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AIR FORCE CYBER MISSION FORCE READINESS STATEMENT OF
LIEUTENANT GENERAL TIMOTHY D. HAUGH
COMMANDER, 16TH AIR FORCE
BEFORE THE 117TH CONGRESS
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBER SECURITY

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THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES SENATE

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Rounds, and Distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for your support and the opportunity to represent the outstanding men and women of Sixteenth Air Force (16 AF) and Air Forces Cyber (AFCYBER).

ESTABLISHING SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE (AFCYBER)

Sixteenth Air Force is the Air Force's Information Warfare (IW) Numbered Air Force, in addition to being the Air Force's Cyber Component. The Secretary of the Air Force directed the stand-up of 16 AF to optimize and synchronize the readiness, generation, employment, and presentation of cyberspace; electromagnetic spectrum; information; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR); weather; and other related capabilities to generate IW outcomes for combatant commanders and air components.

Sixteenth Air Force has unique and distinct roles and responsibilities. Sixteenth Air Force is responsible to:

- a. The Director, National Security Agency (NSA) / Chief, Central Security Service, as the Air Force's Service Cryptologic Component Command for matters involving cryptologic activities, including the range of missions related to tactical warfighting and national-level operations.
- b. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, as a Defense Intelligence Component, providing intelligence oversight for the performance of foreign intelligence missions and functions for the Department of the Air Force (DAF).
- c. Air Combat Command for organizing, training, and equipping; and force presentation of assigned forces for nine Wings and the Air Force Technical Applications Center.
- d. U.S. Cyber Command and the DAF for building, extending, operating, securing, and defending the DAF's portion of the Department of Defense information network.
- e. U.S. Cyber Command as the Commander of Air Force forces, for the presentation of DAF cyber forces to other cyber components as directed.
- f. U.S. Cyber Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Space Command, and U.S. Strategic Command for operational planning and execution of offensive and defensive cyberspace operations as the Joint Force Headquarters (AF) Commander.

These responsibilities, unified under a single Commander, are the cornerstone of 16 AF's ability to generate outcomes in strategic competition in support of USCYBERCOM.

ORGANIZING TO SUPPORT THE CYBER MISSION FORCE (CMF)

Part of the maturation of the USAF presentation of the CMF was the 2020 unification of CMF Cyber and ISR Airmen into a single wing, the 67th Cyber Wing. Before this, the CMF teams were comprised of Airmen from two separate numbered Air Forces which created parallel chains of command and dual-readiness responsibilities. Additionally, this change included the stand-up of the 867th Cyberspace Operations Group, a unit dedicated to presenting Airmen to the CNMF. This effort enabled the support for national cyber missions and consolidated training responsibility within a single organization.

The unification of CMF Airmen to a single wing centralized unity of command, optimized force presentation, and maximized the ability to advocate for service policy changes that positively impact the CMF. For example, the Air Force Personnel Center now executes a 100% fill-rate for officer and enlisted ISR, cyber, and cyber support authorizations in the Cyber National Mission Force (CNMF). This change allows the CMF to gain the right number and types of Airmen to fill team structures directed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

MATURING THE CYBER MISSION FORCE

Training Airmen to fill CMF work roles involves extensive advanced training that goes beyond the initial skills training provided by the Air Force's technical schools. U.S. Cyber Command established CMF work role qualification requirements, with most of the training courses facilitated by the NSA.

To help increase CMF capacity and meet both current and future operator requirements, 16 AF stood up a Formal Training Unit (FTU). With support from Air Combat Command, our FTU executed the first Air Force Basic Operator Course in 2021. The FTU graduated Air Force, Space Force, Army, and U.S. Special Operations Command operators through an Air Force and U.S. Cyber Command accredited qualification course. This course produces operators capable of conducting offensive missions as a part of the CMF. Additionally, this course prepares Airmen to attend advanced NSA courses that produce highly proficient and capable operators—an essential requirement to meet General Nakasone's readiness standards. This initiative shortens training timelines while allowing us to maximize the Air Force's allocation of NSA training seats. Overall, our FTU has helped 16 AF secure the highest operator pass rate at the NSA's operator course.

AFCYBER CURRENT READINESS

The USAF prioritizes CMF manning and works to achieve the right balance between headquarters staff, our operations center, formal training, and Cybersecurity Service Provider positions. Airmen within our enlisted Cyber Operations and Software Development Operations Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) fill Operator and Capability Developer critical work roles, and Airmen within our enlisted Cyber Intelligence Analyst AFSC fill the Exploitation Analyst critical work role. Unlike other services with dedicated occupation or specialty codes for the CMF, these AFSCs support roles in the CMF, cryptologic functions, and other Air Force IW missions.

Our CMF manning, training, and qualification levels remain stable for critical work roles. In response to General Nakasone's top priority, the USAF has over-staffed our operator and analyst work roles. However, training continues to drive the overall readiness rating for these positions. 16 AF is committed to filling our allocated training slots for these work roles and supporting the ongoing USCYBERCOM training surge in closing capacity gaps.

Finally, 16 AF has learned from internal analysis that retention of members in these critical roles have the greatest impact on maintaining and improving readiness. We must increase our efforts and incentives to attract and retain top military and civilian talent due to the demand and competition across the commercial sectors, and within other government agencies.

CONCLUSION

The USAF has done an excellent job recruiting the right Airmen to grow the CMF. We owe our Airmen assurance that they have the proper infrastructure, tools, and advanced training to accomplish their missions. There is a continued challenge in retaining some of the talent we have in 16 AF, due to growing desire for these unique cyber skills in private industry and the federal government. Our ability to retain this talent within our active duty, guard, reserve or civilian workforce will undoubtedly impact our readiness. In coordination with HQ Air Force, 16 AF is keeping focused on General Nakasone's number one priority, CMF readiness. Moreover, 16 AF is continually working to increase the diversity of our

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force, build and fortify resiliency, support our families, and develop empowered Airmen to generate outcomes in support of national priorities.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to highlight the extraordinary things that our Airmen do every day. We appreciate the continued support from this committee in maturing USAF IW capabilities.