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Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation Subcommittee
The Future of War: Is the Pentagon Prepared to Deter and Defeat
America's Adversaries?
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing, and I am excited about the hard work ahead of us for the 118th Congress. To you and to all the Members of the subcommittee, I look forward to continuing the incredible bipartisan history of this subcommittee with each of you.

And thank you to our witnesses for appearing before us today and joining our first subcommittee event for the year.

The rapid proliferation of new technologies continues to radically change characteristics of warfare. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has shown us a set of potential paths for conflict to evolve, but there is a clear expectation that not all of the lessons learned may hold true in a contest involving the United States and a near-peer competitor.

Still, there are clear insights to be gained. The expanded role of unmanned systems, particularly at the tactical edge; the utility of loitering and precision munitions; the integrated use of information

operations, including electronic warfare, cyber, and military information support operations; all have been illuminated in significant ways. But in other dimensions, we've seen the war devolve into trench warfare and artillery battles reminiscent of the First World War. All within the same conflict in less than a year.

How, then, to ensure that the United States is prepared to compete effectively in the coming decades in such a dynamic environment?

We can see some imperatives - most particularly rapid adoption of new technologies, including the integration of commercially available capabilities. But technology alone is not enough, and it doesn't happen in isolation. Research and development means the development of a pipeline of dedicated professionals in sometimes highly specialized fields, and a commitment to training and retention. It means a test and evaluation enterprise able to rapidly evolve with the software-driven and highly adaptable systems of the future, while still evolving to support high-end capabilities such as hypersonics, electronic warfare, and next-generation platforms. It takes labs with modernized infrastructure, capable of supporting and enabling cutting-edge research at a variety of maturity levels. It takes close partnerships with the defense industry and the commercial sector. And, it needs the bureaucratic and organizational

tools to succeed, especially when it comes to creating the operational “pull” from the warfighters that is essential to successfully crossing the valley of death. Then, it will require the training, personnel, modernization, and sustainment that make it a credible capability for our men and women in uniform to use to deter our adversaries. Every link in the chain must succeed.

As far as the cyber domain, global networking is now one of the fundamental building blocks of our society. Defense, health, energy, finance, and more all depend on reliable and secure communications. We expect our military to be able to secure, fight, and win in cyberspace in order to defend our national interests. But what will it take to get to and remain in a position to do that? Our operators must be able to detect and track adversaries, secure communications, and create effects. Our workforce must be supported and engaged, with the right number of people in the right jobs with the right tools. Our systems must be defensible and resilient. This subcommittee has a history of being an engaged partner in the growth of the DoD's cyber mission and cyber forces, including in last year's creation of an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber, and it is crucial that we maintain that momentum in this and future years. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses as to what next steps may be necessary to fully enable our men and women who operate in defense of our interests in cyberspace every day.

I hope that we can talk frankly today not just about the challenges we face, but also the organizational and systemic adjustments that might be necessary in order to meet those challenges and ensure that our men and women in uniform never have to enter a fair fight, and ideally, through deterrence, never have to enter a fight at all. Mr. Chairman, thank you for convening this hearing, and I look forward to a robust discussion.