



***Lieutenant General Jeff Kruse  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency***

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Chairman Jackson, Ranking Member Crow, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee—thank you for this opportunity to present the Defense Intelligence Agency’s assessment of the worldwide threats to our nation, and our posture to address these increasingly complex challenges.

DIA is dedicated to providing not only the warfighter, the acquisition community, and Senior Administration officials with timely and accurate intelligence, but also to the Congress to assist in your role in countering threats to the United States.

The men and women of DIA in 140 nations around the globe are focused every day on delivering intelligence that: strengthens defense of the U.S. Homeland, enhances warfighter lethality, supports effective and efficient acquisition and countermeasure development, counters foreign intelligence entities attempting to steal U.S. information or penetrate our networks and supply chains, and increases mission sharing and interoperability with trusted U.S. allies and partners.

Our efforts are more timely and more important than ever. The current threat landscape is changing more rapidly than at any time in my 35 years in uniform. Our adversaries are deepening cooperation with each other across multiple domains, and developing and proliferating advanced technologies which generate novel methods to threaten our interests.

Starting in the U.S. Homeland, we face a twofold threat. First, along our borders, transnational criminal organizations, drug traffickers, and terrorist groups are attempting to circumvent host nation laws and evade U.S. law enforcement—including by exploiting migration flows—to conduct activities aimed at harming U.S. citizens. Our longstanding cooperation with U.S. Law Enforcement Agencies has enabled DIA to respond quickly. DIA has surged analytic, collection, scientific, and technical capabilities to support USNORTHCOM, USSOUTHCOM, the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI.

Second, our adversaries are pursuing technological advances to improve their ability to directly threaten the U.S. Homeland with military capabilities, including expanding the scale and sophistication of their conventional and nuclear-capable missile systems. China and Russia are building a diverse array of delivery systems to exploit gaps in current U.S. ballistic missile defenses. They are developing hypersonic glide vehicles as well as Fractional Orbital Bombardment Systems, which are ICBMs that enter a low-altitude orbit before reentering to strike targets. DIA is currently providing the authoritative intelligence assessments to assist the Department in designing and deploying the necessary defenses to support the Golden Dome for America initiative. And, during the future operational phase, DIA will provide collection, sensor networks, data fusion, and operational support to detect and counter strategic missile threats to the Homeland.

Our priority threat—as described in the Interim National Defense Strategic Guidance—is China. The Chinese Communist Party is rapidly developing military capabilities across all warfare domains—air, land, sea, space, and cyber—designed to seize Taiwan by force while preventing intervention by the United States or other third parties. Along its periphery, China is executing multidomain pressure campaigns against the Philippines, Taiwan, and others that resist its territorial claims.

In response, our China Mission Group stood up in 2022 to synchronize DIA and enterprise analysis, collection, and intelligence operations against a global China threat. Since then, numerous intelligence disciplines have increased collection by at least 30% against China, and we have brought new collection and exploitation capabilities online. DIA also has increased analytic production by double digits, and through our Machine-assisted Analytic Rapid-repository System (MARS) and Common Intelligence Picture efforts we are delivering next-generation foundational military intelligence to the warfighter and soon will deliver real-time, authoritative force tracking data layers to enable all-domain, AI-enabled battlespace awareness, warning, and sensor-to-shooter capabilities.

Additionally, China's advancements in AI, biotechnology, quantum sciences, and microelectronics are heightening the threat environment and positioning Beijing to dominate a range of advanced and emerging technologies that are foundational to military innovation. Beijing is working to integrate AI into a variety of military capabilities, including uncrewed systems, decision support systems, ISR, cyber, and influence operations. To meet this challenge, DIA is redesigning its collection strategies and enhancing MASINT, HUMINT, and OSINT capabilities, ensuring that we stay ahead of emerging threats and technological advancements.

Regarding other threat actors, Russia remains a strategic threat to the United States and an aggressive threat to its neighbors. Moscow has remained steadfast in its demands for Ukrainian neutrality, authority over the size of Ukraine's armed forces, and a further partitioning of the Ukrainian state. Absent a negotiated peace deal or ceasefire, DIA assesses that Russia will continue its military strategy of attrition, focused on degrading Ukraine's ability and will to resist, even while facing its own significant losses of equipment and personnel.

North Korea has strengthened its relationship with Russia over the past year due to the conflict in Ukraine. Pyongyang has supplied Moscow with much-needed munitions and more than 10,000 troops in exchange for cash, weapons-manufacturing supplies, a mutual defense treaty, and the possibility of advanced military technology. North Korea probably seeks to use this combat experience to enhance its military capabilities.

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Iran, though significantly weakened over the past 18 months, will continue to enable its consortium of terrorist and militant actors, known as the “Axis of Resistance.” Iran’s longstanding support to the Huthis has enabled the Huthis to attack commercial shipping in the Red Sea, U.S. military assets, and civilian port and energy infrastructure across the region. We have surged network development and all-source analysis capabilities to support counter-Huthi operations, which have had a significant but temporary effect on Huthi capabilities.

To meet these needs across the globe, DIA has taken risk in other mission sets. Nonetheless, DIA continues to provide indications and warning on ISIS and al-Qa’ida threats to U.S. personnel, as both groups increasingly decentralize their plotting efforts against the West. ISIS will continue to try to conduct external attacks against Western targets, while al-Qa’ida will focus on localized plotting against U.S. interests abroad with the threat in Africa most acute.

With this threat environment in mind, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide our insights and perspectives during our discussions today. It is an honor to join my colleagues, Mr. Gard-Weiss and Lieutenant General Hartman before the committee. I am truly privileged to lead the Defense Intelligence Agency and represent its talented and dedicated workforce who serve with distinction and in harm’s way all across the globe. We are grateful for your support, and I look forward to your questions.

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