Testimony of

Ms. Tonya Wilkerson
Deputy Director
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

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Good afternoon, distinguished members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to update you on NGA's mission and support to our national security space programs.

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is our nation's leading authority for geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), providing warfighters, policymakers, intelligence professionals, and first responders the decision advantage they need to develop and carry out national security objectives at home and abroad. The GEOINT we deliver conveys not only what, when, and where events are happening but also illustrates how they are occurring, their implications, and what is likely to transpire next.

Most of our GEOINT data sources are space-based systems – including U.S. national technical means and commercial satellites – that are tasked by NGA's collection experts to produce imagery exploited by our analysts to provide timely warning of imminent threats in global hot spots and unique insights on critical issues around the world. NGA remains committed to delivering GEOINT that advances national security priorities and continues to ensure the security of space.

NGA has 14,500 intelligence professionals dedicated to ensuring GEOINT gets to those who need it every day. Spread across more than 100 locations in the U.S. and around the world, our teams are embedded within many government agencies, each combatant command headquarters, service intelligence centers and most warfighting headquarters. We have teams co-located with United States Space Force, United States Space Command, and National Reconnaissance Office.

Dual-hatted as an Intelligence Agency and Combat Support Agency, NGA provides GEOINT to the Services, combatant commands, and other federal departments and agencies. This includes tasking, analysis, and dissemination of national technical means and commercial imagery, data, and GEOINT analytic services and products in support of National System for GEOINT community requirements.

Obtaining the data used to produce GEOINT is not a simple task. NGA relies on a team of highly skilled professionals to conduct a process we call informed collection orchestration, choreographing an increasingly complex and capable constellation of space-based GEOINT assets. Informed collection orchestration is the art of tasking pieces of the collection puzzle to align with national priorities, operational and analytical needs, and real-world deadlines. It is central to ensuring that our warfighters and intelligence professionals alike receive the imagery and analysis they need, when they need it.

NGA is committed to maximizing efficient and effective use of available GEOINT sensors, enabling GEOINT collection to be at the right location, at the right time, to meet service and combatant command needs. NGA's role in informed collection orchestration is not only in statute, policy, and practice —it is rooted in our expertise as leaders in the GEOINT discipline. We work in close partnership with our Department of Defense/Intelligence Community and Allied mission partners to optimize GEOINT collection to support a full range of missions including warning, targeting, and safety of navigation.

Informed collection orchestration also accounts for the growing role of commercial GEOINT. NGA prioritizes agile, flexible and timely acquisition of commercial services and analytics as part of a concerted effort to meet the operational needs of partners across the National System for Geospatial Intelligence.

NGA leads a community-wide process to coordinate commercial GEOINT purchases across the government, reducing redundancy in the acquisition of commercial imagery pixels and commercial analytic services, while maximizing our ability to share that data with those organizations and partner nations. NGA also coordinates with the Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office (CRSRA) at the Department of Commerce on regulatory, legislative, and policy activities for U.S. commercial remote sensing vendors, ensuring national security concerns and needs are balanced with promoting a robust U.S. space industrial base.

These efforts are resulting in significant growth in the volume of available GEOINT data and data sources. Accordingly, NGA is investing in automation to speed workflows, as well as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to fuse data to enable sense-making. We are leveraging computer vision to rapidly exploit data; using advancing modeling techniques to understand, correlate, and predict activity; and integrating automated modeling capabilities to prompt dynamic collection.

NGA is also incorporating AI into warfighting headquarters around the world through programs like Maven, accelerating their operations and decision speeds. We continue to increase the fidelity of target identification, improve geolocation accuracy, and refine our test-and-evaluation process, ensuring that our warfighters can be confident in the information provided through AI tools.

As we invest in AI, it is important to understand that it is an enhancement to, and not a replacement for, our GEOINT workforce. Our goal is the safe, responsible, and accurate application of AI, including validation of our models and training of the people employing them.

While NGA's role in performing GEOINT analysis using space-based collectors is relatively well known, we are also leading in the space domain on a number of lesser known missions. For instance, NGA maintains detailed, physical characterizations of our planet from the ocean floor to beyond the Earth's atmosphere, and we use that foundational data to provide products that our forces require to navigate and operate safely every day, everywhere around the globe.   Just as with imagery analysis, we rely upon space-, air-, and land-based sensors to perform these critical functions.

Furthermore, NGA is responsible for guaranteeing assured precision and accuracy of GPS and maintaining the World Geodetic System 1984, WGS-84, reference frame, which is the backbone for all geolocation. This effort also improves GPS geolocation accuracy for government civil agencies, guaranteeing assured precision, navigation, timing, and targeting.

Without question, NGA recognizes the critical role that space-based systems play in providing us the data we need to carry out our mission. But just as we recognize the importance of these assets, as well as the need to understand all activities occurring in the space realm, so too do our global competitors. Our most capable, potential adversaries and others continue to invest in increasingly threatening counterspace systems, intended to disrupt or deny critical space systems and services that not only support our national security, but also our everyday lives. Since the establishment of United States Space Command and the United States Space Force in 2019, followed by the creation of the National Space Intelligence Center in 2022, NGA has increasingly focused our efforts on understanding our adversaries' space-related activities on Earth and in space.

In closing, NGA relies heavily on the data that comes from space systems to meet the GEOINT needs of our Department of Defense and Intelligence Community. We operate at the speed of need – and are more integrated across DOD and the IC, and faster than ever before. We have the unique expertise in understanding the capabilities and limitations of our national and commercial GEOINT capabilities, as well as the experience necessary to meet needs that range from navigation to solving intelligence problems.

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.