

**Written Statement of Jen Easterly
Nominee for Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Department of Homeland Security**

**Before the
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**

10 June 2021

Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, distinguished Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you to discuss my nomination for Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). I want to thank the President for nominating me, Secretary Mayorkas for his confidence in me, and Congressman Gallagher for his kind introduction, and more importantly for his and Senator King's superb leadership of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission.

I also want to thank my parents: my father, Noel Koch, a Vietnam veteran whose forebears fought in the Civil War to ensure that the nation experienced "a new birth of freedom;" and my mother, Dr. June Koch, an English professor and the daughter of immigrants from Russia and Poland who came to America to enjoy that freedom. Both led lives of public service, instilling in me the importance of service and of actively participating in our great democratic project—to form, continuously, a more perfect union. Their example inspired me to commit twenty-seven years of my life in service to our Nation, including more than two decades in the United States Army, leading Soldiers in peacetime and in combat. It also motivates my return to public service after four and a half years in the private sector at one of our nation's leading financial institutions.

Additionally, I want to thank my husband Jas for his love and support over the past seventeen years, through multiple moves and four separate deployments. As a fellow U.S. Army combat veteran, I also want to thank him for his service to our country. And I especially want to recognize our son Jet, the light and joy of our life, who aspires to one day be President.

Twenty years ago, the attacks of 9/11 fundamentally altered the course of my life, as it did for so many. As noted by Tom Kean, Co-Chairman of the 9/11 Commission, "We were unprepared. We did not grasp the magnitude of a threat that had been gathering over a considerable period of time. This was a failure of policy, of management, of capability, and, above all, a failure of imagination." If the past year has taught us anything, it is the obligation we have as leaders to anticipate the unimaginable.

While the digital revolution of the past several decades enabled unprecedented growth and innovation, the increased connectivity also introduced great peril: nation-states and non-state actors alike now leverage cyberspace with near impunity to threaten our security, our privacy, and our physical and digital infrastructure. Our adversaries combine hacking with malign influence operations to interfere in democratic processes. They breach major corporations to steal capital and intellectual treasure, target industrial control systems to disrupt critical infrastructure, and incapacitate entities large and small with the scourge of ransomware. Even as

we contend with the billions of daily intrusions against our networks by malicious actors, I believe that as a nation, we remain at great risk of a catastrophic cyber-attack.

Congress established CISA in 2018 as the country's operational entity for managing and mitigating such risk, working closely with partners at State, Local, tribal, and territorial level, as well as with the private sector to ensure the security and resilience of our critical infrastructure.

Within the federal cyber ecosystem, CISA is the "quarterback," charged with protecting and defending federal civilian government networks; leading asset response for cyber incidents; and ensuring that timely and actionable information is shared across federal, non-federal, and industry partners.

In this context, I also thank this Committee for your leadership in establishing CISA, my friend Chris Krebs for his superb work in standing up the Agency, and Acting Director Wales and the dedicated men and women of CISA for their tireless efforts defending our infrastructure against a myriad of significant and serious threats, and ensuring secure, interoperable emergency communications. If confirmed, it will be the greatest honor of my career to join their incredible team, to continue building the culture and workforce of CISA, and to strengthen its capacity and capability to defend today and secure tomorrow.

The best quarterback, however, can't win a game alone; cyber is and must always be a team sport. CISA fulfills its lead operational role for national cyber and infrastructure resilience in collaboration with other agencies at every level of government and with our industry and international partners. A critical element of this ecosystem is the National Cyber Director, who will ensure a coherent and unified federal effort as the President's principal cyber advisor. If we are both confirmed, I look forward to working, once again, with Mr. Inglis. I also look forward to a productive and transparent partnership with this Committee.

I thank the Committee for considering my nomination and look forward to your questions.