

Center for Strategic and International Studies

TRANSCRIPT

Event

2026 Global Security Forum, America at 250: A Defining
Moment for American Statecraft and Military Power
Closing Remarks

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CSIS EXPERTS

General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMC (Ret.)

Chief Executive Officer, CSIS

Transcript By

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General Joseph F. Dunford Jr. (Ret.): Hey, ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our formal program. And Jennifer said I would have a few words, and that's exactly what I have. I just have a couple of – a couple of thank-yous.

And, first, I would encourage you, as Heather mentioned, there is an opportunity to continue the discussion after we're done. And I'd encourage those who have the inclination and the time to do that.

I want to thank all the folks that are here in person and also those that are here virtually, but probably more importantly thank you for the questions along the way. I think each one of the panels was better as a result of the input that we received online.

I want to thank the moderators and the panelists for sharing their insights. I think you understand, based on the lineup, these are all busy people, and the only incentive for them to join us here today was they're very passionate about the issues they discussed and they want to contribute to the debate. And so that really was important.

And to the CSIS team, my summary of the day is we had the right topics, we had the right framing, we had the right speakers, and thanks to the team that's in the back and outside we had the right logistics. And that's just not how I think about it; that's been the uniform feedback that I've received all day.

And from my perspective, our mandate is to look at strategic issues, help to frame them, and more importantly to contribute to solving some of these strategic issues. Today was characteristic of the journey that we're on. And that's all it is, is a journey. And so, for the CSIS team, I think this is what right looks like in terms of the kind of events that we do.

And for those who joined us, I would just say and encourage you to continue the journey with us. We didn't solve any of the issues that we talked about today. I think we illuminated them, but there's a lot of work to be done, and I think many of you recognize that the issues that we talked about today were enduring.

So, once again, to the CSIS team, to the folks who joined us, and to the panelists, I just want to say thanks a lot. This was a – this was a great day and a great way to go into the 4th of July weekend. And I wish you all the best for Independence Day. And just for the record, I agree with the last two panelists: I'd bet on America. (Applause.)

END.

