

STATEMENT OF
MAJOR GENERAL PETER J BYRNE, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
MOBILIZATION ASSISTANT TO COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND
AND
NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND



BEFORE THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY,
NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

24 APRIL 2019 DVKQ &

HOHFVYHUIYLFHHDULO
HORELOLDRQHGVRIWIDRQ

Chairman Heck and distinguished members of the Commission, I am honored to appear today as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). I have a few brief opening remarks that describe the commands.

USNORTHCOM is the Geographic Combatant Command with the primary responsibility of defending our homeland. USNORTHCOM also provides defense support of civilian authorities and acts as the Department of Defense Synchronizer for integrating military forces when federal military forces are requested in response to disasters.

NORAD is the bi-national U.S.-Canadian command that deters, detects, and, if necessary, defeats air threats to the United States and Canada while also providing aerospace warning and maritime warning.

The number one priority for USNORTHCOM and NORAD is homeland defense, and that mission will only grow more complex as our adversaries field increasingly advanced technologies designed to hold our nations and our citizens at risk. Deterring threats to the homeland and assisting citizens in need in the aftermath of disasters is dependent on whole-of-government cooperation and collaboration, and on dedicated and capable public servants at all levels. These whole-of-government partnerships and relationships enable national leaders to act and respond to the needs of their nations.

USNORTHCOM and NORAD remain focused on our current responsibilities as well as the future security challenges of the nation. Meeting our no-fail missions requires a deep bench of dedicated military and civilian professionals with a wide variety of skills, experiences, and expertise. As such, it is essential that our nation continues to expand the pathways to national service. I look forward to our discussion today, and I appreciate the opportunity to support the Commission's important work to promote military, national and public service.