**RECORD VERSION**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**BEFORE THE**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES**
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**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Chairman Fischer, Ranking Member King, and Members of this Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the criticality of defending the island of Guam. On behalf of the Army Senior Leadership, we thank you for your continued support of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guardians, Civilians, and their Families.

Guam is an indispensable part of the United States, and we are moving with haste to ensure we have the capabilities necessary to defend the island from ever-evolving complex threats. In addition to being part of the homeland, a robust defense of Guam provides a strong deterrence and preserves combat power and Joint Force projection if conflict arises.

Pursuant to the Fiscal Year (FY) 23 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense designated the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)) as the Senior Defense Official responsible for the missile defense of Guam. In February 2024, as directed by the USD(A&S), the Guam Defense System Joint Program Office (GDS JPO) was established at the Army Rapid Capability and Critical Technologies Office (RCCTO).

**Guam Defense System Architecture and Background**

The JPO is charged with synchronizing the development, testing, fielding and sustainment of the Guam Defense System components and the integration of the corresponding command and control (C2) systems resulting in the development of a Joint Integrated Battle Manager (JIBM). The JIBM will allow current service and agency - owned components to behave as an integrated and unified system. The GDS effort includes the synchronization of over twenty prototype efforts and programs of record across three services and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Because of that, the JPO does not control resourcing for Service and Missile Defense Agency (MDA) programs contributing to the GDS architecture. The JPO is the materiel developer for GDS at the systems level and is responsible for providing GDS system-level architectural baselines and Guam-specific technical requirements. The JPO synthesizes the integrated system-level cost, schedule, performance, and risk posture of the GDS, providing senior

Department of Defense (DoD) and congressional stakeholders with the necessary information to make informed investment and priority decisions to ensure success.

The DoD's investments in Guam extend beyond the GDS. In January 2024, the Deputy Secretary of Defense appointed the Under Secretary of the Navy as the Lead Senior Defense Official for the DoD's efforts in Guam. Through the Guam Synchronization Oversight Council, a forum that includes senior leaders from across the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the services, the Under Secretary of the Navy ensures visibility on key issues, synchronizes military construction efforts, and serves as the Department's primary liaison to the government of Guam.

The JPO works closely with the USD(A&S), the Guam Synchronization Oversight Council, and leadership across the services and the MDA to build and sustain an architecture capable of defending Guam against a multitude of complex air and missile defense threats. Together, the Department is working diligently and with urgency to secure the initial capability increment in 2027-2028, beyond the currently employed the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Battery in Task Force Talon. To this end, the JPO is leading the Department's efforts to synchronize and integrate GDS capabilities across several capability domains (doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy) with a specific focus on creating doctrine to fight as an integrated, digitized Joint Force for the Integrated Air and Missile Defense fight. We are working across the enterprise to finalize the organizational structure and path to certify the Guam Command Center, and have also been tasked to create a common understanding across the DoD on the status of GDS and identify risks/gaps to provide mitigation recommendations to the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) through a routine series of updates.

The JPO was approved by the USD(A&S) to pursue a hybrid acquisition strategy in which the synchronization of integrated air and missile defense components' deliveries will be managed as a Middle Tier Acquisition for Rapid Fielding and the Joint Integrated Battle Manager will be developed using the software pathway. The JIBM will provide an integrated command and control layer over proven systems from across the Services such as Aegis, Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS),

Command and Control Battle Management Communications (C2BMC), and Tactical Operations Center – Light (TOC-L) enabling efficient responses to threats without duplication. This integration layer will provide artificial intelligence-optimization algorithms and decision management aids to enhance performance of the joint system against the scale and complexity of the threat. The use of the software acquisition pathway provides flexibility to rapidly design and deliver an open system that will have the ability to be replicated or scaled quickly to other Areas of Operation. This will benefit not only USINDOPACOM, but any Combatant Command providing Commanders with the capability needed to fight and win.

Similarly, as the Department refines its plans for the *Golden Dome of America*, the investment in the GDS may play a pivotal role informing this strategy. During a recent visit to Guam, the Secretary of Defense emphasized the importance of this approach, stating that 'the Guam Defense System is a model for the Golden Dome.' This alignment underscores the critical role that Guam's defense architecture and command and control integration will play in shaping future U.S. defense initiatives, setting a standard for how we approach and implement integrated defense systems across the nation. Critical components to the joint architecture that might be shared by both Guam and Golden Dome include MDA's Joint Track Management Capability bridge as a functional joint engagement coordination baseline, joint electronic protection attributes to add resiliency to our sensor network, non-kinetic threat engagement capabilities to preserve high value kinetic interceptors, the integration of the Army's IAMD Battle Command System with MDA's THAAD system to support joint force employment flexibility and the Joint Integrated Battle Management capability that integrates the service and agency C2 systems.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak with you today about this critical mission and the joint commitment to the defense of Guam. Your continued support ensures that we remain capable of fighting for and from Guam, meeting the challenges of today and tomorrow.