

Thank you, Chairman Lamborn and Ranking Member Moulton. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee. It remains my distinct honor to represent the 18,000 military servicemen and women, civilians, and families of U.S. Space Command who are serving our nation around the world. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this committee.

I am proud to lead such a talented and patriotic group of Joint space professionals. Their expertise, diversity, and creativity underpin our strength and effectiveness. Of all the elements of military spacepower, our most valued asset is and always will be our people.

My provisional headquarters achieved Initial Operational Capability in just two years. And we will reach Full Operational Capability through the disciplined initiative of our people.

Spacepower enables our way of life and is a critical component of our national security. I thank Congress for its support to advance America's primacy in space. We must maintain our position of advantage in the space domain and ensure it remains sustainable, safe, stable, and secure for all.

The Joint Force relies on space-based capabilities to project and employ power. China and Russia consider this dependency a "soft underbelly" and seek to exploit it. They intend to limit our access to space during crisis and conflict, and they are fielding capabilities to that effect. Our strategic competitors' irresponsible actions have transformed space into a contested domain.

We must prevent today's strategic competition from growing into a conflict in space. We achieve this by deterring aggression, defending national interests, and, if necessary, prevailing in any domain.

U.S. Space Command contributes to integrated deterrence by preserving freedom of action in space and by providing critical support to the rest of the Joint Force.

Our mission spans the spectrum of conflict and every domain. For example, we are creating concepts to further integrate space, cyber, and special operations to generate asymmetrical advantages around the globe. Additionally, our protect and defend mission involves all three segments of the space architecture: ground, link, and space – an approach that requires all-domain solutions.

My command's planning horizon is near-term. We must be ready to fight today – the threat will not wait. To this end, we are leveraging the Joint Force, our Allies, and Partners to integrate and maximize the capabilities we have today. At the same time, we look forward to the capabilities the Services are developing for the future fight.

As we observe in Ukraine, commercial space assets are a significant force multiplier. For years, our Commercial Mission Partners have augmented our military Satellite Communications and provide enhancements to our Space Domain Awareness sensor network. Commercial integration is critical to mission success.

Today's hearing reasserts the United States' resolve to maintain our leadership and position of advantage in the space domain.

Before I address the Committee's questions, I want to reiterate to the American people my unwavering pledge: U.S. Space Command will ensure there is never a day without space.

Thank you.