

Opening Statement
Ranking Member Ruben Gallego
Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee
A Review of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise's posture and capabilities in
strategic competition and in synchronizing intelligence efforts to counter the
People's Republic of China.

April 27, 2023

I want to thank the Chairman for convening this hearing and the witnesses for their time and willingness to appear before the subcommittee.

Since you testified in front of this subcommittee last year, the global security situation remains dynamic. Russia continues its violent assault on Ukraine's sovereignty. China, our "pacing challenge" as defined by the National Security and Defense Strategies, continues its threatening posture toward Taiwan, military assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, and global influence campaign.

North Korea continues its persistent testing of ballistic missiles. Iran and its proxies continue their malign activities. And violent extremist organizations continue seeking to attack the United States and our allies.

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For the Defense Intelligence Enterprise specifically, we continue to see concerning trends in this strategic competition. Last fall the NSA in coordination with the FBI and CISA released a report highlighting Chinese cyber threats to our critical infrastructure and the security of the Defense Industrial Base. Likewise, just two months ago, the DIA issued a report further exposing ties between Russia and Iran over the use of lethal Iranian drones in Ukraine.

And we are continuing to monitor the growing relationship between Russia and the PRC – especially as the latter reportedly spends billions of dollars in support of Russian disinformation.

These are just a select few instances that reflect the need for increased focus and agility from the Defense Intelligence Enterprise when it comes to strategic competition.

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I remain committed to working with you to ensure your organizations have the resources and authorities required to address these challenges in an era of great power competition.

And we can't do it alone. As I continue to say, our partners and allies play a key role as we work together to counter the aggressive and malign behavior that seeks to erode the rules based international order. I would especially like to thank Secretary Moultrie for reaffirming the value of strategic intelligence partners publicly during his visit last year with the Lithuanian Minister of National Defense.

To effectively deal with the challenge of strategic competition, the Defense Intelligence Enterprise must remain agile, be collaborative across the enterprise, quickly provide releasable and

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actionable intelligence throughout the department, and collaborate with allies and partners.

I look forward to hearing from the witnesses on these and other issues today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.