Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing

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"World Wide Threats."
Testimony by Scott Berrier, Director of Defense Intelligence Agency
U.S. Senate Documents
Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, and Distinguished Committee members thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Defense Intelligence Agency's (DIA's) assessment of the global security environment.
Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the 20th DIA Director Lt Gen Vince Stewart. Vince passed away in his sleep last Friday--we lost a friend, an intellectual giant, and a trailblazer. Vince was a gifted and talented Marine Intelligence Officer who positively touched the lives of many in every organization he served or led. We mourn his loss, grieve with his family, and honor his memory.
I am pleased to join DNI Director Haines today to discuss the complex threat landscape, and our work to provide timely, insightful, and rigorous intelligence. DIA and the Defense Intelligence Enterprise (DIE) are transforming our approach to meet threats to our nation posed by strategic competition with China, Russia, and other foreign nations. With your continued support, DIA and the DIE will continue to excel in providing all-source analysis, HUMINT and technical collection, Open Source collection, material exploitation, modeling and simulation, and other unique mission sets.
This will most likely be the last time I testify before this committee as I approach my 39th year of Service in our Army and pending retirement. It has been a high honor and privilege, and with my tenure at DIA winding down, I have become somewhat reflective on how the threat landscape has changed. In 1984, it was a bipolar world; the United States and our partners in a Cold War with the USSR. In my first assignment, I served as an Infantry Battalion Intelligence Officer --S2- in Alaska. Our mission was to protect critical infrastructure in the High North--and the Alyeska Pipeline--from a potential Spetznaz attack. My 23-year-old-self did not think much of that mission. In retrospect, that was an important mission then, and protecting critical infrastructure is an important mission today. The difference is the threat landscape is exponentially more dangerous today than 1984. We are now in a bipolar world with strategic competition at the forefront. The events of the past year clearly demonstrate that our competitors are emboldened, and that they are attempting to forcefully recast the rules-based international order and challenge U.S. interests. From Russia's unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine, to China's military assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, to an unprecedented number of North Korean missile launches, to Iranian-directed action against U.S. forces in the Middle East. The United States now faces a multifaceted security environment in which authoritarian regimes are testing our resolve through their provocative military actions, developing capabilities to hold the homeland at risk, and showing greater risk tolerance for potential escalation.
Like you, I am very concerned about the ongoing threats from China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and violent extremist organizations, but China is our pacing challenge and DIA's Top Priority. Beijing is expanding its global influence and stepping up its multi-domain pressure campaign against Taiwan, as observed by its sharply increased rhetoric and military activity over this past year. Xi Jinping's attainment of a third term as General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party positions Beijing for further progress on military modernization and operational goals that will challenge the U.S. during the next year and beyond.
The war in Ukraine is also a priority for DIA; and for the Russian military, 2022 was not a good year. The Russian "New Look Army" is gone, and, in my view, we are at a particularly dangerous place with Russia. Putin is not

seeking an off-ramp, and Moscow has asserted publicly that it remains committed to achieving its objectives in Ukraine through military force.

China and Russia are seeking to incorporate advanced technologies to erode U.S. technological advantage. China is pursuing a whole-of-nation approach to technology development, and the PLA believes that integrating future technologies-- especially AI and quantum--will constitute a major revolution in military affairs.

As Director, I have pressed Agency leaders to up our game, relook business operations, and transform our missions to meet customer needs and address the unprecedented national security challenges. Transformation and change are imperatives, and I am pleased that DIA is making real-world progress on our mission sets. DIA has exceptional expertise, responsibilities, and missions that you trust us to lead--such as foundational military intelligence, Defense HUMINT and Cover, Measurement and Signature Intelligence (or MASINT), and JWICS.

Our strategic, operational, and tactical defense intelligence supports warfighters, defense planners, policymakers, and the acquisition community, and I look forward to discussing real-world examples of our progress.

One final area I would like to highlight is the workforce at DIA. As you know, our workforce spans the globe with innovative and forward-leaning officers, and these talented and dedicated experts are making strides to defend the United States and our allies. From our Defense Attaches to analysts and technical collectors, these professionals are mission-focused and working tirelessly behind-the-scenes for our Nation. DIA is investing in the workforce and the infrastructure that supports their behind-the-scenes work. Bringing together talented officers, with varied experiences, and giving them the tools and authorities to conduct intelligence is at DIA 2023 Annual Threat Testimony | Opening Remarks

DIA's core, and investing in our people is a critical step to modernizing the next generation of intelligence capabilities.

I am proud to represent a workforce that provides intelligence on foreign actors to prevent and win wars, and to illuminate opportunities to enable the United States to outpace our strategic competitors. I welcome your questions on the global threat environment, and thank you for your continued support and the opportunity to testify today.

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