

**Statement of
The Honorable Robert P. Storch,
Nominee to be the Inspector General of the Department of Defense**

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today with regard to my nomination to be the Inspector General at the Department of Defense. The work of OIGs necessarily reflects that of the departments and agencies we oversee. The DoD, of course, has the critical mission of securing our national defense – a core function of government – and given the tremendous size and scope of the defense enterprise, the Department, in one way or another, does essentially everything that government does. This requires its OIG to have all the tools in the oversight toolbelt functioning well to effectively oversee those critical and diverse efforts.

I am truly humbled to have been nominated to lead the team at DoD OIG, and believe that I am well positioned to do so. I currently am in my fifth year serving as the Presidentially appointed Senate-confirmed Inspector General (PAS IG) at the National Security Agency, within the Department of Defense, and so am familiar with both the duties and functions generally applicable to a PAS IG, and with carrying out those responsibilities at an Agency within the DoD where there is important integration between civilian and uniformed personnel, and under the rules and policies applicable across the Department.

I am very proud of the efforts that my team and I have made to enhance the independence and the impact of our oversight work at NSA OIG, where I have emphasized getting to the root causes of the issues we uncover and holding Agency leadership accountable for addressing them. I am also proud of the strides we have made to enhance the transparency of our work, including the launch of our independent public website, where we now regularly post unclassified versions of our Semiannual Reports to Congress, and unclassified versions or summaries of a number of our underlying reports, putting us in the forefront in this area within the intelligence community. I also have emphasized the importance of engagement with the Congress, which helps us to understand its concerns and to provide oversight that may be helpful to inform its constitutional legislative and oversight functions.

As the NSA IG, and before that as the Deputy IG and Whistleblower Ombudsperson working with and for IG Michael Horowitz at the Department of Justice, I have worked to advance whistleblower rights and protections, which is something that I believe is fundamentally important for the operations of OIGs and, indeed, for good government. Employees and others perform an important service when they bring forward evidence of what they reasonably believe to be wrongdoing, and they should never suffer reprisal for doing so.

Of course, none of this work is possible without people. As the NSA IG, and before that as Deputy IG at DOJ, I have been actively engaged in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and in ensuring that we provide a positive working environment for our team. I'm

very proud of the efforts we've made in this regard at NSA OIG and, if confirmed as the DoD IG, I will bring all of these areas of emphasis and approaches to leading that very important office.

Prior to joining the OIG community, I spent some two dozen years as a federal prosecutor at two U.S. Attorney's Offices and, between them, at the Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division here in Washington. I believe that being an IG and a prosecutor are similar in important ways – both fundamentally call for doing what is right. And both call for the analysis of complex fact patterns and the exercise of independent judgment to reach that result. Also, as a former federal prosecutor, and now as an IG, I understand the importance of ensuring that my office's work not be influenced or even perceived as being influenced in any way by partisanship. I am honored to have been nominated to be an IG by Presidents of both political parties and, if confirmed, I shall continue to be true to the principle of nonpartisanship that is a hallmark of the IG system.

I have been actively involved in working across the IG Community over the past decade, founding and leading the CIGIE Whistleblower Ombudsperson Working Group when I was at DOJ OIG, and serving for several years now as Vice Chair of the CIGIE Technology Committee, and as Chair of its Emerging Technology Subcommittee. As for the latter, I think it is essential that we as IGs be prepared to conduct meaningful, impactful oversight over the increasing use of new technologies within the government, and that we be able to use them appropriately in our own work. I also was honored to be named in 2020 to serve as one of the four IGs on the CIGIE Integrity Committee, and recently to be named Vice Chair of the Committee, which has the important role of considering allegations of misconduct made against IGs and their senior staffs. It is a significant responsibility, but it is essential that the community effectively answer the question of who watches the watchdogs, and I have learned a great deal about the operations of the IG community in the process. If I am confirmed, I believe all of these experiences will serve me well in leading the diverse operations of the defense oversight community and coordinating with other IGs as appropriate.

I'll end with what's most important to me, and recognize and thank my brilliant and wonderful wife, who somehow will have put up with me for thirty years of marriage this May, and my two spectacular daughters. As I always say, they are the center of the universe. I'd also like to thank my family and friends who are watching online for their support.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.