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OPENING STATEMENT OF

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(U) Chairman Jackson, Ranking Member Crow, distinguished members of the Committee, I am honored to represent the people of the National Security Agency and am grateful for your support. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today alongside my Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprise (DISE) colleagues.

(U) The strategic environment we face today is dynamic and complex, defined by Great Power threats and simultaneous flash points of crisis and conflict. While the nature of war remains unchanged, the character of warfare is evolving at an ever-increasing pace. Influencing all of this is the rapid advancement of technology, including artificial intelligence, that is central to this transformation of warfare.

(U) The nation and the adversaries we face demand speed and agility in our signals intelligence and Cyber capabilities. Foreign intelligence – harnessing the power of our data, strategic campaigning, and a bias to action – are essential to supporting the warfighter, shaping the environment, and strengthening partnerships. The men and women of the National Security Agency, alongside the United States cyber Command are the world leaders in this arena.

(U) Recent events, including our support to Operations Epic Fury and Absolute Resolve, make it clear that the powerful combination of signals

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intelligence provided by NSA and Cyber effects delivered by U.S. Cyber Command continues to have outsized impacts in protecting the homeland, delivering deterrence, and providing support to combat operations.

(U) Our foremost priority is to defend the U.S. homeland. NSA has made it a priority to protect America's interests throughout the Western Hemisphere through our efforts to produce foreign intelligence that can be used to prevent narco-terrorists from trafficking lethal narcotics into our country and to deter and defend against Cyber threats to the U.S. homeland. As we maintain strategic discipline in our focus on our number one priority, NSA remains vigilant to our global challenges, including efforts to deter China in the Indo-Pacific.

(U) Operation Epic Fury demonstrates the incredible warfighting support that NSA and USCYBERCOM deliver on behalf of the nation, on behalf of the joint force, and against our strategic priorities and threats. In support of U.S. CENTCOM operations, NSA has played a critical role in our ability to deliver insight into the adversary and generate strategic advantage on the battlefield.

(U) Emerging technologies and increasing global interconnectedness continue to drive change and unprecedented expansion of the art-of-the-possible. As a technically-oriented foreign intelligence organization that

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supports the Intelligence Community, the Joint Force, and alongside our allies and partners, NSA must posture itself to succeed through speed, scale, innovation, and integration. The research and development of AI tools is a constant, not an exception, as it helps us stay ahead of our foreign adversaries who are also working feverishly to develop AI tools for their own benefit. We continue to invest in artificial intelligence and cutting-edge advances in automation and scalable technologies to accelerate our ability to deliver insights and outcomes. This requires a highly skilled workforce, a workforce that embraces innovation, and a broadened approach for agile collaboration across government, the private sector, and our partners around the world.

(U) I would like to emphasize the importance of intelligence derived from Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to the missions I just mentioned. This authority, which allows NSA to collect foreign intelligence on non-U.S. persons located overseas that use U.S. communications infrastructure, is vital to keeping the Nation safe. I look forward to continuing my conversation with Congress about 702's importance and the rigorous compliance program that guides our use of it.

(U) Thanks you again for inviting me today. Maintaining the trust and confidence of our nation's leaders and the public remains our top focus.

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Your support is what allows us to achieve positive national security outcomes for the Nation. I look forward to your questions.

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