John Sherman

Nominee, Department of Defense Chief Information Officer

Senate Armed Services Committee

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Good morning Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and Committee Members. I am honored to be President Biden's nominee to be the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO) and am grateful for the chance to speak with you today.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Liz, my wife of 29 years, who also serves in national security. Her support and love have been my rock. We are both so proud of our grown children, Brad and Savannah, and their spouses, Oksana and Kurt. I also want to recognize my parents, who are no longer with us, but are no doubt here in spirit. Along with a bit of their Texas accents, their lessons about hard work, respect, and citizenship have stuck with me.

That word, citizenship, has really meant service to me and my family. Following my time as an Army officer, I've served in the Intelligence Community (IC) and DoD for nearly 25 years, starting as an imagery analyst and later taking on a number of roles, ranging from duty officer in White House Situation Room on 9/11 to leading our impressive officers as a senior executive in several agencies.

I've also had the opportunity to employ and manage new technologies on missions ranging from overhead reconnaissance to open source intelligence. I saw firsthand how we gain advantage through capabilities like cloud computing and large-scale data analytics, and my experience in these areas led to my selection as the CIO of the entire IC. Working with talented colleagues from across the community, we built upon the flagship modernization effort known as the IC Information Technology Enterprise. We

made tough recommendations to cancel things that weren't working, reinforced successes in areas like cloud, and sharpened our focus on cybersecurity and interoperability. Put simply, we ensured the IC's technology transformation would remain an exemplar.

I was then humbled when asked to serve at DoD, first as the Principal Deputy CIO, and for eight months as the Acting CIO. As we drove to achieve to Secretary Austin's priority to stay ahead of our China pacing threat, our team pivoted to an enterprise multi-cloud approach, which is foundational for key priorities such as Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) and the Artificial Intelligence and Data Accelerator (ADA) Initiative. Additionally, we oversaw the successful rollout of an enduring collaboration and productivity capability to millions of DoD users and began moving the Department towards stronger cybersecurity with an approach called Zero Trust. The team also made substantial progress on other critical portfolios, to include electromagnetic spectrum, positioning, navigation, and timing, IT reform, special access program IT, data transformation, software development, and support to AI. The progress on these fronts has been substantial as well.

Throughout my career, enabling mission has always been my foremost priority. At DoD, I believe the CIO's success is ultimately measured on how our warfighters, especially those in the Indo-Pacific, are able operate in a remote and disconnected environment, and whether a pilot can still strike targets when an adversary is trying to jam her GPS signal. These examples and many others are based on the Department's ability to transform at scale, with the very best technologies and cybersecurity, through constant and agile change, and with the whole team. If confirmed, I would be honored to shepherd and lead this effort. I get out of bed every morning knowing our adversaries are not standing still in the technology realm, and we must not either.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your questions.