

Remarks as prepared for the Honorable Milancy Harris
Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security
At the House Armed Service Committee Hearing
Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations
April 11, 2024

(As of 04/11/2024)

(U) Chairman Bergman, Ranking Member Gallego, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, it is a privilege to testify on the current posture of the Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprise to confront the diverse array of global threats and challenges facing the United States of America and our allies and partners.

(U) The intelligence and security experts across the Department of Defense work tirelessly to address current and future threats to our nation on a daily basis. On their behalf, thank you to the members of this Subcommittee for your ongoing support and collaboration.

(U) I am joined here today by Director of the National Security Agency, General Timothy Haugh, and Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lieutenant General Jeffrey Kruse. They will be offering their intelligence-informed perspectives on how we support our warfighters and characterize the challenges facing as the United States of America, our allies, and partners today and in the future. We look forward to your questions on these challenges, and how our Enterprise is postured to meet them. In addition to my remarks today, I have submitted a classified Statement for the Record detailing our FY25 Military Intelligence Program budget request, providing further insight into our plans.

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(U) Our number one priority remains addressing our pacing challenge, the People's Republic of China (PRC). We seek a free and open Indo-Pacific region that is peaceful and secure. Our network of regional allies and partners is deep, wide, strong, and committed to a shared vision of peace, stability, and deterrence. The FY25 President's Budget Request for the Military Intelligence Program postures the Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprise to support all of these efforts, and more.

(U) The Department also continues to be actively focused, with our NATO allies in support of Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion. We must remain vigilant in safeguarding against a resurgent Russian threat to NATO, international security, and the rules-based order.

(U) The Defense Intelligence Enterprise is enabling the Department's response to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, as well as other crises in the Middle East involving the Houthis, Iranian-affiliated militia groups, and violent extremist organizations such as ISIS and Al Qaeda. We will continue to cooperate with our allies and partners and leverage technology to build an enduring and sustainable counterterrorism posture to monitor and disrupt terrorist threats.

(U) Regarding both the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, in order to continue the Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprise's support, it is vitally important

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that Congress approve the supplemental funding we have requested. That funding is urgently needed to support our allies and partners. If we walk away, that will signal that the United States is an unreliable partner and embolden authoritarians and would-be aggressors across the globe.

(U) In our FY25 budget request, we seek to advance crucial programs in the following ways:

- (U) Providing the Department with an information and decision advantage over key adversaries, focused on the PRC;
- (U) Operationalizing defense intelligence and security partnerships across the Department, U.S. Government, and our allies and partners, and the private sector;
- (U) Elevating security and counterintelligence to the maximum extent across the Department; and
- (U) Identifying, recruiting, training, and retaining a workforce capable of supporting our mission requirements.

(U) Finally, before I close, I wish to emphasize how critical it is for Congress to act to reauthorize Section 702 of the Foreign Surveillance Act before the short-term extension of that authority expires on April 19th. Additionally, recently proposed legislation in Congress has sought to limit DoD's lawful and appropriate access to and use of commercially available information, or CAI, which is used to support the full spectrum of DoD missions. CAI is lawfully obtained by DoD and

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subject to stringent handling procedures to protect privacy and civil liberties of U.S. persons.

(U) It is important for the effectiveness of the Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprise that DoD and Congress have the opportunity to collaborate on legislation so as to preserve appropriate access to this data.

(U) In summary, the President's Budget supports the Department's programs and authorities needed to address these global challenges, maintain our strategic advantages, and provide decision-makers and policymakers with information at the speed of relevance.

(U) With that, I again thank the Subcommittee for its leadership and support, and I look forward to answering your questions here, and in our closed session. I will now turn to General Haugh for his remarks, followed by Lieutenant General Kruse.