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**Opening Statement (As Prepared)**  
**Chairman Ruben Gallego**  
Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations:  
*"Markup of H.R. 7900 - National Defense Authorization  
Act for Fiscal Year 2023"*  
June 9, 2022

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Good morning. Welcome to the Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee mark for the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act.

Before we begin, I would like to thank Ranking Member Kelly for his strong partnership and contribution to the mark. I also extend my appreciation to all our subcommittee members on both sides of the aisle for their commitment to the especially sensitive issues we cover on this subcommittee and thank them for their contributions to the mark.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our tremendous professional staff led by Shannon Green, and which includes Craig Greene, Patrick Nevins, and Will Braden; without this team, the mark would not be possible. I would also like to thank my Military Legislative Assistant Michelle Shevin-Coetzee for her excellent support.

Our mark was developed in a bipartisan manner and includes the priorities submitted by all our subcommittee members. The mark builds on the priorities we started last year to create more agility across the defense intelligence enterprise to counter Russia and China in the information environment and rebalance the activities and capabilities of U.S. Special Operations Command to support the Department in strategic competition. The Department has implemented many of the intelligence reforms and has played an important role in supporting Ukraine amidst Russia's unprovoked invasion on February 24th. As General Nakasone testified in this year's posture hearing, the defense intelligence community has made, and continues to make, a difference in Ukraine by building coalitions, shining a light on disinformation, and sharing actionable intelligence with the Ukrainians.

We cannot waiver in our commitment to Ukraine, the NATO alliance, and democracy.

Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine highlights the importance of working with partners and allies on the front end to ensure resilience against unprovoked aggression. The training and collaboration between US special operations forces and Ukrainian SOF, for example, is paying dividends, and we will continue to support them. That is also why I created the Baltic Security Initiative to strengthen the defense capabilities of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania – three key NATO allies – in areas like air defense, C4ISR, and special operations forces.

Even as the war in Ukraine rages on and tensions remain high across Europe, China is expanding its military reach in aggressive and asymmetric ways. Our subcommittee mark enhances the Department's progress towards institutionalizing irregular warfare by codifying section 1202 of the FY 2018 NDAA and requiring a briefing on the Department's plans to expand irregular warfare operations to vetted allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

Our mark enables sensitive military operations across the spectrum of warfare and strengthens oversight of clandestine military activities that support operational preparation of the environment.

While we rebalance and focus capabilities, US Special Operations Command continues to carry out its priority mission of countering violent extremist organizations. The mark ensures SOCOM investments and divestments will provide the capability to counter strategic competition in the grey zone while enabling access for the CVEO mission.

Finally, this mark continues one of my priorities of ensuring greater congressional oversight of Information Operations across the ISO portfolio. I have a provision to strengthen the oversight framework for web-based Military Information Support Operations (MISO) that will be included in the Chairman's full committee mark package.

With that, I turn to my friend and Ranking Member, Trent Kelly for any comments.

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