

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE

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Chairman DesJarlais, Ranking Member Moulton, and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the Department of War's national security space programs. It is an honor to appear with my colleagues, Lieutenant General Douglas Schiess, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Operations, Mr. Brett Markham, Deputy Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Mr. William B. Adkins, Principal Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office, and Mr. Thomas W. Ainsworth, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration.

The United States is facing intensifying strategic competition in the security environment. Competitors have fielded and operate sophisticated space, counterspace, missile, and integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) systems. They view space as a warfighting domain and seek the ability to deny us freedom of access to and use of the domain, jeopardize our military forces, and hold our Homeland at risk.

The pace and scale of the threat is unprecedented. Consequently, fielding and operating the systems necessary to ensure U.S. freedom of action in space, deny adversaries its hostile use, and defend the Homeland and our military forces is a strategic imperative. The Department is therefore focusing investment on

maintaining our technological edge and operating modern systems that enhance the capability and survivability of our forces.

Outer space is an increasingly complex and contested warfighting domain. Adversaries are employing space systems for command and control, targeting, and precision strike while simultaneously developing and operating a variety of space control capabilities—from cyber and electronic warfare to kinetic anti-satellite (ASAT) missiles and orbital weapons—to counter U.S. space systems.

China is our pacing competitor. Its military modernization is rapid and comprehensive, spanning space, counterspace, cyber, nuclear, and conventional strike capabilities. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) sees space as vital for future conflicts, essential for denying our ability to sense and communicate, targeting U.S. forces, and enabling long-range strikes. China's satellite constellations have expanded significantly, and their networked systems are designed to track and engage our mobile forces in the Indo-Pacific region. It is fielding a broad range of kinetic and non-kinetic space control weapons to hold U.S. space assets at risk.

In addition, Russia possesses significant space and counterspace capabilities. Russia's space program has faced setbacks, but it continues to invest in an array of

weapons designed to counter space capabilities. This includes cyber and electronic warfare against satellite systems as seen in Ukraine.

As articulated in the 2025 National Security Strategy, our approach is to restore American strength to secure peace. The President directed the Department to secure our vital interests by ensuring American space superiority as well as defend the Homeland with the Golden Dome for America (GDA). The 2026 National Defense Strategy (NDS) builds on this principle, prioritizing a commonsense, America-First approach to peace through strength. Space is central to U.S. strategy.

The Department's highest priority, as directed by the President and the NDS, is the defense of the U.S. Homeland. Access to and use of space is a vital national interest because of its overriding importance to our security and economic prosperity. U.S. space systems enable deterrence and global power projection.

Consistent with the President's direction to ensure space superiority, the Department is focused on normalizing space as a warfighting domain. Space systems contribute to all elements of America's national power. We will secure and defend our interests to, in, and from space.

The President's GDA initiative is the cornerstone of our Homeland defense posture. It is an essential and pragmatic response to the growing threat posed by

ballistic, hypersonic, advanced cruise missile and other next-generation aerial weapons. It will leverage both existing technologies and next-generation systems such as space-based sensors and interceptors. It will integrate sensors and effectors across multiple domains, managed by an artificial intelligence-enabled battle management and command and control system.

In the Indo-Pacific region, a denial defense along the First Island Chain is critical. Space capabilities are essential to this effort, enabling the intelligence, command and control, and other warfighting functions needed to project power effectively across the vast distances of the region. U.S. Space Command and U.S. Space Forces-Indo-Pacific are integrating space capabilities into joint and combined operations to maintain a credible deterrent.

Our global alliances will remain a strategic advantage if our allies and partners invest properly in defense. We require capable allies with the military strength and political will to take primary responsibility for their own regional security. This allows the United States to focus its finite resources on the most pressing challenges.

The Department is pursuing robust space cooperation with key allies and partners. We have agreements in place with numerous countries for a variety of cooperative activities. In addition, the Combined Space Operations initiative and

Multi-National Force Operation OLYMPIC DEFENDER enable the protection of common U.S. and allied interests in space.

The final pillar of the NDS is supercharging our Defense Industrial Base. To maintain our military edge, we must move faster than our rivals. This requires cutting bureaucratic red tape, empowering program leaders to take risks, and embracing a "commercial-first" mindset where appropriate to leverage private sector innovation. We must accelerate the development, acquisition, and fielding of critical space capabilities at scale.

Our investments in space are aligned with these strategic priorities. These investments are focused on resilient satellite control, advanced tracking of aerial threats, secure data networks, space domain awareness, and modernizing command and control to operate at the speed of conflict. We are also acquiring the necessary warfighting capabilities to protect and defend U.S. interests in space.

Additionally, we are building GDA to provide a comprehensive, layered, and defense-in-depth of the United States. Key investments include the Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor, space-based sensing capabilities, and Space-Based Interceptors.

In closing, the Department of War is posturing its national security space programs to achieve peace through strength. With the continued support of

Congress, we will field the modern space systems required to deter aggression, defend the Homeland, and protect U.S. national interests.