12] **Carol Swain:** Women have served in the military, you know, for you know, for decades or for more than a century, but they have not been in combat. And so the fact that Pete Hegseth was bold enough to raise issues and point to these studies, that's exactly [00:42:30] the kind of leader that we need, not one who's going to be worried about what people say. And when it comes to transgenders in the military it's already been spoken about some of the problems that relate to that. Having transgenders in in the military in certain roles, it's not conducive to the military readiness that you would want from an army or from a force that's going [00:43:00] to protect you from foreign and domestic enemies. And so my hope would be that we would get the Marxism out of our military academies, as well as out of the military itself. And as I'm speaking, we've had two we've had one terrorist attack, and we have had an attempted one, or maybe we've had two, depending on how you count what happened in, in Nevada. But these

things have happened, [00:43:30] and it's ex-military officers. So what has happened in the military that would Encourage people to become so radical, to hate the country that they're supposed to protect. And I would say that something has gone very wrong with the training, as well as with the types of recruits who are being admitted to the military. And so my hope would be that Pete Hegseth would be quickly confirmed. He would hit the ground running, surrounded by people who [00:44:00] understand the military, who understand our nation, and above all, who love our nation. For me, that would be the best possible outcome for America. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

[00:44:14] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you, Doctor Swain. Let me just if I may add that it's not an accident that people coming out of the military might hate their country. That's one of the things that they're indoctrinated to do on the grounds that it's systemically racist and [00:44:30] so on, on the basis of this critical race theory and so on, which you've documented so well. Thank you. Let me just also add Carol is the host of a wonderful. Be the People podcast, which I commend to you all. We're going to hear next from a man to set the stage on the sort of environment in which we're having this conversation. I can't think of anybody better than Kenneth Abramowitz. He has founded a terrific organization called [00:45:00] Save the West, and he has made it his life's work to be educating people, particularly leaders, politicians and others at every level of government, about the stakes. And no conversation about what's happening to and with the US military would be complete without some appreciation of the environment in which it's taking place. So, Ken, thank you for taking some time to share your insights into [00:45:30] the environment. And the floor is yours.

[00:45:33] **Ken Abramowitz:** Thank you very much, Frank. It's great to be one of your students for the past 20 years, but for the next five minutes, I'll be a professor, so to speak. And so I wanted to mention several things that might help everybody understand the mess that the Department of Defense is in. First, just to preface, the Trump campaign to become [00:46:00] president was not 95% domestic oriented, and it was 5% foreign oriented. President Trump is not going to be happy about this, but that his first 100 days are going to end up being 50 over 50 between the, you know, there's an old expression, enemies have a vote. And so even though he wants to implement the domestic policy orientation, which he will [00:46:30] he'll be encumbered by war whether he wants to or not. So let me go through seven issues quickly in my five minutes or for 4.5 minutes. Number one, he has three grave short term issues. And the president has

these issues. But the secretary of Defense, by definition, has these issues too. We have to settle the Russian Ukraine dispute if it's settleable. Number two, we [00:47:00] have to intimidate China so we don't get into a direct shooting war, which we're not prepared for right now. And number three, we have to fight Iran until regime change and destroy their Houthi friends in Yemen. So a lot of bombs are going to blow up in the first three months of the Trump administration.

[00:47:20] **Ken Abramowitz:** Whether we want to be at war or not, we're in war by definition. Because if your enemies are in a war with you, then you're in a state of war. Number two, there's [00:47:30] a lot of short term distractions. For example, Syria. Can we stabilize it? Can we protect the 2.5 million Kurds? The 250,000 Jews, the 500,000 Christians, and the 12 million people living in Jordan? Can we just watch the Muslims in Nigeria kill the Christians in Nigeria? Roughly 10,000 a year. And can we [00:48:00] watch the menace of Venezuela and do nothing about it? Number three the Secretary of Defense has to, as we just discussed, has to fix the military culture. Move it back to meritocracy. Fix the recruitment mess and compensate the victims of the communists who took temporarily. Took over the Department of Defense. Number four, the Department of Secretary of Defense is going to have to advocate to 10% [00:48:30] annual growth in the military budget, not 4%. It has to start off with an immediate \$25 billion to purchase weapons between Israel and Ukraine. We're blowing up more weapons than we're producing. Well, you can't allow that situation to exist very long. Number five, the Secretary of Defense has got a plan for five for three front war. In other words, we have to be ready to fight Russia, Iran and China simultaneously. [00:49:00] Not a two front war, not a one and a half front war.

[00:49:04] **Ken Abramowitz:** Three front war. Number six. He's got to fix the Navy. We produce something like one ship a year or a net ship a year in the Chinese fight. You can't allow that. He's got to fix the industrial base. We have to learn how to produce ships at a much faster pace. And number seven, it's probably going to have to set up a new cyber force just as President Trump set up a Space Force. So [00:49:30] let me conclude in less than a minute on the key characteristics of a defense minister or secretary of defense who can accomplish can fix this mess. And so we need three qualities and we need more. But just to make it simple, someone has to be passionate. Obviously, someone has to be knowledgeable. Obviously, someone has to be convincing. By the way, convincing to Americans, convincing to our enemies,

convincing to our enemies, and convincing to [00:50:00] our allies. And I can't think of a better candidate than what the president selected in terms of Pete Hegseth. So I think he's a wonderful, wonderful choice, and I look forward for him to take over the helm. And when he starts, he's going to say, you know, oh my God, what did I get myself into? But he he'll I'm sure he'll rise to the occasion and be a great Secretary of Defense.

[00:50:25] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you, Ken, very much. I have the feeling, for the reasons you mentioned, he'll have a pretty [00:50:30] good fix on what he's gotten himself into from the get go, but he does have those qualities that you've mentioned that are needed to get us out of it, that's for sure. We're going to talk next to another of those who have continued their service after leaving Uniformed Life. This would be Major General Joseph Arbuckle. He has the distinction of having been the honoree of not one, not two, not three, [00:51:00] but four different halls of fame in the Army, in the services for what he did in uniform, including as a master logistician. We are very appreciative of his leadership, not only of the STARRS organization, of which I think he's the vice chairman, if I'm not mistaken, but also of another, more informal pickup team, and he'll talk about it in this videotape he did for us earlier in the day for the purpose of shedding light on [00:51:30] flag officers for America, and why these distinguished former officers are now very strongly supporting the nomination of Pete Hegseth and the making America's military great again. Let's go to his video now.

[00:51:46] **Joseph Arbuckle:** Flag officers for America is just basically a team. It's not an organization on the volunteer informal leader of that group. And periodically, our little team will put together letters that are addressing issues [00:52:00] that are very, very important to our national defense. And we've done six of those in the last four years, and most recently is the one that you commented on about supporting Pete Hegseth for secretary of Defense last month. On the 6th of December, we did a press release announcing that open letter. And to date, there's 137 retired generals and admirals that have signed that letter supporting Pete. So that's very significant. And today, as you indicated, I'll talk [00:52:30] a little bit about what's in that letter and why we're supporting Pete. The first point I want to make about Pete, and it's obvious if you listen to him, is that he's extremely passionate about our country. He loves our country. He loves our military. And he loves the men and women who serve in uniform, as well as their families who also sacrifice. Add to that all the veterans who have served over the many, many years. So Pete's all about the military. And he [00:53:00] really proved that

in a decision he made after he graduated from Princeton, an Ivy League college. He had a great future ahead of him. He could have made a ton of money in the private sector, but he chose to give that up and instead enlist in the Army National Guard and serve over many, many years. As General Bishop indicated earlier, he was Pete was first at Guantanamo Bay, and then he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, [00:53:30] where he served as an infantry officer on the ground, engaged in ground combat against terrorists.

[00:53:36] **Joseph Arbuckle:** And so Pete has that grass roots experience under his belt, which will be extremely valuable as secretary of defense because it's recent experience. It's not old experience. And he's got that tie to the military men and women. Another important point about Pete, and he pledges this all the time is to eradicate diversity, equity and inclusion from our military. And [00:54:00] Pete is an extremely intelligent guy. And on his own, he took it upon himself to study what it's all about. And he understands the linkage between Dei and critical race theory and how that relates to Marxism. And it's all about dividing people, putting them into identity groups and pitting them against each other. Well that's divisive. That's exactly the opposite of what our military is all about. Pete understands that. He's lived it as a leader, and that can be exemplified through [00:54:30] something we call the one team, one fight battle motto, where everybody on the team all the way down from the foxhole level to the very top, is dedicated to a mission and a common purpose. One mission, one purpose. And that is that is the focus along with the focus on the team itself. Not any individual or not any identity group based upon something like race or gender or any sexual orientation. [00:55:00] It's all about the team and team success in fulfilling the mission. And in order to do that, they must have total trust and confidence in each other to be a successful team and be cohesive. And unity is what that means. And diversity, equity and inclusion. Pete, understand tears at the heart and soul of that one team, one fight battle motto.

[00:55:24] **Joseph Arbuckle:** So that's his first priority is to get rid of Eradicate Dei from the military. [00:55:30] And that's a monumental task. He's up to that task. He understands it like no one else that's running for that job. He's also dedicated, Frank to putting our military back on track to focus only on combat readiness actions, to be prepared to fight and win our nation's wars. That's why we have a military. And in order to do that, we have to focus on combat readiness and get rid of all these distractions,

these social experiments that come with Dei, etc. [00:56:00] So he's dedicated to do that. Also. He's talked about lethality, increasing lethality of our military and our armed forces, which is necessary. And finally, Pete has talked about something few people have been talking about recently, and that's accountability for our actions. Now, throughout my career and when you ran and everybody else, we've always associated three things for leaders. One is seeking responsibility and taking responsibility for their actions. And then with that, giving them [00:56:30] the commensurate authority to do the job, to meet those responsibilities and finally holding them accountable for doing the job. Now, that's been missing to a large degree recently in our military, as evidenced by, for example, the DoD failing seven audits in a row. So that's his focus. And President Trump has selected Pete. He had a ton of talented people he could choose from, but he wants Pete to go into that capacity as secretary of defense because [00:57:00] he knows Pete will fulfill his mandate to return our military to what it's all about and get rid of the distractions.

[00:57:08] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you very much, General Arbuckle. I appreciate your continuing service to our country, sir. It's vital. We're going to turn next to a woman I've had the pleasure of traveling the country with in recent months talking about World War three, which is unfortunately upon us, as I think Ken Abramowitz [00:57:30] pointed out. She has a very interesting insight into the nature of this war, whether we're paying attention to it or not. I hope she'll speak to it. Her name is Doctor Karen Siegemund. She is the president of a terrific organization based in Los Angeles, the American Freedom Alliance. She has been one of those women who broke the glass ceiling, I guess one might say, when she brought her extraordinary [00:58:00] skills to bear in the Cold War, to try to help the United States Navy with the challenge of tracking and being able to neutralize Soviet submarines. We deeply appreciate both her role then and her role now, and we're delighted to have her contribute to this program about making America's military great again. Karen, over to you.

[00:58:25] **Karen Siegemund:** Thanks so much, Frank. Yeah. It's really an honor to be among all [00:58:30] of you. And yes, as Frank noted, we traveled the country with a conference called "World War III, The Early Years." We started it in Los Angeles and then went various places, highlighting all the various threats that we have been under. Also, just as an aside, yes, back in the 80s, I was one of the first, if not the first woman on Navy combatant vessels frigates, destroyers, various others. And I learned at that

time [00:59:00] that my being there was a really bad idea. So while I did sort of play a role in breaking that glass ceiling. I apologize wherever I can. I realized how even though I made every effort to not be disruptive, it was disruptive having me there. So the idea of, you know, how much worse it's gotten since that time. Whatever role I played, I do apologize. But I also learned tremendous respect for our men and women [00:59:30] in uniform and in the Navy in particular. There is no doubt that we're at war. That was the whole conference. We are absolutely at war. But I want to pose this question. There's an age old philosophical query that people ask if a tree falls in the woods and there's nobody there to hear it. Does it? Does it still make a sound? I would posit that there's an analogous query if you're at war and nobody will acknowledge it, can you still lose? And of course, the answer to both of those is [01:00:00] you bet you can.

[01:00:01] **Karen Siegemund:** And it feels very much that we have been in a war. People have not been acknowledging it, and we have not been doing very well in this war. Having the current regime playing for the other team, of course, doesn't help. We, as other people have noted, we have been undergoing the left's long march through the institutions wherein they find and peg various of our institutions, education, [01:00:30] media, whatever got them of their original mission and replace them with Marxism. The main one at hand that we're talking about now is the military, which has also been similarly gutted. And its purpose, which is supposed to be war fighting. And may I also add winning all in, in service of defending our nation. That purpose has been replaced by, as many have said, social engineering, various kinds of experimentation, [01:01:00] all giving putting a back seat to the actual war fighting. And we have been suffering under this for far too long. Die, as everyone has noted, has no place anywhere. But it certainly has no place in the military. It's destructive. It's dangerous. It's also ridiculous. Absurd, laughable. The entire world is laughing at us. And yet that's where we are. And just as another aside that we're even having this conversation, it's crucial [01:01:30] to have it. But it's appalling that it's required that we're even talking about needing to return the military to its purpose. But yet that's where we are. The left's Long March also includes the war against men, masculinity, fatherhood, the family, Judeo-Christian roots and values, all these fundamental tenets on which we all depend.

[01:01:53] **Karen Siegemund:** Given all of that, is it any wonder that they're going after Pete Hegseth, who represents all of these Profoundly [01:02:00] important institutions that are crucial to the survival of this nation. Of course, they're going to go after him, and

of course they're going to go after him in ways that have nothing to do with actual war fighting. At the same time, we've also been victims of what the Chinese Communist Party calls unrestricted warfare, which is a way of subduing all, include all means of subduing the enemy up to and including kinetic warfare. What better way [01:02:30] of unrestricted of conducting unrestricted warfare than by. I'm just going to say this doing their best to emasculate our military. And that is what has been happening again. The reason we need to step in in that role, it's we need a strong military. We need to be defending this nation as best we possibly can. We need to be building back our confidence, our courage, our strength, our pride in America. I also [01:03:00] want to bring up this point, though, because it exhausts me personally when anybody of any kind of caliber and honor and strength stands up for so many of these positions, what is it that the left does? Their first line of attack is trotting out women making accusations. I find this so reprehensible because at this point, when we see this parade of women coming through, all we all say is, oh my gosh, here we go again.

[01:03:29] **Karen Siegemund:** And [01:03:30] we are mistrusting of the entire process. What this does now is instead of making us more compassionate to women who may or may not have been attacked, we don't believe them on its face because we know that this is a tried and true tactic of the left. I find it exhausting. It's insulting. It's insulting of the men, it's insulting of women, and it denigrates actual acts that have actually occurred when we all just yawn and say, oh my [01:04:00] gosh, here we go again. So it's time to just put that kind of nonsense completely aside. We need to return all of our institutions to their purposes, which is we're fighting. In this case, we need to get rid of DEI everywhere it rears its ugly head. It makes us more vulnerable on every single front. We need to stand up for our men, for our fathers, for our warriors, for war fighting. We need to rebuild our courage to stand for our convictions. [01:04:30] We need to resurrect our confidence in this great nation. We need to let men be men. Women be women. Stop this DEI nonsense. Stop the Marxism. Return our military to being a war fighting on a war fighting institution. We need to let men do the right thing by their country and women as well. We are in a war we need to fight. Face it. And we need to fight it. We need to win it. Thank you.

[01:04:59] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you. Karen. [01:05:00] Powerful injunction to us all. We're going to hear next from another veteran, the Colonel Grant Newsham, United States Marine Corps, retired. He has been, among other things, in addition to a

decorated military officer, a foreign service officer in the US embassy in Tokyo and a businessman out in the Far East. He is the author of a very important book, very much relevant to today's topic, [01:05:30] *When China Attacks: A Warning to America*. He's a member of our Committee on the Present Danger of China, as well as our Save America military coalition. And we're anxious to hear his thoughts on all of this. Colonel, over to you.

[01:05:43] **Grant Newsham:** Thanks for having me, Frank. Well, die is ultimately a distraction. It keeps us from winning wars. And it's worth considering that we've had this die dye business for a while now, and you ask yourself, Could America win a war in the Pacific? And I'll try to be specific [01:06:00] about this. And the short answer is it depends. It used to be no question about it. But now it depends. And if the Chinese communists, the People's Liberation Army, if they chose their spots, chose their timing, they could probably defeat us. And I would point to the South China Sea. Well, you might say, well, look, we can sail anywhere we want and nobody can do anything about it. But what we're doing is the equivalent of the NYPD sending a squad car through Times Square. Back in the olden days, before Giuliani [01:06:30] cleaned it up. Yes, that squad car could go in and it would part the human flotsam, the part, the bad guys. But as soon as it went through, the bad guys closed up. And you knew who ran Times Square. That's the same thing as the South China Sea. And this is a trend, a trend line that has been going on for a long time now. And the US is getting less and less able to win a war and does have a very good chance of losing one if it is fought in the Pacific. Now, the you'll [01:07:00] hear it said that, well, we have allies and China doesn't. Well, China actually does have allies. They have Russia and North Korea, Iran, Venezuela. And these are not inconsiderable. But yes, it's true, we have allies. But once again, you look at this and we have the Japanese who are our best one.

[01:07:17] **Grant Newsham:** And they're not quite a war. They are in no way ready to fight a war. You have the Australians who all 50,000 of them, which is not very big. It's got something like 11 combatants [01:07:30] in its navy. Yes, they're game, but they are not much of an ally as well, other than psychologically, we think. And the Australian Army is actually pretty woke as well. Now you have the Koreans, they're focused on Korea. They have problems, many of them driven by the Chinese, Communist and Korean leftists, so wouldn't count on them. So here we are. Yes, we've got a good DIY program in the military, but does it make us more able to fight a war? Well, where's the

and [01:08:00] when? Well, where's the evidence of that? I don't see it. We are overstretched. And another point I want to mention is that there's something called political warfare. And this is really using any and every element of national power up to actual shooting to get your objectives. And the Chinese have been very good at that. So what they've done, if you want a couple of examples, is you take the nation of Kiribati, where the Battle of Tarawa was fought in World War two. It's about 1500 miles from Pearl Harbor. Well, [01:08:30] that government is in bed with the Chinese completely. The Chinese are going to be rebuilding an airfield and old US World War II era airfield, once again 1500 miles from Pearl Harbor. And they have not fired a shot. Solomon Islands, where Guadalcanal was fought. Same thing. You have a government administration, a regime that is pro-China and all of this once again without firing a shot.

[01:08:56] **Grant Newsham:** And we have not we don't even have a political warfare scheme. [01:09:00] I had occasion to ask a very, very, very senior US Navy officer about this a couple of months ago, his reply we don't do political warfare. And then he attacked me for being cynical. His thinking seemed to be somebody else does it. So what I would suggest, and I hope that if Mr. Hegseth is approved, that he takes the resources that go to die and these woke agendas, the social experimentation, and he uses it to make our allies so that they're actually able [01:09:30] to fight with us and that he also uses it, the people and the money to create a political warfare scheme, a political warfare campaign on if no one else will do it because it doesn't seem like State Department will have DoD take it. And these are some very useful things that you could do. And the last thing I would point out is that none of this dye is new. And there's some older gentleman on this broadcast, and they will remember Robert McNamara's project 100,000 during the Vietnam War. And what that did [01:10:00] to American fighting capabilities basically destroyed it. And that was equity and inclusion on steroids. Now the Marine Corps ended up with something called the Human Relations Program. Well, that was so successful that duty officers had to go around with their 40 fives on half cock because of the drugs, the gangs that this helped to stoke up. So we've got a chance now to fix things and let's see how it goes. Thank you very much, Frank.

[01:10:28] **Frank Gaffney:** Colonel. Thank you. Your perspective [01:10:30] is tremendously appreciated, especially stitching in some of the elements of modern warfare that are, unfortunately, examples of deficiencies in our military capabilities at the moment. We're going to speak to a man who, again, was a veteran of the United

States Air Force in this case, again, is associated with STARRS, indeed is its executive vice president and a man who has been deeply thoughtful about, [01:11:00] and perhaps at the very vanguard of those raising warnings concerning the military's takedown at the hands of the cultural Marxists. His name is Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Lohmeier. He was a US space commander out in Colorado when he published a book entitled Irresistible Revolution Marxism's Goal of Conquest and [01:11:30] the Unmaking of the American Military. That did not sit well with his political masters, and unfortunately, a brilliant career was truncated. I'm very hopeful that there will be a place for him in the new Trump administration. But in the meantime, we asked him to speak to us about the effects of Marxism on the military and the importance of Texas as men to help repair it. Let's go [01:12:00] to the videotape that Matt Lohmeier kindly recorded with me earlier in the day.

[01:12:05] **Matt Lohmeier:** There's been tremendous opposition from some corners to President Trump's nomination of Pete Hegseth, the secretary of defense. And, of course, there's also been a tremendous show of support from the veteran community, and for good reason. President Trump has given Pete Hegseth a mandate to eliminate all distractions to lethality and war fighting in the military workplace and the American people and our veteran community and [01:12:30] our service members have seen far too much in the media over the past four years. That looks like distraction. And it has been a distraction to our troops, lethality and war, fighting and readiness, and our recruiting and retention of suffering. Also, as we've seen, Pete takes that very seriously. And as you mentioned, I wrote a book about cultural Marxism called Irresistible Revolution. I know the matter very well. I understand this impulse that has swept across the entire Defense [01:13:00] Department and all federal agencies. Quite frankly, it's important at this juncture in American history that President Trump get a great pick for secretary of defense. Frankly, all of his cabinet members, he's picked a great person to lead the Defense Department, who I think will take this mandate from President Trump to eliminate all distractions from the military workplace.

[01:13:24] **Matt Lohmeier:** Seriously, that's Pete Hegseth. I know Pete personally. I've spent time with Pete in person [01:13:30] over the past couple of years for his program at Fox, on Fox Nation specials, and in Nashville on multiple trips. And I know firsthand that Pete takes military culture very seriously. He is outspoken about these issues as people have seen over the past couple of years. And of course, as people are talking

about, he's written at least two very powerful books that directly relate to this topic of distractions and education in the military [01:14:00] workplace. But I know firsthand that he takes this very seriously, and that he is committed to carrying out President Trump's mandate to eliminate those distractions. And so people on either side of the political aisle might have a problem with pick your thing. But here's someone that, in a very real way, at this juncture, where we're trying to eliminate distractions. This should not be a Partizan issue. You should have Democrats and Republicans both lining up to support President Trump's pick, because you have someone who's interested in [01:14:30] focusing exclusively on war fighting. I mean, that's what our Defense Department is all about. And Pete Hegseth will certainly do that.

[01:14:36] **Frank Gaffney:** We have. In addition to the option of contacting your elected representatives the old fashioned way, going to their offices, perhaps in your state or here in Washington, or calling them up, sending them an email, a means of doing it very [01:15:00] efficiently. It is a take action option known as a line act. If you go to the Save America's military. Org website, you'll see right under the one discussing this program, an option there to shoot to your elected senators. There your elected representatives, after all your recommendations as to what they should do with respect [01:15:30] to the matters we're discussing today. And I hope you'll take advantage of this. It's a it takes about a minute and it will make your voice heard. You can be sure. I also want to thank our friends Steve Bannon and Grace Chong at the War Room Pandemic Program on Real America's Voice for live streaming this broadcast. We immeasurably increase the number of people who are exposed to the content of these programs, and we're very grateful to them for doing so. We're [01:16:00] going to hear next from another of our duty experts on the political side, in this case, of what's going on here, the prospects for Pete's nomination being derailed, as well as the implications were that to happen, is something that our friend George Rasley, the executive editor of really wonderful online [01:16:30] resource conservative HQ, Q. Richard Viguerie newsletter. He's also experienced incredibly in this world of politics, having served on some 300 campaigns at every level, as well as on the staff of the United States House, the United States Senate, and the office of the Vice President of the United States. We're very pleased to have him with us, George, thank you for your patience. The program is coming to a close, but you're one of the stars of it, [01:17:00] and we're anxious to hear your thoughts.

[01:17:01] **George Rasley:** Thank you for the opportunity to appear with these distinguished warriors as an army brat. I wish my late father were here to see me sharing the stage with these men, and so thank them for their service. Pete Hegseth confirmation is absolutely crucial because we've got to understand that reforming the military, improving our national security, we're [01:17:30] among the five issues that the Trump coalition of voters voted for the president elect to do. And so this isn't something like climate change that's way down at the bottom of the list, so to speak. This is crucial to fulfilling the mandate that President Trump was given in this last election. And Pete Hegseth is one [01:18:00] of the few guys, and I've read both his books and I've met him who I think understands that Obama and Biden didn't just allow the US government and the EU and the United States military to be penetrated by Islamists, Red Chinese and domestic Marxists. They facilitated it and encouraged it and advanced it through their appointments and their policies. So no one should be surprised [01:18:30] at some of the events that have occurred, you know, in the past couple of days. All of our enemies are or have been represented at the highest levels of our government and our military. And even if you could fire every officer above the rank of major and start over again, that wouldn't really fix the problem, because the rot has been has crept so deep into the service academies and the universities. And [01:19:00] Pete gets this it's a thread in his books. It's a thread in his Fox News commentaries. And so, you know, I personally think that you really need to do a complete security review of every one in a position of trust in both the civilian and the military sides of our government. But that's probably a little impractical. But Pete understands where the [01:19:30] rod is and the steps necessary to remove it. And the Senate can do nothing more important to preserve the integrity, the sovereignty and the national defense of our country than confirming Pete Hegseth promptly. So I'm going to turn it back to you, Frank, because I know we're running over.

[01:19:54] **Frank Gaffney:** We are a little bit. George. Thank you. An incredibly important point about the [01:20:00] need for restoring confidence in the security of our most important security organization, the United States military. The question of loyalty and the penetration of the civilian, as well as to some extent, apparently the military side of the Defense Department is something Pete is going to have to get his hands around right quick. We're going to hear next from [01:20:30] the final representative of Stand Together Against Racism and radicalism in the services. Colonel, doctor, as it happens, Ron Scott, both a PhD and an Air Force retired colonel. He is today the president and

CEO of STARRS, and also the vice president and director of operations of the American Constitution Foundation. It's particularly appropriate that [01:21:00] he follows on George Grassley's comments, because among the things that he will be addressing with us is what's been happening in the service academies that has contributed mightily to the problems we've been discussing. He again joined us by prerecorded video. Let's go to his tape now.

[01:21:20] **Ron Scott:** Thanks, Frank. It's an honor to be part of this session. What I want to emphasize today is the notion that a particular political faction in America is advancing [01:21:30] a narrative, or a series of narratives that don't necessarily have to be true, and in the process, they have subordinated the importance of transparency and accountability. And so let me give you evidence to support that. Freedom of Information Act requests. We have now, a little more than four years later, filed nearly 60 FOIA requests, six zero FOIA requests. Only one was answered within the 20 day statutory [01:22:00] period. Only one of the 60 Judicial Watch has filed two lawsuits on our behalf, and they're getting ready to file another one. The big question we have is a lot of this information is pretty neutral politically. Why the resistance in releasing the documents and records we're asking for? So that makes the situation very suspicious. Which leads me to two organizations that operated under the radar. The first was the Military Leadership Diversity Commission that was chartered in the national Defense 2009 [01:22:30] National Defense Authorization Act. It was pushed by the Congressional Black Caucus without any debate, so they stood up. This commission, chaired by a retired black four star general, Lester Lyles. And in March of 2011, when they issued their final report, two things stood out. In the introduction. They were explicit about the importance of discriminating to achieve equity. And here equity was a proportionate representation of minorities in the general officer [01:23:00] ranks. The other admission was that assimilation was bad. It was dangerous because it subordinated subcultural differences. This was so contrary to the E pluribus unum, which made America the melting pot where they truly embraced diversity, different ethnic backgrounds and nationalities to come together to be part of the American creed.

[01:23:25] **Ron Scott:** And so they were explicit about that. That was March of 2011. [01:23:30] Five months later, the president issued an executive order in August of 2011, establishing diversity and inclusion personnel and programs across the entire federal government. So they demonstrated they could do this and get away with it with the

Department of Defense. Now they proliferated it across the entire government. Okay. Years now passed in 2020, the current secretary of defense realized that all of the recommendations in that commission were not implemented. So they stood up the Defense Advisory Committee [01:24:00] on Diversity and Inclusion, again headed up by a retired black four star general, Lester Lyles. They have been deliberately discriminating. We had a representative at a December 2023 session, the only member from the public in attendance, and that got our her attention again, flying under the radar. So in their May of 2023 or 2024 session, we had 19 individuals signed up to attend in person. Three days before that event, [01:24:30] they made an announcement that due to unforeseen circumstances, the session would be virtual only. So there was one particular presentation and we watched it, recorded it. It was the diversity and inclusion officer for the Central Intelligence Agency, who reports directly to the director of the CIA, admitting that they veto promotions for individuals that have not sufficiently embraced diversity and inclusion. So really quickly on the Covid vaccine mandate, eight federal [01:25:00] courts ruled that what the Defense Department was doing was in violation of public law of informed consent and the religious freedom laws.

[01:25:11] **Ron Scott:** Et cetera. Et cetera. So we've taken on that issue. And so the last thing I want to mention is that on December 17th, Congressman Loudermilk issued an interim report on the January 6th. Oversight investigation. Very disturbing, very disturbing. No [01:25:30] fanfare in the media. And there's a good reason for it. So I want to close, Frank, with the notion that a professor at UC Berkeley kind of symbolizes what's happening here on the left. He's written several books, one of them with the title Thinking Points. And it's an instruction guide on how to shape the, the narrative, how to frame it. And one of his axioms is that it's the frame that matters. The facts fit great. If not, they're [01:26:00] irrelevant. He's published another book called Moral Politics, and I will close with this notion for those that have worn the uniform and keep saying that we have to be Apolitical. What they really mean is we need to be nonpartizan. The big difference. And so if we're apolitical, that means we're also amoral. And we can't afford to be amoral. You know, these service academies are developing leaders of character characters based on a moral [01:26:30] foundation. And so we're losing it big time because we're being deceived by members of the left who control the narrative. And so I'll close with that thought.

[01:26:39] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you, Colonel Scott. And again, thank you to STARRS for contributing so massively to this program as well as to the cause. We're going to conclude this program with comments from two Warriors and one of our utility infielders. The two Warriors will first of which is [01:27:00] Captain James Fanell, a United States Navy retired one of that service's. I think, frankly, any of our intelligence community's most impressive, capable and insightful analysts of particularly the Chinese Communist Party and its military, the People's Liberation Army. We asked Captain Fennel to speak about, again the [01:27:30] condition of the US military in the face of a threat that the Defense Department on Biden administration's way out the door declared, has, in a report just released shortly before Christmas, undertaken a military buildup that has, the likes of which have not been seen since Adolf Hitler's in the 1930s. And [01:28:00] I'm sure everybody in this audience, and I certainly expect that everybody in the United States Senate knows how that ended. So it makes all the more important the insights of Captain Fanell about both this massive threat as well as our ability to contend with it. Let's go to his videotape recorded earlier today.

[01:28:20] **James Fanell:** Happy New Year, Frank, and good to be with you all and looking forward to the events that will transpire in just a little bit over two weeks, where we can finally [01:28:30] get back into office and into our government. People that are serious and honest about the world around us and how dangerous it is. The DoD report was mandated in 2000 by Congress, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2000, purposely to warn Congress about the rising threat of China. And here we are essentially, 25 years later, a quarter of a century, and we're finally getting from a Democrat administration the acknowledgment [01:29:00] of that in the last 30 days of their administration, where for four years they downplayed it, ignored it, didn't say much about it. This report is for me. It's not stunning or shocking for those of us who watch this and have been watching the PRC, but some tidbits, like the fact that the report acknowledges that by 2030, in just five years, China will have over 1000 nuclear warheads. That's in context of the fact that just two years ago, they said they only had 200, [01:29:30] and that, you know, you have to put these things in a strategic trend line in the context of where we've been and how we've undersold. Or as Doctor Brad Thayer and I talk in our book, Embracing Communist China America's Greatest Strategic Failure. In that book we bring up and give a name to this. It's called threat deflation. And so for too long, the Department of Defense and our academic and think tanks have

undersold and threat deflated the Chinese Communist Party's [01:30:00] ideological intentions.

[01:30:02] **James Fanell:** And from my perspective and where I watch a lot is the PLA, the People's Liberation Army. And so we've been downplaying the threat from China for much too long. And just this week, China unveiled this type 076 amphibious assault, basically light aircraft carrier. It's 40,000 tons, probably closer to 50,000 tons when it's fitted out. And it has dual islands and [01:30:30] so it can control flight operations and amphibious operations to send, you know, craft ashore. And so this now is a joins three other type 075 amphibious assault ships that have been built in less than five years, and three aircraft carriers that have been built also in the last decade. So in terms of big deck aircraft carriers, both conventional and amphibious type. China [01:31:00] has put eight or so at sea along with the typo seven ones. And they're there. They've done it in the space of a decade where America has only been able to produce one aircraft carrier, and we had one amphibious assault helicopter carrier produced and another one burned up at the pier in San Diego. So we're standing still, literally, while China is racing ahead, building the force that's necessary to dominate, not just taking Taiwan, [01:31:30] not just to dominate the first island chain in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, East China Sea, which are all linked together. But they're on their quest for a global military and maritime and air forces that are going to dominate the world and tell the world how they will buy and sell and trade.

[01:31:49] **James Fanell:** And they've laid the foundation over the last decade with this Belt and Road initiative. So they're going to marry up their economic laydown, which has got over 100 countries signed up [01:32:00] for it, along with the military capability that will be able to enforce their dictums and in the in the range and the scope of the PLA's military modernization isn't just, you know, I focus on the naval arena, which I think is the most important given the power projection that they want to have. But they've built up their air forces. They're building a stealth bomber. They have re modernized bombers. They have new transport aircraft, the [01:32:30] Y-20, which they're now sending foreign. They've gone to Europe many, many times and run exercises with European nations into the Southeast Asia, South Asia, Pakistan, India. Well, not India, India, but around India threatening India. Their naval forces are operating in the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic. We know they're having oceanographic research vessels in the Atlantic, which are precursor to submarine operations. They're

laying cables. They're disrupting other people's cables. [01:33:00] The Chinese military reaches around the world, in the terrestrial domain and in the extraterrestrial domain. They're putting up more satellites than anybody in the last five years, even in US, in terms of military related satellites. They're also invested heavily in cyber. And we hear about that. We just heard this week that the Treasury Department was hacked.

[01:33:24] **James Fanell:** Another federal agency hacked. And putting at risk our entire monetary system, the ability [01:33:30] for people to make sure that they can have assured savings and investments and industry and all that goes on to our economy, which is America is really one of our greatest strengths. So they're attacking in there. They've also built a series of missile forces. They have a strategic missile force, unlike the United States. They have a strategic missile force that is focused on short range missiles to take Taiwan medium range missiles to obstruct and obliterate Guam [01:34:00] to take out Hawaii. And they have intercontinental ballistic missiles that are focused and built towards the United States. And they added 350 silos here in the Biden administration in the last 2 or 3 years. Additionally, they built hypersonic missiles that travel at five times the speed of sound, which we have trouble defending against because it's new technology. So we are being faced by an adversary that's across all domains, focused on destruction of the United States of America. And [01:34:30] we're sitting still. And this report is now a little bit a dollar late and a dollar short a day late and a dollar short. But it's still better than no acknowledgment in the context of the DoD report. Our military is in a situation of crisis because the Chinese are focused on the weakness that has been building up since the Obama administration through things like Dei and CRT and others. The DoD report talks about the PRC's focus [01:35:00] on cognitive warfare and focus on cognitive warfare is their efforts to infiltrate America's military and their mindset, and to erode the war fighting spirit that has been the hallmark of the US military going back to 1776.

[01:35:19] **James Fanell:** As Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley said in their first testimony to the Senate back [01:35:30] in 2021, they said the number one threat facing America was white violent extremism. And yet here we are facing, as they say in their own DoD report three, four years later, that the Chinese Communist Party and their military is an existential. Well, they don't say it's existential, but it is an existential threat. And they lay out some of the key elements of that military threat, not only their economic threat. So China has been

able to recognize that we've had a series of leaders like [01:36:00] General Milley, like Secretary of Defense Austin, led by President Biden, and the rest who have adopted what is non-warfighting focus. And they're doing that because the Chinese know that we're doing that. And that's empowering or emboldening them. I would say to be much more aggressive in their posture towards what's happening in the South China Sea, towards what they're doing towards Taiwan, the surrounding of Taiwan, the shooting of ballistic missiles a couple of years ago, and this constant [01:36:30] threat that's being made militarily by China against the United States, interest in Asia and our homeland. And so China recognizes that this die woke ideology is really debilitating to us.

[01:36:44] **James Fanell:** And the examples of it are just this last month, in December, we saw at the Navy War College, the Secretary of the Navy show up for a two day symposium that was mandatory attendance for all faculty, all staff, all students, and included the Secretary [01:37:00] of the Navy to talk about women, peace and security, where they actually recommended their number one. One of their recommendations was is that combatant commanders, US Pacific Indo-Pacific command, US European Command, US Central Command, they're one of the recommendations was is they needed to have gender advisors. So that's what we're recommending to our warfighting combatant commanders is that they need to have gender advisors. And this is being revealed in commercials in our fleet, where we're seeing ads from the US Navy telling [01:37:30] sailors, it's okay to bring your makeup to see this is the focus. And people say, well, that's, you know, it's a new world. And we have to appease the, the new, younger generations. But I'm here to tell you that when you focus on things like that, you're not focusing on the number one thing, which is to find and fix and kill your enemy, whether it's at sea or in the air or in space or under the sea or in land combats in in archipelagic waters of the Philippines, or the first or second island chain. And I can tell you [01:38:00] it was coming in during Obama in 2014, 2015 when I left. And that mentality took away our focus from our main mission, which is to fight and win the nation's wars.

[01:38:12] **James Fanell:** And we have for the last decade, not been focused as we could and should be on fighting and winning a war against China that no one wants. But we know that if we're not prepared and we're not capable, we cannot deter or let alone win in a conflict with a China that's aggressive and knows [01:38:30] they can defeat us. They calculate a variety of factors when it comes to the use of kinetic force and non-

kinetic force. They use what they call scientific development to calculate decisions that they make. Across the Communist Party, 100 million people, those 100 million people are calculating on how they can achieve their goal of the great restoration and rejuvenation of China to become the number one superpower on the planet that rules over the rest. And part of that is to the destruction of the United States of America.

[01:39:00] And while they would like not to have to use military force, they have ordered their military going back decades to Hu Jintao to be able to do that. We talk about 2027. They actually originally ordered them to be ready in 2020, and the Chinese government and their military has been preparing themselves for combat. Now, at the end of the day, somebody may jerk the chain and say, no, you don't have to go. But that doesn't belie the facts that they have prepared themselves and are preparing themselves for combat. And we [01:39:30] have not.

[01:39:31] **Frank Gaffney:** I think this was critically important background to the issue at hand, which is are we going to get new leadership of the kind that is going to provide rudder guidance and course correction so urgently needed for the reasons Captain Fennel has just explained. We have one final military veteran, a vice admiral by the name of Dean Lee. [01:40:00] He represents one of our other maritime services. Now, as a veteran, not in an official capacity, of course, the United States Coast Guard. And he served in extraordinarily important positions for the Coast Guard before he took off his uniform, including that of commanding the Coast Guard, Atlantic Area, which for those of us who think of the Coast Guard as simply a naval element [01:40:30] of our military, extends from the Rocky Mountains all the way to the Arabian Gulf. So he is a man whose perspective on all of these matters. We very much appreciate him sharing with us. And Admiral, thank you for being so patient.

[01:40:47] **Dean Lee:** Well, hey, thank you for having me. Hey, look, there's not a whole lot that I can add that hasn't already been said by all of the good people that have spoken before me, so I'll try to be brief. I've been [01:41:00] for the last eight years. Since I retired, I've been privileged to be a senior fellow with the Joint Forces Staff College down in Norfolk, where I, from time to time, am able to give lectures on ethics. And one of the things that I talked to with the students is the issue of trust. How important is it? And, and the point that I make with them is, look, you guys are, are, are the most trusted institution in the United States, according to the Gallup pollsters, [01:41:30] for the last 2 or 3 decades. I mean, and you need to be proud of that, but the

burden is on your shoulders now because that trust is slipping precipitously. For the past 4 or 5 years, ever since we've had that hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan. You add that to the vaccine virus mandate, and the troops and the American public have noticeably lost trust in that most important institution. [01:42:00] Now, I have never actually met Pete Hegseth, but I've read his book. But I have met Matthew Lohmeier and have read his book twice. And I can tell you that as an old 70 year old veteran, I couldn't be more inspired by than I am with the way those two men, those two bright patriots, those two veterans, think they've outlined a plan to get us back on track and restore [01:42:30] that trust. A couple of weeks ago, I read an article. I chuckled about it because apparently the Good Idea fairy has recently visited the Scripps National Spelling Bee. And told them that they will henceforth have an alternative way to spell woman or women instead of w o m e n. It's now w o m y n I chuckle about it, but [01:43:00] then two weeks later, I get a call from a respected friend of mine who's a member of the US maritime industry, and he was complaining because my former organization just issued an edict, a new rule, which goes into effect on January 17th, that says that now every one of the all the entire US maritime industry has [01:43:30] now got to change all words that end with the suffix m a n to something else.

[01:43:37] **Dean Lee:** All right. For, for example, a seaman will henceforth be called a seafarer. A fireman will become a boiler technician, and my personal favorite, a steersman will become an apprentice mate of towing vessels. I mean, why? Why use one word when five will do. And so you look at that kind of stuff and you go, that's just [01:44:00] stupid. And you ask yourself, where is this stupidity going to end? Well, that's why I'm placing my hope and trust in in Pete Hegseth, because the outlines in his book that he's got a plan to end that kind of stupid stuff. And I'm hoping that he will team up with Matthew Lamar and the two of them collectively can build a bigger team to tackle that stuff. And so it begs the question, how do we get here? I mean, how do we get to a point that we're focusing on that kind [01:44:30] of silliness that, you know, we have forgotten, in my case with my agency, that when we make when we do small things like that makes us feel better. Like eradicate man from sophistic suffixes that we're. We're not just. This is no small deal. We've forgotten that the industry that we're regulating is already overwhelmed with a litany of complex safety regulations, environmental regulations, [01:45:00] and other government imposed security requirements that that are all burdensome enough.

[01:45:05] **Dean Lee:** So why on earth would we add the silliness to them that have to reprint all their training manuals, change all their signs, change all their certificates, all just to eradicate the letters m a n. This goes to the heart and core of this Di silliness. And so I would just say this. We [01:45:30] need to get men and women into leadership positions in DoD senior level to kill this kind of stupidity. We just need to kill the stupid stuff. And number two, we need somebody to mandate that we're going to finally do a hot wash on that whole vaccine mandate rollout for DoD, because that extended over into DHS, and by virtue of that, into the US Coast Guard. And we lost the trust [01:46:00] of thousands. And we also lost due to discharge, thousands of good men and women in a time when we need people to fill those positions and we can't find enough to recruit. So to sum it all up, I hope that Pete Hegseth gets confirmed and that he will create some kind of operation to restore purpose, to restore trust to the military, and [01:46:30] to bring back and bring us back to into focus on what's really the most important thing in the US military is an institution, and that is lethality and morality. And when you get those two together, we will regain the lost trust. Thank you for letting me come over.

[01:46:49] **Frank Gaffney:** Admiral. God bless you. Thank you. We're hoping that you and certainly people like you will be stepping to the fore in this new administration. [01:47:00] And the course correction will take place. Time to spare us printing and manufacturing of all those ridiculous signs. Thank you, sir. God bless you. Finally, a man that we've relied upon on a number of occasions, including in the previous Senate telethon, rather to serve as the closer for this lengthy but I think, very, very compelling appeal to the Senate to support Pete Hegseth nomination and to make [01:47:30] the kinds, of course, corrections that are required for the military. His name is Ron Armstrong. He is a leader in the state level arena. Notably of his own organization, Stand Up Michigan, and an association of similar kinds of outfits called frontliners. He is also a founding member of two of the coalitions that are Institute for the American Future is proud to be sponsoring and [01:48:00] helping, as well as one of our first senior fellows with that institute. That would be the Sovereignty Coalition and this one, the Save America's military coalition. Ron, thank you for patiently waiting to finish the program. We're very, very glad to have you with us, as nobody does better the job of synthesizing and emphasizing the most important points. And we look to you to do that now. Over to you.

[01:48:29] **Ron Armstrong:** Thank you, Frank, [01:48:30] I appreciate yours and everyone's time. Over the last couple of hours, you have heard from more than a dozen military organizations and conservative leaders from America who have laid out the problems and also the solutions that exist today. The systematic problems that exist in America and its military. As it's mentioned many times, it starts with the leadership and President Trump's nomination. And we certainly are urging the confirmation [01:49:00] of Pete Hegseth to this very important position is certainly a major part in leading us to the solution that we all seek. We must return our military to one that has historically been based on merit, and one that is based on a goal of peace through strength, but more recently is based upon diversity, equity and inclusion. And its focus has been on dividing Americans, its soldiers and its people along racial, ethnical, sexual and other identities and [01:49:30] ideologies. We are truly at a crossroads. Or I say a fork in the road, and our time is indeed short. We must, as leaders and as Americans, choose this path carefully. And we certainly have to be thankful for the recent results of this election, the election of President Trump. We, I think, all knew at the time that he was shot or this last summer, that God had spared his life for a reason. The American people collectively responded [01:50:00] and elected him.

[01:50:01] **Ron Armstrong:** And now the difficult work is certainly here for all of us. We must demand both a strategic and a systematic approach to purge America's military, as well as other government agencies of the anti-American and the anti-God policies that exist today. We owe it to the American people. We owe it to our country. We owe it to our soldiers. We certainly owe it to the American people. And probably most importantly, we owe it to the founders [01:50:30] of this great nation. In 2026, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of this great country. And I ask you all a very important question. What is it we will be celebrating in 2026? If it is up to our enemies, both foreign and domestic, including the globalists that lead the World Economic Forum, the United Nations and the World Health Organization, they seek to dismantle this great nation by destroying, ignoring and eliminating, [01:51:00] if possible, the Constitution and the foundational principles of our freedom and liberty of this great constitutional Republic. I want to just reemphasize that we do still hold these truths self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with unalienable rights, and among these are life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Ronald Reagan said, we have problems in our country, and many are praying and waiting on God to do

something. [01:51:30] And I just am wondering if maybe he is waiting on us to do something.

[01:51:35] **Ron Armstrong:** And while no one is capable of doing everything, everyone is capable of doing something. Great quote by Ronald Reagan is true. Today is the day that he spoke at each and every one of us. Each and every one of you must now take action, and we must have our voices be heard both at a local level, through your representatives, through your senators, and certainly at a national level. We [01:52:00] ask you to share this video. We ask you to visit the website Save America's Military. Org and to click on the align act that is there, which will allow you to quickly and easily send a pre-prepared message directly to your Senator to encourage the quick confirmation of Pete Hegseth. As the Secretary of Defense, Thomas Jefferson said, we need to educate and inform the whole masses of the people. They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of liberty, [01:52:30] and I believe personally that the best of America is yet to come. But it is truly up to each and every one of us, not just to the elected leaders. And I will finish with this and say, pray as if everything depends upon God. But we need to work as if everything depends upon us, because it might very well be the case. Thank you, Frank.

[01:52:52] **Frank Gaffney:** Thank you Ron. Brilliantly done. A final word from me. I couldn't be more proud of the folks [01:53:00] who have spoken and the content that we've shared with you. I honestly believe it couldn't be a more important message that has been imparted. We are at war. The only military we have has been grievously Affected by the distractions, by the exhaustion of successive combat [01:53:30] operations and the wearing out of its kit, the failure to adequately modernize those forces, and the fact that for too long they have been poorly led. To put it mildly, by both cultural Marxists in the civilian personnel ranks as well as in those of the military itself. There [01:54:00] is a test now before the Senate. I mentioned earlier that our first of these video telethons was aimed at calling those senators to serve in their constitutional role. They have the job of promoting Proving the promotion, I should say, of military personnel to field and senior ranks. They [01:54:30] have not done it adequately heretofore. Previous senates and congresses have unfortunately been derelict in allowing the conditions that we've described at length here today to arise, to persist and to metastasize. It now falls to a new Senate to step up, to perform competently [01:55:00] that job of quality control and to, in that purpose, approve the nomination by

President Donald J. Trump of Pete Hegseth to be the next Secretary of defense and to effect the kinds of well, I've said it many times.

[01:55:25] **Frank Gaffney:** Course corrections in so many of the areas we've discussed. That [01:55:30] will result in making America's military great again. We must not allow it to be anything less. We may not, in fact, survive in this war if we fail. I want to thank all of those who participated. They're too numerous to go through their names here. We will shortly produce the video of all of their remarks and probably do a highlights [01:56:00] reel, as we did the last time around, because this has run so long. But we will try to capture the most important insights that each of these speakers has provided with us. I want to thank all of you for attending. And as my colleague Dede will say in closing, we urge you, as Ron did, to, to share this information with others whose lives may depend on these recommendations being adopted your family, [01:56:30] your friends, your colleagues, your neighbors, but most especially your representatives in the United States Senate. And finally, I could not agree more with Ron Armstrong's concluding point. This is a matter for prayer. We urge you to engage in it on behalf of our friend and colleague, Pete Hegseth. The military that he should lead and hopefully will shortly, [01:57:00] and the country that they serve. God bless them. God bless you. God bless America. Back to you, Dede.

[01:57:11] **Dede Laugesen:** Indeed. God bless America. A video of this webinar will be posted to SaveAmericasMilitary.org within a day or so of the conclusion of this program. Please take action at the website to send a letter to your senators in support of Pete Hegseth for Secretary of Defense [01:57:30] and in opposition to Cultural Marxism in the US military. Sign up at [Save America's Military substack.com](http://SaveAmerica'sMilitary.substack.com) for updates on programs, initiatives and upcoming events. Tomorrow, Friday, January 3rd at 1:00 pm Eastern Time, the Committee on the Present Danger China will host its standard weekly China Threat Webinar series on "Xi's military buildup, unmatched since Hitler's: [01:58:00] Now you tell us." Find out more at PresentDangerChina.org. Thanks for joining us today and goodbye.