



Hearing on “China’s Cyber Capabilities: Warfare, Espionage, and Implications for the United States”

Opening Statement of Chairman Alex Wong

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Washington, DC

Good morning, and welcome to the second hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission’s 2022 Annual Report cycle. Thank you all for joining us, and thank you especially to our witnesses for the time and effort they have put into their testimonies.

It’s been a decade since this Commission has squarely addressed in a hearing the status of China’s cyber capabilities. A decade is a long period in normal human experience. But it’s a lifetime when talking about digital technology. In that time, the digital world has rapidly evolved, and the dependence of our societies, our economies, and our militaries on computing power and modern telecommunications has broadened and deepened.

This makes it ever more important for this Commission to examine China’s cyber capabilities today as they apply to the military and intelligence spheres. China has invested heavily in the cyber realm in the past ten years. How does China plan to bring its cyber capabilities to bear in a crisis or conflict? How does this change the landscape of deterrence and of a possible conflict involving China? How does China’s growing cyber espionage capabilities affect U.S. counterintelligence activities and efforts by private U.S. companies to protect their intellectual property? And as the United States continues to work with governmental and non-governmental partners to develop norms and conventions in the digital space, how does the world account for China’s conduct, and what may be China’s fundamental disagreement over whether the nature of the Internet is to be open or closed?

I look forward to today’s testimonies, coming from both academics steeped in the study of the cyber realm and experts who have engaged in the day-to-day challenge of securing U.S. networks. There is much to discuss, and much to consider for recommendations to the U.S. Congress.

I will now turn the floor over to my colleague and co-chair for this hearing, Commissioner Carolyn Bartholomew.