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OPENING STATEMENT OF

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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS

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(U) Chairman Bergman, Ranking Member Gallego, 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 with my Department of Defense Intelligence Enterprise colleagues.

(U) The men and women of the National Security Agency are committed to providing vital support to policymakers and our vital role as a combat support agency. We deliver vital cryptologic capabilities to enable the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to deliver accurate and timely intelligence on threats facing the nation to our warfighters and national leadership.

(U) The U.S. faces many threats today: China challenges us across all elements of national power while coercively seeking to expand its malign influence and control over its neighbors and around the world. Russia remains engaged in global malign influence and its illegal aggression in Ukraine. Iran is a regional menace routinely conducting cyber and malign influence activities; while North Korea continues to advance its missile and WMD capabilities.

(U) Terror groups, criminal cyber actors, and fentanyl- dealing cartels are ongoing threats. Rapid changes in the global technological environment require better approaches to data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. NSA is working with interagency, private sector, and foreign partners to build cybersecurity in defense of the Nation; and is playing a critical role in developing insights to counter China.

(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 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 to speak with Congress about 702's importance and the rigorous compliance program that guides our use of it.

(U) In my role as the Director of NSA and Commander of US. Cyber Command, and pursuant to recent guidance issued by the Department of Defense, I am closely examining access, accountability and security in our workspaces, in collaboration with the whole-of-government efforts related to the protection of classified information.

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(U) Maintaining the trust and confidence of our nation's leaders and the public remains a top focus. Your support is what allows us to achieve positive national security outcomes for the nation. Thank you again for inviting me today and I look forward to your questions.

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