

**Ranking Member Ro Khanna Opening Statement**

**(As Prepared)**

**Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems Subcommittee  
Hearing: “*Defense in a Digital Era: Artificial Intelligence, Information  
Technology, and Securing the Department of Defense*”**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Thank you, Chairman Gallagher.

I would also like to welcome Mr. John Sherman, the DoD Chief Information Officer, and Dr Craig Martell the Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Officer. Thank you for appearing before the subcommittee this morning.

On the heels of the one-year anniversary of Russia’s unprovoked and untoward invasion of Ukraine, one constant theme has been how the ways of war have been transformed and are completely different from anything that we have seen in the past. From the ubiquitous presence of tactical unmanned aerial vehicles in the hands of soldiers on the front lines, to the use digital platforms in battle management, it is obvious that the continued integration of advanced technologies into combat is an essential component of contemporary warfare that we must get right. And this is why the DoD’s CIO and the Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Officer’s appearance before this subcommittee today is so important.

As we enter the second year since the creation of the Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Officer, and the shift of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, the Office of the Chief Data Officer, and the Defense Digital Service from the purview of the CIO’s office to the Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence office, I am eager to hear how this transition has gone, what

challenges you have encountered, and any ways in which we can be helpful and offer assistance.

Deconflicting the duties of the CIO and Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Officer, and making sure that the responsibilities of both parties are properly and effectively defined, is paramount. As has been said before, the topics of data management, operationalizing artificial intelligence, building resilience in our networks, to name a few, are just too vital to be foisted upon a single official or office. Clear rules of the road are necessary as we move forward in this endeavor.

Furthermore, given the growing importance of the electromagnetic spectrum, and the highly visible role the Department's spectrum usage has played in policy discussions in recent months, I look forward to an update on CIO's role in spectrum management for the Department, the progress of the ongoing study on the lower 3 gigahertz band, and future efforts and investments. I also look forward to hearing about the role of the CIO and the CDAO in managing and growing the highly capable workforce of the future in these sometimes highly technical fields.

Finally, I would be very interested in hearing about your work to secure our networks and that of the defense industrial base, your continued efforts with the Services, progress in transitioning the DoD to enterprise cloud solutions, engagement with the private sector, and managing and growing the workforce. The plates of both the CIO and Chief Digital & Artificial Intelligence Officer are quite full, and their missions are vital to our national security. Meeting these challenges is a necessity.

And with that, I want to again thank our witnesses for appearing before us today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.