STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE

HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

ON

THE NATIONAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

TRANSITON, RELATED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY,

AND THE SECURITY CLEARANCE

INVESTIGATION PROCESS

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Introduction

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the committee today on the Department's Information Technology (IT) and cybersecurity support to the National Background Investigations Bureau (NBIB). I am Terry Halvorsen, the Department of Defense (DoD) Chief Information Officer (CIO). As the senior civilian advisor to the Secretary of Defense for IT, the DoD CIO is responsible for all matters relating to the DoD information enterprise, including cybersecurity for the Department. In this capacity, the DoD CIO is responsible for oversight of the Department's efforts to design, build, operate, secure, and defend a new IT system to support the background investigative processes for the NBIB. NBIB provides investigative services for more than 100 Federal agencies to make decisions to determine whether individuals meet requirements for new or continued employment; are eligible to hold a sensitive position; or are eligible for access to Federal facilities, automated systems, or classified information. The relationship between DoD and OPM is strong and has been critical to our success thus far on NBIB. David De Vries, OPM's Chief Information Officer, who was previously serving as the Principal Deputy DoD CIO, has helped strengthen that relationship and brings critical IT and cybersecurity expertise to OPM.

As the Department's focal point for the new background investigations IT system, the DoD CIO brings together the Department's full range of IT and cybersecurity resources and expertise. DoD's objective is to replace the current background investigations information systems with a more reliable, flexible, and secure system in support of the NBIB. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), under the DoD CIO's oversight, has established the National Background Investigation System (NBIS) Program Management Office (PMO) to implement this effort. The NBIS PMO is responsible for the design, development, and operation of the IT system capabilities needed to support the NBIB investigative process – to include ensuring cybersecurity protections and resiliency of these capabilities. The alignment of NBIB systems under DoD assures we leverage all national security systems expertise and capability to protect background investigation data.

The Department has made significant headway on this important mission since I previously testified before this Committee last February, and are on track to deliver the capabilities needed in an iterative fashion.

In fiscal year 2016, the Department funded pre-acquisition activities to better posture for official standup and funding in fiscal year 2017. I would like to thank Congress for supporting the Department's funding request for NBIB IT infrastructure and cybersecurity modernization efforts. The fiscal year 2017 continuing resolution (CR) included new start authority for NBIS, which has allowed us to make progress, including awarding a contract last month for the case management prototype. Today, several NBIS prototypes are enabling the Department to work

with industry and discover capabilities that will provide NBIB with a more efficient, effective, secure background investigation IT system in the future. Throughout this process, we are actively partnering with industry and integrating commercial feedback into the process, to ensure that we are focusing on capabilities and keeping up with the changing pace of technology.

Conclusion

I am pleased with the current progress on NBIS that the Department has made to date, and I look forward to seeing what this organization will accomplish as it makes progress toward delivering several prototype capabilities by the end of fiscal year 2017 and initial operating capability covering the full investigative process in the fourth quarter of 2018. This is an important opportunity for the Federal Government to strengthen the security of the IT infrastructure that supports the federal background investigations process. This approach utilizes the Department's recognized IT and cybersecurity expertise, while maintaining a streamlined, centralized, Government-wide approach to the investigations services that NBIB provides today for more than 100 different Federal agencies. I want to thank you for this Committee's continued support for NBIB, and I look forward to your questions.

Terry Halvorsen
Department of Defense Chief Information Officer

Terry Halvorsen assumed the duties as the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer effective March 8, 2015. He previously served as the Acting Department of Defense Chief Information Officer. Prior to that, he was the Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer.

As DoD CIO, Mr. Halvorsen is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Information Management / Information Technology and Information Assurance as well as non-intelligence space systems; critical satellite communications, navigation, and timing programs; spectrum; and telecommunications. He provides strategy, leadership, and guidance to create a unified information management and technology vision for the Department and to ensure the delivery of information technology-based capabilities required to support the broad set of Department missions.

Before serving as the Department of the Navy CIO, Mr. Halvorsen was the deputy commander, Navy Cyber Forces. He began serving in that position in January 2010 as part of the Navy Cyber reorganization. Previous to that, Mr. Halvorsen served as the Deputy Commander, Naval Network Warfare Command. He was responsible for providing leadership for over 16,000 military and civilian personnel and supporting over 300 ships and approximately 800,000 globally dispersed computer network users. In this position he was responsible for the business performance of Navy network operations, space operations, information operations and knowledge management.

Mr. Halvorsen served as an Army intelligence officer in a variety of assignments, including Operations Just Cause and Desert Storm. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Widener University, and a master's degree in educational technology from the University of West Florida. He is a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow and an Excellence in Government Leadership Fellow.