

car bombs and have killed hundreds of people in terrorist attacks in Turkey. President Erdogan has every reason to pay attention to that particular group of Kurds, and I understand his frustration that the United States partnered with them to take out ISIS, but the fact was, Turkey would not come across the border to help us take out ISIS, and so we found partners who would take on ISIS with us—and they did.

Now Erdogan wants to push those folks back. His methods are quite brutal in the process. When we went into Afghanistan, we understood that all Afghan people were not our enemy—the Taliban was, al-Qaida was. That was our enemy, and they found their way among the populations. We were exceptionally careful when we went into Afghanistan to protect the Afghan people, yet find ways to take the battles to the Taliban and to al-Qaida. Erdogan's methods were to come across the border with tanks and heavy artillery and start shelling cities in Syria, knowing there were some PKK in those villages, and so they just shelled them all. Erdogan and some of his thugs also came across with some of the other groups who were working with the Turks. We also have footage of them taking prisoners and shooting them beside the road and leaving their bodies there. These people had already surrendered. They were people who had already been handcuffed, and they executed them beside the road. That is a war crime that we should follow up with, and I hope President Trump had a very frank conversation with President Erdogan about following up on war crimes.

Just to add to all of our difficulties right now with President Erdogan, in the past couple of years, he has shifted his attention toward Russia and has now completed a purchase of a Russian air defense system. They are the very first and only NATO country ever to purchase Russian military equipment. That equipment is not interoperable with the rest of NATO. This is Russian equipment that is specifically designed to take the fight to the F-35. Turkey believes it is going to purchase the F-35 from the United States, and they also believe they can purchase the S-400 from Russia and have them side by

side. Well, they are wrong. Years ago, Congress passed the Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, commonly known as CAATSA. It was a very clear message to anyone who buys Russian military equipment that there are sanctions coming to your country, and it is clear. We have applied those sanctions in the past, and those sanctions need to be applied to Turkey now.

In addition to that, Senator SHAHEEN and I have partnered together to pass a bill to block Turkey from taking any of the F-35s—not trained in the equipment, not simulators, no F-35s can go to Turkey. If they are interested in buying Russian air defense systems, they understand clearly what that means because we have made it clear to the Turks for 2 years now: If you buy Russian equipment, you cannot also have the F-35. President Erdogan was aware of that. His administration was aware of that, and I hope President Trump made it clear to him today, as clear as this Congress has made it clear, on a bipartisan basis, that Turkey cannot have the F-35 and also have Russian military equipment at the same time. That is incompatible. We will continue to make that very clear in the days ahead in our legislation, and I believe a vote will not even be close to send a message to Turkey that we are interested in maintaining our friendship and our NATO ally, but our NATO ally needs to make a decision if they are a NATO ally or if they are a Russian ally because those two are not congruent.

I hope that was the conversation that happened today. We will find out in the days ahead, but even if it was not, I hope President Erdogan and the Turkish Embassy hears it clearly now. This Congress would look forward to partnering with Turkey again in the future, as we have for decades in the past. We have had an economic relationship, a military relationship, and a genuine friendship with Turkey, but we do not know who Turkey is anymore. We don't recognize the Turkey of today from Turkey 5 years ago. We would never come to your country and beat up protesters in the street as President Erdogan's security thugs did last year in the United States. We would never do that to your country. We would

never counter NATO just to spite you, and we would certainly stay aligned with a friend who has been a friend for decades.

To the Turkish people, our beef is not with you. Our frustration is with the regime that is currently directing your country away from its traditional allies. We continue to reach our hand out to the Turkish people, and we continue to say to President Erdogan: This can be different in the days ahead, as it has been in the past, but some things need to change, and we are not the ones who walked away.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. LANKFORD. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:40 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ELAINE A. MCCUSKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER), VICE DAVID L. NORQUIST, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 13, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CHAD F. WOLF, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 13, 2019 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

DOUG MANCHESTER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 16, 2019.