

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF: MR. JAMES G. MAZOL
TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING; MR. DERRICK M. ANDERSON
TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL
OPERATIONS AND LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT; MR. PLATTE
B. MORING III TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE; AND MS. KIRSTEN A. DAVIES TO BE CHIEF
INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Washington, D.C.

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2 DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND
3 ENGINEERING; MR. DERRICK M. ANDERSON TO BE ASSISTANT
4 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND LOW-
5 INTENSITY CONFLICT; MR. PLATTE B. MORING III TO BE INSPECTOR
6 GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; AND MS. KIRSTEN A. DAVIES TO
7 BE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
8

9 Thursday, September 18, 2025
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11 U.S. Senate

12 Committee on Armed Services

13 Washington, D.C.
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15 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m. in
16 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Roger F.
17 Wicker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

18 Committee Members Present: Senators Wicker
19 [presiding], Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Sullivan,
20 Cramer, Scott, Tuberville, Mullin, Budd, Schmitt, Sheehy,
21 Reed, Blumenthal, Kaine, King, Warren, Kelly, and Slotkin.
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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROGER F. WICKER, U.S.
2 SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI

3 Chairman Wicker: This hearing will come to order, and
4 I can tell our witnesses and members, we are beginning at
5 10:04. We have just completed a very successful and
6 bipartisan markup of several nominations so we were working,
7 even though we are a minute or two late.

8 I welcome our witnesses and their families and I thank
9 them for being here this morning. I am going to say what I
10 have said for months and months at the kickoff of most of
11 our hearings.

12 The United States faces the most dangerous threat
13 environment since World War II. It bears repeating.

14 In these challenging times I am grateful that the
15 individuals here today have stepped up to serve. Mr. Platte
16 Moring III has been nominated to be the Inspector General of
17 the Department of Defense.

18 Mr. Moring is a retired lieutenant colonel and a Bronze
19 Star recipient. He served with distinction in the
20 Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He now teaches political
21 science at the Citadel.

22 Under the first Trump administration, Mr. Moring was
23 the deputy general counsel of the Department of Defense. He
24 also worked in private practice as well with the Department
25 of Justice.



1 Welcome to you, Mr. Moring, and we look forward to
2 hearing about how Mr. Moring intends to ensure transparency,
3 accountability, and clear communication with Congress in the
4 performance of these duties.

5 Ms. Kirsten Davies has been nominated to be chief
6 information officer of the Department of Defense. Ms.
7 Davies has over 15 years of executive cybersecurity and
8 technology leadership with experience at five global and
9 Fortune 250 countries.

10 If confirmed, she will bring expertise in designing and
11 leading comprehensive security reforms and digital
12 transformation initiatives. Ms. Davies will help implement
13 advanced technologies at the speed of commercial industry
14 without compromising security standards.

15 I look forward to hearing her views on modernizing our
16 cyber defenses, rapidly integrating cutting-edge
17 capabilities, and ensuring our warfighters have the
18 technological edge they need to defend our nation.

19 Mr. James Mazol has been nominated to serve as deputy
20 under secretary of defense for research and engineering. In
21 this role it is critical to ensure that our technology
22 outpaces that of our adversaries.

23 Mr. Mazol has both House and Senate experience in
24 national security and technology policy. He is, therefore,
25 uniquely qualified to support the department and to be a



1 true partner with this committee to work hand in hand with
2 Congress.

3 The U.S. must accelerate our efforts to develop, field,
4 and transition operationally relevant capabilities to our
5 warfighters including everything from artificial
6 intelligence to biotechnologies.

7 We must leverage and steer our key advantages such as
8 private capital toward national security objectives, and we
9 must do so in critical technologies so we can surpass
10 China's efforts.

11 I am confident Mr. Mazol is the exact person we need to
12 help us experiment rapidly and to integrate promising
13 technologies at scale.

14 I will have the honor of saying a bit more about Mr.
15 Mazol later on. I look forward to hearing his testimony
16 about his vision for how we can act to make progress in this
17 area.

18 And then Mr. Derrick Anderson has been nominated to be
19 the assistant secretary of defense for special operations
20 and low-intensity conflict. If confirmed, he would serve as
21 the principal civilian advisor to the Secretary of Defense
22 on special operations, counterterrorism, and irregular
23 warfare-related matters.

24 This assistant secretary role is also responsible for
25 overseeing the training, equipment, and readiness of our



1 nation's Special Operations forces.

2 Mr. Anderson was the first in his family to attend and
3 graduate from college. Following his graduation he went on
4 to serve the nation in uniform as an Army infantry officer
5 and as a Green Beret.

6 His experience in uniform and in the private sector
7 gives me confidence he will do an excellent job. I look
8 forward to hearing Mr. Anderson describe his priorities for
9 our special operations enterprise.

10 With that, I turn to my colleague Ranking Member Reed.

11 Senator Reed?

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. JACK REED, U.S. SENATOR FROM RHODE
2 ISLAND

3 Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,
4 and good morning to our witnesses and congratulations on
5 your nominations. Also, let me welcome your family members.

6 I think one of the requirements in this White House is
7 that children have to be adorable and well behaved and so
8 far so good.

9 Mr. Moring, you are nominated to be the Inspector
10 General of the Department of Defense. This position is
11 among the most consequential oversight roles in our
12 government.

13 The American people rely on the IG to guard against
14 waste, fraud, and abuse and to hold accountable those who
15 misuse the enormous power and resources of the Pentagon.

16 But I must be direct. You have been nominated by a
17 president who has shown outright hostility to the role of
18 Inspector General.

19 In his first week in office President Trump fired your
20 predecessor along with every other Inspector General in the
21 federal government, not because of poor performance but
22 because they did their jobs, in fact, too well.

23 He has repeatedly demanded political loyalty from those
24 who must be dedicated to the Constitution and laws, not to
25 an individual.



1 Equally troubling is the broader record of the
2 administration. President Trump has consistently shown a
3 willingness to bend or ignore the law when it suits him and
4 has shown hostility to independent oversight.

5 Mr. Moring, you have led a long and distinguished
6 career as a staff, judge, advocate, and military lawyer, and
7 I trust you understand this fraught situation. I would ask
8 you to share your view of the importance of the Inspector
9 General independence and whether you pledge to execute the
10 duties of this office independently and professionally.

11 Ms. Davies, you are nominated to be the department's
12 chief information officer, the principal advisor on
13 information technology and national security systems. If
14 confirmed, you will face several severe challenges.

15 First, the software fast track initiative requires a
16 90-day framework to modernize outdated procurement systems
17 that are slow and opaque. You will need to drive this
18 initiative and additional reform across acquisition,
19 research, and intelligence while safeguarding supply chains.

20 At the same time, the Department of Defense has
21 struggled for years to hire IT professionals to work in
22 software development, cybersecurity operations, and
23 acquisition.

24 This challenge has been compounded by the widespread
25 workforce cuts and contract cancellations. These actions



1 risk slowing modernization rather than accelerating it.

2 Ms. Davies, I would ask how you plan to address each of
3 these complex issues.

4 Mr. Mazol, you are nominated to be deputy under
5 secretary of defense for research and engineering. If
6 confirmed, you will oversee investments in modernization
7 priorities such as artificial intelligence, quantum
8 computing, hypersonics, biotechnology, and microelectronics.

9 Maintaining our lead over China and Russia in these
10 fields requires addressing several challenges. You must
11 advocate for modernization while balancing near-term
12 readiness, requiring close coordination with the under
13 secretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, and
14 the military services.

15 Equally important, you will need to overcome the
16 department's so-called valley of death, ensuring research
17 innovations become operational capabilities.

18 This means strengthening ties between research
19 activities and service acquisition programs and investing in
20 the people and infrastructure of DARPA, the defense labs,
21 and test ranges.

22 Mr. Mazol, I hope you will share your views on these
23 responsibilities at this pivotal moment.

24 Finally, Mr. Anderson, you are nominated to be
25 Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and



1 Low-Intensity Conflict. If confirmed, there are several
2 urgent issues you will need to address.

3 To begin, the law requires timely and substantive
4 notification to Congress of sensitive military operations
5 and access to executive orders. Under President Trump,
6 these obligations have been routinely ignored. This really
7 undermines oversight and erodes trust.

8 In particular, the administration's recent strikes on
9 vessels in the Caribbean represent, in my view, a blatant
10 violation of international and domestic law.

11 In February the White House designated two dozen
12 cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. This
13 designation, however, does not grant new authorities in
14 military targeting.

15 Given the large number of U.S. military assets that
16 have been deployed to the Caribbean, it is clear that the
17 administration intends to continue such operations. But
18 skirting law and denying transparency for the American
19 people risk a dangerous escalation with international
20 ramifications.

21 Mr. Anderson, if confirmed you will be at the center of
22 this situation and it will be your responsibility to ensure
23 the law is followed. I would ask for your views on the
24 operations in the Caribbean and request your commitment to
25 follow the law no matter how uncomfortable that position may



1 become.

2 Again, to all the nominees, thank you. I look forward
3 to your testimonies.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member.

6 At this point, it is customary for other members of
7 Congress to come in and sit at that desk in front of us and
8 introduce particular individuals that we have a particular
9 interest and history working with.

10 For today's purpose Mr. Mazol has done me the honor of
11 asking him to be that person so I will make a few extra
12 remarks about Mr. Mazol from the dais and then I will be
13 followed by Senator Cotton to make another individual
14 introduction.

15 But I am flattered, James, and I am delighted to
16 introduce one of our -- today's nominees.

17 Mr. James G. Mazol is here today along with his wife
18 Deborah, his son Jack, who is well-behaved.

19 Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member.

20 And his mother Toni, who is also acting very, very
21 behaviorally correct today. He has been nominated to serve
22 as deputy under secretary of defense for research and
23 engineering, and it is clear to me and I think to everyone
24 who has worked with him that he is ready to assume this
25 role.



1 The reason I say this with such confidence is that I
2 have witnessed his competence and his character. Mr. Mazol
3 joined my staff in 2017 and served there with distinction
4 until the beginning of this year.

5 When I led the Sea Power Subcommittee, Mr. Mazol led by
6 response to the hypoxia episodes naval aviators were facing.

7 He also helped me draft and implement the Surface Warfare
8 Enhancement Act after U.S. sailors were killed in warship
9 collisions.

10 I was so impressed with James' work that I tapped him
11 to be the policy director of my Commerce staff when I became
12 chair. In that role, he led a team focused on aviation
13 space, science, and technology issues.

14 He helped craft aviation safety legislation following
15 the 737 MAX crashes and he helped me direct more research
16 funding to institutions in typically overlooked states.

17 In 2023 I once again appointed him to be my policy
18 director, this time for my Armed Services Committee staff.
19 Once again, he handled research, engineering, science, and
20 technology portfolios.

21 In addition to that work, Mr. Mazol helped develop and
22 negotiate the NDAA, run committee activities, and lead the
23 SASC team. That history demonstrates Mr. Mazol's readiness
24 for this role.

25 Most members of this committee are intimately familiar



1 with his service this year and before, and that has made him
2 even more prepared.

3 James Mazol is brilliant, he is strong, he is
4 scrupulously honest, and I could not be more delighted to
5 speak on behalf of him today.

6 So, Mr. Mazol, I will now turn to you for your opening
7 statement and after that Senator Cotton will be recognized.



1 STATEMENT OF MR. JAMES G. MAZOL, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER
2 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

3 Mr. Mazol: Thank you, Chairman.

4 Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and members of
5 the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to come before
6 you as the nominee for Deputy Undersecretary of War for
7 Research and Engineering, a position which serves as the
8 department's deputy chief technology officer.

9 Chairman Wicker, thank you for that incredible
10 introduction, sir, and after many years of sitting behind
11 you it is a bit surreal to be sitting down here. Thank you
12 for taking a chance on a young House LD eight years ago.

13 It was an honor to serve you and I am grateful to you,
14 Mrs. Wicker, and Team Wicker past and present including my
15 former colleagues on this committee.

16 I am grateful to my family, friends, and colleagues for
17 your support. Today, I am joined by my mother Toni my wife,
18 Deborah, and our five-year-old son Jack. Deborah and I met
19 on Capitol Hill ten years ago and the marvelous Mrs. Mazol
20 is an outstanding wife and mother, and her daily sacrifices
21 have enabled me to continue pursuing a career in public
22 service, including this potential role.

23 I am grateful to Secretary Hegseth for selecting me at
24 the beginning of the second Trump administration to perform
25 the duties of the department's CTO position and then the



1 deputy CTO position upon the Honorable Emil Michael's
2 confirmation and as a senior advisor to the Honorable Emil
3 Michael now.

4 In addition to my congressional roles, performing these
5 senior roles has provided me with significant insight into
6 and experience shaping R&E's budget and programs. Perhaps
7 most important, they have given me greater appreciation for
8 the technological challenges facing the department.

9 Make no mistake, the United States is running a race
10 against China for 21st century technological supremacy. As
11 the department's CTO, R&E plays a critical role in ensuring
12 the DOD helps the United States win this race.

13 Congress has charged R&E with establishing policy on
14 supervising and unifying defense research and engineering
15 including tech development and transition. This
16 congressional mandate shapes what I believe constitute four
17 significant areas for R&E.

18 First, ensuring the department's R&D budget is wisely
19 invested and aligned to the department's priorities. From
20 basic research to developmental tests, R&E faces the
21 formidable task of overseeing and vectoring in the right
22 direction over \$150 billion in the R&D budget annually
23 spread across hundreds of programs and thousands of
24 projects.

25 Second, in alignment with President Trump's AI action



1 plan, making the department an AI-first organization from
2 the enterprise level to the tactical edge.

3 Third, improving the speed of tech development and
4 transition into operational capabilities. It is important
5 that the department and R&E not miss the opportunity to
6 leverage the explosion of private capital invested into
7 defense technology.

8 And, fourth, serving as the trusted source of unbiased,
9 deep technical expertise across the department, R&E should
10 continue to be the office that senior leaders continue to
11 turn to when needing to make informed technical decisions
12 and hard choices.

13 At the macro level, I view the role of deputy under
14 secretary in simple terms -- help the department catch up
15 and surpass China and other adversaries and potential
16 opponents in critical technology areas where we may have
17 fallen behind, and widen our lead in the areas where we
18 remain ahead.

19 To me, that is peace through strength defined in terms
20 of technological overmatch. If confirmed, I look forward to
21 assisting Under Secretary Michael carry out his duties in
22 concert with Secretary Hegseth's vision.

23 Thank you again for the opportunity and look forward to
24 your questions.

25 [The prepared statement of Mr. Mazol follows:]



1 Chairman Wicker: Thank you very much, Mr. Mazol.

2 Senator Cotton will now be recognized to introduce Mr.

3 Anderson.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. TOM COTTON, U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 ARKANSAS

3 Senator Cotton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I am honored to introduce to the committee a true
5 American patriot and the nominee for Assistant Secretary of
6 War for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict,
7 Derrick Anderson.

8 Derrick and I first crossed paths more than a decade
9 ago. We each served at the Old Guard of Arlington. Derrick
10 has also served our nation honorably while in the 3rd
11 Infantry Division and later during his time with the 5th
12 Special Forces Group and more recently in the Washington,
13 D.C., Army National Guard.

14 Throughout his time in the military, Derrick received
15 numerous awards including a Bronze Star medal, a NATO medal,
16 and a Meritorious Service medal. He also earned multiple
17 honors and recognitions including the Ranger Tab, the
18 Special Forces Tab, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

19 I also worked with Derrick on legislation to rectify
20 previously unknown weapons system flaws that jeopardize the
21 safety of our men and women in uniform. Through these
22 efforts, I saw how deeply Derrick cared about the brave men
23 and women of our military and their families.

24 Derrick has continued to dedicate his time and his
25 talents to his fellow Americans, most recently in the White



1 House as the acting assistant secretary of the Army for
2 Manpower and Reserve Affairs and earlier as a director of
3 counterterrorism at the National Security Council.

4 Throughout his career, Derrick's dedication to our
5 great nation has been evident and I am pleased to support
6 his nomination. I strongly encourage my colleagues to do
7 the same.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Chairman Wicker: Thank you very much, Senator Cotton.

10 Now, Mr. Anderson, your opening statement, sir.

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1 STATEMENT OF MR. DERRICK M. ANDERSON, TO BE ASSISTANT
2 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPEARATIONS AND LOW-
3 INTENSITY CONFLICT

4 Mr. Anderson: Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed,
5 distinguished members of the Armed Services Committee, thank
6 you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the
7 nominee to serve as the Assistant Secretary of War for
8 Special Operations in Low-Intensity Conflict. It is an
9 exceptional personal honor to be considered for this role.

10 I would like to begin by expressing my deep gratitude
11 for the trust and confidence that President Trump has placed
12 in me to once again serve our great nation. I would also
13 like to express my gratitude to Vice President Vance,
14 Secretary of War Hegseth, and Under Secretary Colby for
15 their support and confidence.

16 I very much appreciated my engagements with you and
17 your staffs over the last weeks and, if confirmed, I look
18 forward to deepening this relationship.

19 Specifically to Senator Cotton, a fellow member of the
20 Old Guard, thank you for the years of mentorship. I am
21 sincerely blessed to have your support and truly appreciate
22 the introduction.

23 To my friends and family who have joined me here today
24 to include those who are unable to make it but supported me
25 throughout my life and career, thank you.



1 To my mom and grandma, I cannot thank you enough for
2 the love and support and inspiration that you have given me
3 to allow me the opportunities I have today. I do not think
4 that any of us could have predicted some 40 years ago as we
5 drove across the hills of West Virginia to Virginia that we
6 would be sitting here today.

7 To my fellow Green Beret and grandfather, thank you for
8 pushing me at every juncture in my career. De Oppresso
9 Liber.

10 And most importantly, to my fiancé Maggie who is
11 sitting behind me, an accomplished attorney and Army
12 Reservist in her own right. You have sacrificed so much for
13 me to pursue my dreams. You continue to be my rock and best
14 friend. Thank you, sweetheart.

15 Lastly, I want to thank the men and women of the United
16 States military past and present whose courage and
17 dedication inspire all of us every day. My commitment to
18 this role is rooted in my family's long lineage of military
19 service.

20 My father served in the Army as an MP and my
21 stepbrother in Afghanistan as a U.S. Marine. Two of my
22 uncles served as U.S. Marines and two of my great-uncles
23 served as Army infantrymen in Vietnam, including my uncle
24 Blum who earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

25 9/11 changed the trajectory of my life. I joined ROTC



1 at Virginia Tech, became the first person in my family to
2 earn a college degree. As an infantry officer, I earned my
3 Ranger Tab and immediately deployed to Iraq for 15 months as
4 part of the surge.

5 Following my time at the 3rd Infantry Regiment, the Old
6 Guard, where I led over 150 funerals in Arlington National
7 Cemetery, I earned my Green Beret, leading two Special
8 Forces ODAs and two companies as an XO over the course of
9 five deployments including Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel,
10 and Afghanistan.

11 Following my time on active duty, I earned a law degree
12 from Georgetown University, clerked for two federal judges,
13 and worked at one of the nation's top law firms, all while
14 serving in the National Guard.

15 If confirmed, I will be the Secretary of War's
16 principal civilian advisor for special operations in low-
17 intensity conflict matters. I believe my background makes
18 me qualified because I understand from various points of
19 view what the Special Operations community requires to be
20 successful.

21 It also helps that many of my colleagues I grew up in
22 the SOF community continue to serve. While I remain
23 accountable to the President, Secretary, and Congress, my
24 SOF brothers and sisters have my number and they will 100
25 percent hold me accountable.



1 Terrorists and nefarious actors did not wake up on
2 January 21st and say, America is now focused on X, Y, and Z
3 so we will leave them alone. This is why the Special
4 Operations enterprise must be flexible, agile, and resource
5 cognizant.

6 While we are no longer at war in the traditional sense
7 in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, we must build our
8 irregular warfare capabilities to deter, prevent, and be
9 prepared for the next conflict.

10 As such, SOCOM and ASW SO/LIC have a unique task to
11 ensure that we find, fix, and finish those entities who
12 choose to target the United States so that we as a country
13 can focus on our long-term threats.

14 Lastly, I recognize the importance of working closely
15 with Congress. It is the honor of my life to be given this
16 opportunity to earn your trust and continue my service to
17 our great nation.

18 I look forward to responding to your questions and
19 discussing how we can work together to support the service
20 members, civilians, and families who make up the Special
21 Operations community.

22 Thank you.

23 [The prepared statement of Mr. Anderson follows:]
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1 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

2 Congratulations on your testimony and your nomination,
3 and congratulations on your engagement. Have you set a
4 date?

5 Mr. Anderson: We do, Senator. We have it in November.

6 Chairman Wicker: Very good. You know, it is a felony
7 to lie to the Congress.

8 [Laughter.]

9 Chairman Wicker: So we expect you to keep that.

10 Now, Mr. Moring, please top that. You are recognized,
11 sir.

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1 STATEMENT OF MR. PLATTE B. MORING III, TO BE INSPECTOR
2 GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

3 Mr. Moring: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished
5 members of the committee, good morning. Thank you for the
6 opportunity to appear before you today as the President's
7 nominee to serve as Inspector General of the department.

8 It is a high honor and distinct privilege to be
9 considered for this role.

10 First and foremost, I recognize my wife Susan without
11 whose love and support I would not be here today. My
12 daughter Leigh and her Navy veteran husband Blake are seated
13 behind me today and are a tremendous source of encouragement
14 and kind assistance. My son William serves as a mental
15 health counselor in Denver, Colorado, and could not be with
16 us here today.

17 I would also like to acknowledge the cadets and my
18 former students at the Citadel who made the journey to the
19 nation's Capitol to witness this most important advice and
20 consent process.

21 The motto of the Citadel is honor, duty, and respect.
22 If confirmed, I will continue to uphold these core values as
23 the Inspector General.

24 I am grateful to the President for the special trust
25 and confidence he has placed in me by this nomination. I am



1 also thankful to the Secretary for his endorsement.

2 In preparation for today's hearing, I have given
3 considerable thought to the role of the Office of Inspector
4 General and my approach to the fulfillment of its mission of
5 promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in
6 department programs.

7 In this reflection I was led to the oft-quoted Bible
8 verse from Micah chapter 6 verse 8: "What does the Lord
9 require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk
10 humbly."

11 This verse is a call to action, emphasizing the
12 importance of justice, mercy, and humility in one's
13 relationships. If confirmed, this verse will instruct my
14 performance of this very important position.

15 I will painstakingly pursue the facts of each matter
16 with the intent on achieving justice and accountability
17 within the department. At the same time, if confirmed, I
18 will extend professional courtesy to all department
19 employees with the ideal of preserving their dignity,
20 respect, and constitutional rights in the conduct of
21 impactful audits, evaluations, inspections, and reviews.

22 I will, if confirmed, strive to remain transparent,
23 open, helpful, considerate, resilient, and most of all,
24 independent. My commitment to the department is rooted in
25 my family's long lineage of patriotic service to our nation.



1 My multiple generation great-grandfather and his
2 brother signed the Tryon Resolves in 1775 prior to the
3 adoption of the Declaration of Independence, vowing to take
4 up arms and risk their lives and fortunes in maintaining the
5 freedom in the North Carolina colony.

6 Other distant relatives served on the Continental Line
7 and North Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War and
8 the War of 1812. Both my grandfathers served our country in
9 the Army and Merchant Marines in World War I. My father and
10 father-in-law both served in occupied Germany and Austria
11 following World War II.

12 It has been my lifelong intent to continue this
13 tradition of service to our great nation. To that end, my
14 career has involved a variety of experience which, if
15 confirmed, prepared me to take on this new appointment.

16 I have been employed in the executive branch, judicial
17 branch, private law practice, the military, and teaching law
18 school and college courses. The primary focus of my legal
19 work in private practice and the Department of Justice was
20 the investigation and prosecution of fraud.

21 On active duty with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, my
22 duty assignment was rule of law officer for Operation
23 Enduring Freedom, developing a constitutional criminal
24 procedure code and judicial system for that war-torn
25 country.



1 If confirmed, it will be my honor to protect and
2 advance the Office of the Inspector General in support of
3 the Constitution of the United States of America, the men
4 and women of the department, and the great citizens of this
5 country.

6 If confirmed, I also pledge to work with this committee
7 and Congress to ensure that the legislative branch is fully
8 informed of the activities of the Office of Inspector
9 General.

10 Thank you again for your time today at this hearing,
11 and I welcome your questions.

12 [The prepared statement of Mr. Moring follows:]

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1 Chairman Wicker: Thank you for that fine testimony.

2 Were the Tryon Resolves signed before or after the
3 Halifax Resolves?

4 Mr. Moring: They were the first, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Wicker: Okay. Nice to know.

6 And, Ms. Davies, you are now recognized for your
7 opening statement.



1 STATEMENT OF MS. KIRSTEN A. DAVIES, TO BE CHIEF
2 INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

3 Ms. Davies: Good morning, Chairman Wicker, Ranking
4 Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee.
5 Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as
6 the nominee to serve as the chief information officer of the
7 Department of War.

8 I am deeply grateful to President Trump for this honor
9 and for his confidence in me, and I am thankful to Secretary
10 Hegseth for his trust.

11 I first want to recognize many treasured people
12 supporting me today: my dear friends who have traveled to be
13 in person here, my dad who served in the 8th Army Boat
14 Detachment during Vietnam watching from home due to his
15 health, my dear cousin, extended family members, brother,
16 and close friends watching online right now. My mom, my
17 greatest supporter, is peering over the balcony of heaven.

18 Finally, I am thankful beyond words for the presence
19 today and grace of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

20 People know me as a leader with a unique blend of heart
21 and head. I am passionate about the work I do, solving
22 complex problems, and accomplishing what many claimed would
23 be impossible.

24 I am purpose driven and excellence focused. I also
25 lead analytically using data-driven insights. I am precise



1 when planning, agile in delivery, and drive measurable
2 results. I bring an extensive background in industry. I am
3 unique as I have multi vertical experience across
4 multinational and Fortune 500 companies, some of industry's
5 largest and most complex networks and supply chains.

6 For nearly two decades I have led change, transforming
7 organizations for the digital age, building cyber defenses,
8 tackling tech debt, and innovating at scale.

9 I have applied key principles across my career that, if
10 confirmed, I will also bring to the department. Build a
11 strong culture, ignite a bias for action, and lead with and
12 drive accountability.

13 While living in Africa to establish one of the largest
14 banks on the continent, I led end-to-end security,
15 resilience, and anti-fraud operations, building the cyber
16 program and a cyber skills academy from scratch.

17 I co-led broad tech modernization, extensive migration
18 to the cloud, and tech innovations. President Trump has set
19 the charge for America to dominate in innovation, especially
20 AI, ahead of our adversaries.

21 Digital transformation and data optimization are
22 critical building blocks for AI. I have successfully led
23 this work at scale and am a known innovator.

24 For a consumer goods conglomerate with a footprint in
25 190 countries, I led cybersecurity and tech risk reduction



1 across enterprise IT, R&D, manufacturing, and the global
2 supply chain. I spearheaded a cultural movement to embed
3 cybersecurity as a safety requirement from the top floor to
4 the shop floor, a massive shift for manufacturing.

5 Secretary Hegseth recently said, "Cyber will be a part
6 of every single way that we plan and look at the world." If
7 confirmed, I will passionately drive this forward.

8 For a Global 50 manufacturing giant I led a multi-year
9 transformation across information security, eliminating
10 excessive policies, dismantling ivory tower silos, and
11 collaborating on what is now arguably the leading approach
12 to industrial control system security.

13 Challenging the status quo and gracefully employing
14 targeted constructive disruption are necessary for
15 modernization and innovation. These are hallmarks of my
16 career.

17 America's warfighter readiness and lethality depend
18 upon secure, resilient, modernized systems and innovative
19 technical and cyber capabilities. The department has
20 challenges to overcome. It is weighed down with legacy
21 systems and unoptimized data.

22 There are great people but at today's speed of change
23 skills must constantly be refreshed and future fit. New
24 entrants with innovative tech solutions struggle with red
25 tape and lack of access.



1 Cyber attacks are pervasive and America's adversaries
2 are motivated and capable to inflict massive impact, and
3 there is little deterrence.

4 Great change is needed in this time and in this hour.
5 If confirmed, my priorities will be to actively address tech
6 debt at the department, surgically prioritizing
7 modernization initiatives which support readiness.

8 I will work across the department to embed the building
9 blocks of AI, supporting data supremacy and decision
10 dominance for our warfighters, partners, and allies.

11 I will forge the next generation of industry tech and
12 cyber partnerships. I will work across the department and
13 interagency to catalyze cyber deterrence and I will bring
14 the voice of the warfighter into the very DNA of the Office
15 of the CIO.

16 Thank you for considering my nomination. I look
17 forward to your questions.

18 [The prepared statement of Ms. Davies follows:]
19
20
21
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1 Chairman Wicker: Thanks to all three of you. At this
2 point, I ask -- thanks to all four of you -- I ask you to
3 answer at the same time these questions that we have to ask
4 all of our civilian nominees. So just a yes or no.

5 Have you adhered to applicable laws and regulations
6 governing conflicts of interest?

7 [All nominees answer in the affirmative.]

8 Chairman Wicker: Have you assumed any duties or taken
9 any actions that would appear to presume the outcome of the
10 confirmation process?

11 [All nominees answer in the affirmative.]

12 Chairman Wicker: Exercising our legislative and
13 oversight responsibilities makes it important that this
14 committee, its subcommittees, and other appropriate
15 committees of Congress receive testimony, briefings,
16 reports, records, and other information from the executive
17 branch on a timely basis.

18 Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear and testify
19 before this committee when requested?

20 [All nominees answer in the affirmative.]

21 Chairman Wicker: Do you agree to provide records,
22 documents, and electronic communications in a timely manner
23 when requested by this committee, its subcommittees, or
24 other appropriate committees of Congress, and to consult
25 with the requester regarding the basis for any good-faith



1 delay or denial in providing such records?

2 [All nominees answer in the affirmative.]

3 Chairman Wicker: Will you ensure that your staff
4 complies with deadlines established by this committee for
5 the production of records, reports, and other information,
6 including timely responding to hearing questions for the
7 record?

8 [All nominees answer in the affirmative.]

9 Chairman Wicker: Will you cooperate in providing
10 witnesses and briefers in response to congressional
11 requests?

12 [All nominees answer in the affirmative.]

13 Chairman Wicker: Will those witnesses and briefers be
14 protected from reprisal for their testimony or briefings?

15 [All nominees answer in the affirmative.]

16 Chairman Wicker: Okay. That concludes those standard
17 questions and so now I recognize myself for five minutes for
18 individual questions.

19 But let me ask this of all four of you. Much of the
20 funding for the Defense Reconciliation Bill is unspecific
21 and will technically be at the discretion of the department,
22 though we have provided recommendations for them.

23 A quick yes or no from each of you beginning down here,
24 Mr. Moring. Do you commit to following the Congress'
25 spending recommendations in defense reconciliation



1 unequivocally?

2 Mr. Moring: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

3 Chairman Wicker: Ms. Davies?

4 Ms. Davies: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Wicker: Mr. Mazol?

6 Mr. Mazol: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

7 Chairman Wicker: Mr. Anderson?

8 Mr. Anderson: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

9 Chairman Wicker: Ms. Davies, the department has
10 historically struggled to adopt information technology at
11 the speed of relevance. For example, software applications
12 can take anywhere from four months to two years to go
13 through all the required security and compliance processes
14 at DOD.

15 I am encouraged by the various initiatives like
16 Software Fast Track and others that the department announced
17 last year that delivery of meaningful change is the key.

18 So how would you leverage your somewhat unique
19 experience to give us a quantum leap in making this
20 accomplishment?

21 Ms. Davies: Chairman Wicker, thank you for the time we
22 spent in your office in preparation for this.

23 Chairman Wicker: Just -- mouth closer to the
24 microphone.

25 Ms. Davies: Thank you. Right there? Is that better?



1 Chairman Wicker: That is much better.

2 Ms. Davies: Thank you very much. Thank you for the
3 time we spent in your office, Chairman.

4 This is a very important topic. You are right over the
5 target on this one. Speed, innovation, and agility are
6 hallmarks in industry that we see. We run the clock based
7 upon quarterly revenue and projections and things like that.

8 In my history in roles I have driven a lot of the bias
9 for action. If confirmed, the principles that I will bring
10 to this role are a lot of what I have demonstrated in my
11 past.

12 So the agility for speed, driving principles of
13 adoption, interoperability, I believe is actually quite
14 critical for the department across the software applications
15 themselves, and I look forward to partnering with you on
16 this very important subject.

17 Chairman Wicker: Okay. We are really -- we are going
18 to expect a change from the department in that regard. So
19 you have got your marching orders.

20 Mr. Anderson, thanks for your service. You will play a
21 key role in ensuring U.S. Special Operations Forces are
22 trained and equipped to deal with what we are facing now.
23 What lessons have we learned from Ukraine, Israel, and other
24 ongoing conflicts, sir.

25 Mr. Anderson: Senator, thank you for that question.



1 Spending time in that area, as a former Green Beret I
2 can tell you we have a lot of great networks and
3 opportunities within that region.

4 We are constantly learning from the Ukrainians
5 specifically in the operations when it is dealing with the
6 counter UAS/UAV systems, Senator, and we are also seeing
7 some of the technologies that Israel is able to provide.

8 So, if confirmed, Senator, I think those connections
9 and ability to be able to work with our counterparts and
10 empowering them as well will be critical for the special
11 operations community to be successful.

12 Chairman Wicker: To what extent is it a major factor
13 that in both of those instances -- and I was not limiting my
14 question simply to them but in both of those instances the
15 defenders are fighting for their own soil -- their own land?

16 Mr. Anderson: Yes, Senator. What has been very
17 interesting, again, not being in the position but
18 understanding it from open source and having friends that
19 have operated in the area, one of the interesting things
20 specifically that we have noticed and been able to learn
21 from, one, the Ukrainians are fighting on their own soil,
22 right, which makes it a very different operational
23 environment.

24 Additionally, when we talk to the counter UAS and the
25 UAV systems, one of the things that we have seen and I have



1 seen is their ability to adopt and make their UAV systems at
2 a cheaper price. I can tell you as -- in my background as
3 an operator we used older, hunkier, more expensive drone
4 systems.

5 They are able to do it cheaper and faster, and I think
6 that that is a huge lesson learned that the Special
7 Operations community could push forward.

8 Chairman Wicker: They can innovate because they have
9 to, and I will make this observation -- and I will not ask
10 you to agree.

11 But it is significant to me that in both of those
12 situations they are being opposed by larger efforts led by
13 people who claim that neither of those countries have a
14 right to exist and I think that is very significant. Thank
15 you very much for your answers.

16 And, Mr. Reed, you are now recognized.

17 Senator Reed: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

18 Mr. Moring, welcome. I think the President has made a
19 very wise choice. You have such extensive experience -- and
20 I thank you for your service -- particularly as the command
21 judge advocate and rule of law officer in Operation Enduring
22 Freedom.

23 You had to face the reality of very difficult decisions
24 about does the law overcome command and et cetera. Can you
25 elaborate on that? If you are confronted with a problem



1 that the administration or anybody wants to pursue and you
2 find legal objections you have an obligation, I presume, to
3 say you cannot do that. Is that fair?

4 Mr. Moring: Thank you, Chairman, Ranking Member Reed,
5 for the opportunity to comment on that issue, and I
6 appreciate the time that you spent with me in your office
7 yesterday discussing some of these issues.

8 There is inevitably going to be conflict in the conduct
9 of the Office of the Inspector General. I imagine there
10 will be times where there will be disagreements just as I
11 experienced when I was a rule of law officer in Afghanistan,
12 and the best way to resolve those conflicts is by meeting
13 face to face with the individuals with which we disagree and
14 try to find some common ground, and I did that in
15 Afghanistan in a combat situation not even speaking the same
16 language as the people that I was trying to work toward a
17 consensus.

18 And I will try to carry that same perspective into my
19 role, if confirmed, as Inspector General.

20 Senator Reed: Well, I think that is exactly the right
21 approach. But there are a few times when you come to a
22 situation where your -- the chain of command may disregard
23 your best legal advice and that puts you in quite a dilemma,
24 I would assume.

25 But that is something you are going to have to be



1 conscious of every moment as you go forward and I think you
2 know that. So, thank you.

3 Ms. Davies, you have an extraordinary background. I
4 mean, it is -- you have been everywhere and done everything
5 when it comes to cyber. One of the areas you are going to
6 encounter is classified programs, which is something I do
7 not think you have a lot of experience.

8 Can you give us an idea of how you are going to
9 approach this issue of the classified programs that you deal
10 with?

11 Ms. Davies: Ranking Member Reed, thank you for the
12 opportunity to meet with you yesterday and also to expand on
13 this.

14 In my history I have dealt not with classified programs
15 from a government perspective -- however, with very
16 sensitive information, detailed intellectual property,
17 health care information, things like that.

18 The approach that I will take will be similar, if
19 confirmed, to what I have done in the past, which is a risk-
20 based approach and what that means is when you have data
21 networks, systems, that are extraordinarily more sensitive,
22 or in the government case classified, as to public systems
23 and public networks there is a different approach.

24 You put the shoulder of security much more rigorously
25 and proactively behind those things that are significantly



1 more classified.

2 I have extensive experience in this and, if confirmed,
3 I will bring that principled approach to that as well.

4 Senator Reed: Thank you.

5 Ms. Davies, you just indicated -- excuse me, Mr.
6 Anderson, you just indicated to Chairman Wicker that you
7 will provide reports and information if required and also
8 follow the law in terms of the statutory requirements to
9 inform Congress, and there are a number of legally required
10 notifications including operational actions in the Special
11 Forces.

12 Do you commit to following these? Because, frankly, as
13 I said in my opening remarks, we have not received the kind
14 of detailed information that we should and I would hope that
15 you would take that seriously.

16 Your comments, please?

17 Mr. Anderson: Ranking Member Reed, like my colleagues
18 I want to thank you again for taking the time to meet in
19 your office and have discussions, and you have my
20 commitment, if confirmed, as the Assistant Secretary of War
21 for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict that I
22 will follow all applicable laws.

23 Senator Reed: Well, thank you very much. When you go
24 in I think you should look at the situation because that is
25 not happening now, in my perspective. So, please.



1 And the other factor, too, of course, I alluded to but
2 we can follow up with questions is our operations in the
3 Caribbean have to be analyzed not just operationally but
4 also legally.

5 Thank you very much.

6 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Senator.

7 Senator Reed: And, Mr. Mazol, I have questions for
8 you.

9 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Senator Reed.

10 Senator Rounds?

11 Senator Rounds: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, let
12 me begin by thanking all of you for your offer of service to
13 our country.

14 Mr. Mazol and Ms. Davies, I have discussed the spectrum
15 with you privately, but as I promised I would also like to
16 ask you about it in this public forum.

17 I have heard from over 30 senior DOD officials in
18 hearings over the past two years, including the Secretary of
19 Defense, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, every service chief,
20 and eight combatant commanders that vacating or sharing the
21 3.1 to 3.45 gigahertz band of the electromagnetic spectrum
22 would have an extremely detrimental impact on our
23 warfighting capabilities.

24 The Department of the Navy alone estimated that
25 relocating their systems to a different spectrum band would



1 cost them \$250 billion and take, perhaps, 20 years.

2 Secretary Hegseth has said that he would go to the mat when
3 necessary for spectrum capabilities that he believes are an
4 absolute requirement for the DOD and the men and women in
5 uniform.

6 Does the department have capabilities which require the
7 3.1 to the 3.45 gigahertz and the 7.4 to the 8.4 gigahertz
8 bands of the spectrum that would play a critical role in a
9 conflict with the PRC?

10 Mr. Mazol: Yes.

11 Senator Rounds: Ms. Davies?

12 Ms. Davies: Senator Rounds, I am not fully briefed on
13 this. I am aware of the critical bands that do need to be
14 protected. If confirmed, I look forward to being fully
15 briefed and also supporting the President and the Secretary
16 in national security needs for those spectrum.

17 Senator Rounds: If confirmed, will you speak out and
18 defend the 3.1 to 3.45 gigahertz and the 7.4 to 8.4
19 gigahertz bands of the spectrum if there are attempts to
20 force other federal or commercial users into those bands in
21 a way that impacts DOD capabilities?

22 Mr. Mazol: Yes, Senator.

23 Ms. Davies: Yes, Senator.

24 Senator Rounds: Thank you. Mr. Mazol, I also want to
25 ask you one final follow-up on spectrum as it pertains to



1 Golden Dome. Will current plans for the Golden Dome
2 architecture require increased usage of the 3.1 to 3.45
3 gigahertz band of the spectrum across the United States?

4 Mr. Mazol: Senator, I would defer on the specifics to
5 General Mike Guetlein who is the direct reporting program
6 manager for Golden Dome.

7 But as I look at the President's executive order, his
8 vision for Golden Dome, and the exacting requirements in
9 that executive order, I cannot imagine a situation where we
10 would need less access and less frequent access to spectrum
11 in the bands that you described.

12 Senator Rounds: It would be fair to say then, and I
13 think that forcing the department to share the lower three
14 and the seven and eight bands of the spectrum in a
15 suboptimal way it would negatively impact the Golden Dome.

16 Is that what you are saying to us today?

17 Mr. Mazol: Senator, that is what I am saying.

18 Senator Rounds: Thank you.

19 Mr. Mazol, we have also discussed the importance of
20 integrating AI into DOD capabilities throughout the joint
21 force.

22 Do you agree that integrating AI-enabled systems and
23 capabilities is essential to developing a superior kill web
24 to the PRC and that whichever side has a superior kill web
25 is more likely to prevail in a conflict?



1 Mr. Mazol: Senator, I absolutely agree with that
2 assessment and I will just say that since I have been in the
3 department since the beginning of the administration and
4 become familiar with this technology that I believe that the
5 U.S. military that is forged in the white heat of the AI
6 revolution is going to be much different than the force that
7 we have today.

8 Senator Rounds: I agree.

9 Mr. Anderson, the SOF-space-cyber triad presents a
10 powerful operational synergy but integrating these
11 capabilities across different commands can be challenging.

12 What are the biggest hurdles to full synchronization
13 and how do we overcome them?

14 Mr. Anderson: Senator, I want to first thank you for
15 the question and for the opportunity to speak to you about
16 some of these issues in your office. I believe that triad
17 of cyber, space, and the Special Operations community has a
18 unique opportunity specifically when we look at the
19 information operations.

20 You know, we talk about how SOF provides a value
21 proposition, but if we are not -- if the department is not
22 working in conjunction within those three realms we will be
23 leaving a lot on the table when it comes to assets and
24 opportunities.

25 So, if confirmed, Senator, it will be a priority of



1 mine to work with my counterparts in the department within
2 the cyber and within the space community to make sure we
3 have that synergy.

4 Senator Rounds: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Senator Rounds.

6 Senator King?

7 Senator King: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 There seems to be some confusion this morning because
9 several of you mentioned that you were going to work for a
10 department that does not exist.

11 The name of the department is the Department of
12 Defense. That was established in the National Security Act
13 of 1947, amended in 1949. I will commend to you 10 U.S.C.
14 Section 111.

15 If that name of that department is going to be changed
16 it has to start right here. Congress has established the
17 name of the department. It is the Department of Defense and
18 I hope that you understand that that is who you are going to
19 work for, not some other department that several of you
20 mentioned in your testimony.

21 Mr. Moring, you are being appointed to a position that
22 is an anomaly in any government -- that is, an independent
23 watchdog over the government itself, and I guess my first
24 question is do you need this job because your predecessor
25 was summarily fired without cause and without the



1 statutorily required notice to Congress?

2 So will you take the necessary actions to look at
3 waste, fraud, and abuse and abuse of illegal actions by the
4 department in your job without fear of retribution?

5 Mr. Moring: Yes, Senator, I will in an independent and
6 objective manner as required by the statute.

7 Senator King: And you understand that that is a solemn
8 obligation because we cannot be in the department every day.

9 We cannot be in touch with whistleblowers, people that are
10 of concern.

11 You are performing an essential function in the
12 department and I believe that you are eminently qualified to
13 do so and I think you understand that responsibility.

14 But I would like a renewal of that commitment of
15 independence, fearlessness, and calling them as you see
16 them.

17 Mr. Moring: Senator King, as we discussed in your
18 office yesterday, you have my commitment to be everything
19 that you just described.

20 It has been a hallmark of my legal career to provide
21 independent, unbiased legal advice whether it is to a
22 client, a commander, or the general counsel of the
23 department.

24 Senator King: And I believe you will do that and that
25 is -- for that reason I am going to be supporting your



1 nomination.

2 Mr. Anderson, what is the authority for the lethal
3 strikes on the ships in the Caribbean that have recently
4 been carried out by the administration that I believe would
5 fall under your jurisdiction and the new position you are
6 being nominated for?

7 Mr. Anderson: Senator, I appreciate the question.

8 I was not involved in the operation nor do I know any
9 of the details but what I have seen on the news in small
10 clips, Senator.

11 What I can tell you is in my capacity as a Green Beret
12 I understand the complexities of operations, planning
13 operations, and all the different factors. But, again,
14 Senator, I was not involved in it. I feel as if it would be
15 slightly irresponsible of me --

16 Senator King: But do you not think one of the early
17 things that you should assess -- you listed all those
18 things. The first is, is this a legal action of the United
19 States government? Would that not be part of your
20 calculation?

21 Mr. Anderson: Senator, again, I was not involved in
22 that operation.

23 Senator King: I understand that but I am talking in
24 the future. You may be in this job in three weeks and be
25 ordered to strike another ship in the Caribbean. Are you



1 going to ask a question about what is the legal authority
2 for that strike?

3 Mr. Anderson: Senator, certainly, and even in my
4 capacity as a Green Beret team leader on the ground we
5 always had legal opines and legal chops on our operations.

6 So, if confirmed, Senator, I will comply with all laws,
7 regulations, and ensure that we have input from all portions
8 of the department.

9 Senator King: And make no mistake, I have been urging
10 in this committee for years stronger interdiction of drug
11 smuggling coming in through the southern ocean.

12 But interdiction is different than a lethal strike and
13 I think it is just a question of what is the authority. We
14 should have notification back and forth to Congress. That
15 is the way this process is supposed to work under the War
16 Powers Act and under the Constitution.

17 It is our job to declare war and it is the President's
18 job to be the commander in chief. So I hope you will take
19 that question seriously and it would be one of the first I
20 hope you look into should you be confirmed for this
21 position.

22 Mr. Mazol, you and I discussed it -- I think you have
23 one of the most important jobs in the United States
24 government and that is thinking about the next war, and we
25 have been woefully behind in things like hypersonic,



1 directed energy and also, frankly, drone technology and
2 Ukraine has proven that.

3 Talk to me about the importance of additional
4 scientific research and supporting scientific research
5 throughout the department but also throughout our ecosystem
6 of research including our universities.

7 If we lose the AI race we are sunk and the AI race is
8 based entirely on research and development, which is your
9 job.

10 Mr. Mazol: Senator, I had the opportunity this week to
11 visit with a couple of amazing Americans who were involved
12 in the Midnight Hammer Strike and I have reflected on the
13 fact that the technology that was used to execute that
14 strike has its origins, all of it, in basic research, which
15 the department relies heavily on our universities to perform
16 as well as our defense labs.

17 So you have my commitment and certainly my
18 understanding that the research that we do in our
19 universities and our labs has real operational impact and,
20 if confirmed, I am committed to ensuring that we have the
21 resources that we need in our universities and our labs.

22 Senator King: The simple fact is that the first
23 country to implement the new technology is the one that wins
24 the war. Your job is to be sure that is us.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



1 Chairman Wicker: Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen.

2 Senator Scott?

3 Senator Scott: Thank you, Chairman.

4 First off, congratulations to each of you on your
5 nominations. If you look at your backgrounds, you have
6 every ability to be very, very, very successful. So I look
7 forward to your confirmation and the great work you are
8 going to do.

9 So one thing that has disappointed me since I have been
10 up here is the inability of our military branches to perform
11 something as simple as an audit.

12 I am a business guy. I could not sell stock without an
13 audit. If I could not audit my financials nobody would give
14 me a dime. The banks would not lend me money. No
15 shareholder would invest.

16 I would have been kicked off the New York Stock
17 Exchange if I did not do an audit. So I do not -- I have no
18 comprehension of how somebody can be the leader of a branch
19 of the U.S. military knowing your obligation is to do an
20 audit and you do not do it.

21 I am proud of the Marines. They are the one branch
22 that took it seriously, did their job. When they --
23 recently when they testified it was just night and day. The
24 Marines were absolutely committed to whatever their
25 responsibility was. They got their stuff done.



1 So, Mr. Moring, as the nominee for the inspector
2 general at the Department of War, you will oversee audits
3 and protect the department from waste, fraud, and abuse. So
4 why is it important for the Pentagon to pass an audit?

5 Mr. Moring: Thank you for the question, Senator Scott.

6 For all the reasons that you mentioned: accountability,
7 transparency, and responsibility to the taxpayer.

8 Senator Scott: So why are they not doing it? I mean,
9 why can companies all over this country do it and our
10 military cannot do it? Why is that?

11 Mr. Moring: The systems in place that the components
12 are using is not necessarily compatible with the programs
13 they use to do the necessary accounting processes, and in
14 order to correct that there has to be a department wide
15 effort, cooperation between the Secretary, the comptroller,
16 and my office to emphasize that this committee, this
17 Congress, has made it a statutory requirement to produce a
18 clean audit by fiscal year 2028 and it will be, if I am
19 confirmed, a top priority of the Office of Inspector General
20 to help coordinate and collaborate on that effort.

21 Senator Scott: So even though it was an obligation,
22 the fact that -- so what you are saying is that we were not
23 even making progress to get it done and there has been no
24 accountability?

25 Mr. Moring: From what I have read publicly, every year



1 there are recurring material deficiencies in the financial
2 statements prepared by some of the defense components. It
3 is a mystery to me why we have those recurring deficiencies
4 but I will direct the individuals in my office responsible
5 for the auditing process to try to better work with the
6 military components to correct these material deficiencies
7 so that they can produce sound financial statements and, in
8 turn, the Office of Inspector General can produce a clean
9 audit.

10 Senator Scott: So going back to what Senator King was
11 talking about -- accountability -- do you feel comfortable
12 that if you see that there is not the commitment to getting
13 it done you feel comfortable you will be very direct to make
14 sure that people are going to be held accountable to get the
15 audits accomplished?

16 Mr. Moring: Under the Inspector General Act, I am
17 supposed to have access to the Secretary frequently and I
18 will make that an agenda item each and every time I meet
19 with the Secretary.

20 Senator Scott: And when you -- and you will be
21 completely transparent with us if you do not believe we are
22 heading in the right direction or if somebody is not doing
23 the job or we are not putting in the processes to get it
24 done?

25 Mr. Moring: Yes. Each step along the way if I see



1 that significant progress is not being made to correct these
2 recurring material deficiencies, I will make Congress and
3 particularly this committee aware of it.

4 Senator Scott: Do you think -- do you have any feel
5 for how long it is going to take you to come up with a road
6 map to get there?

7 Mr. Moring: I do not, candidly, Senator. I am going
8 to have to meet with my deputy inspector general for audit
9 and map that out.

10 Senator Scott: Thank you.

11 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Senator.

12 Senator Warren?

13 Senator Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 So, Mr. Moring, if you are confirmed as inspector
15 general you would be the Pentagon's top cop on the beat for
16 waste, fraud, and abuse of power. Government should work
17 for the people. That is something I think all of us should
18 agree on.

19 But President Trump has purged IGs, including your
20 predecessor. So it is extra important for us to understand
21 whether or not you are going to be an independent watchdog
22 and one piece of that is holding big defense contractors
23 accountable.

24 Now, in 2024, the DOD inspector general reported that
25 Boeing charged the Air Force unreasonable prices under the



1 C-17 contract. An example, a soap dispenser cost 80 times
2 more in the charge to DOD than was commercially available.
3 But we do not know the actual dollar amount.

4 Was that \$80 or was that \$8,000? Because the Air Force
5 -- we do not know how much they charge because the IG
6 redacted the actual dollar figures.

7 This kind of lack of transparency from the IG helps
8 contractors hide how much they are price gouging the
9 military and it makes it harder for all of us to do our job
10 on accountability.

11 So, Mr. Moring, if you are confirmed -- I am just
12 following up here on Senator Scott's question but with
13 specificity -- if you are confirmed will you commit to being
14 transparent with the American people about how much these
15 companies are overcharging DOD?

16 Mr. Moring: Senator Warren, it is a mystery to me how
17 an \$80 soap dispenser you can buy at Target Boeing sells to
18 the department at \$1,500.

19 Senator Warren: Yeah. But I want to know that you are
20 going to report the actual numbers and not black them out --

21 Mr. Moring: As much --

22 Senator Warren: -- because you give us more ability to
23 do oversight here. Can I get your commitment on that?

24 Mr. Moring: You can, and I will be as transparent as
25 the law allows.



1 Senator Warren: Okay. The law lets you put those
2 numbers in there. There are no secrets in those numbers.
3 So good. I am going to hold you to that.

4 Based on its investigation, the IG recommended
5 requiring contractors to fess up to DOD when they are hiking
6 prices and so this week I introduced a bipartisan bill, the
7 Transparency in Government Pricing Act, with Senators Ernst,
8 Slotkin, and Grassley to do just that and I hope we are
9 going to be able to get this bill signed into law.

10 The IG has to be independent from contractors and from
11 DOD leadership. At the bipartisan request of Chairman
12 Wicker and Ranking Member Reed, the IG is investigating
13 whether Secretary Hegseth improperly disclosed classified
14 information on Signal.

15 Under law the IG must report to the head of the agency
16 cases of, quote, "particularly serious or flagrant problems,
17 abuses, or deficiencies," close quote, and then the agency
18 head must report it to Congress within seven days.

19 You may be familiar -- this is called the seven-day
20 letter and it has been used in both Republican and
21 Democratic administrations.

22 Mr. Moring, if confirmed, will you commit to issuing a
23 seven-day letter if you believe the Signalgate investigation
24 or any other work being conducted by your office is being
25 improperly interfered with?



1 Mr. Moring: The short answer to your question,
2 Senator, is yes. The seven-day letter I have read in the
3 Inspector General Act is one of the tools in the toolboxes
4 available, the authorities Congress gave to the inspector
5 general to provide informed --

6 Senator Warren: I appreciate that. You had me at yes.

7 Mr. Moring: Okay.

8 Senator Warren: The DOD inspector general must act
9 independently and that is what we are counting on here.

10 So let me get in one more quick question. Earlier this
11 year Secretary Hegseth's office reportedly implemented a new
12 policy requiring DOD officials to sign nondisclosure
13 agreements before they can work on projects.

14 These kind of agreements can have a chilling effect
15 which is why federal agencies are prohibited from
16 implementing NDAs without including an anti-gag provision to
17 protect whistleblowers.

18 This language informs the employee that they still have
19 the right and obligation to report abuses to Congress and to
20 your office.

21 Mr. Moring, if you are confirmed and your office learns
22 that these NDAs violate the law will you make those findings
23 public as soon as possible and report to us about them?

24 Mr. Moring: The short answer, Senator, is yes. I can
25 elaborate if you would like.



1 Senator Warren: I think the chairman will take yes for
2 an answer here and we can close up.

3 Chairman Wicker: Absolutely, and, of course, witnesses
4 can supplement their answers on the record.

5 Senator Budd?

6 Senator Budd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Mr. Mazol, good to see you. I enjoyed our time in the
8 office recently.

9 China produces over 90 percent of the world's rare
10 earth magnets, which is critical -- it is a critical
11 vulnerability to our national security. North Carolina is
12 home to one of the only if not the only U.S. companies
13 making rare earth magnets that are 100 percent decoupled
14 from China.

15 So I am interested in how, if confirmed, that you would
16 work through the Office of Strategic Capital and alongside
17 the under secretary for acquisition and sustainment to
18 ensure the critical supply chain.

19 Mr. Mazol: Thank you, Senator, and I really enjoyed
20 the time in the office.

21 Thank you for bringing up the Office of Strategic
22 Capital, which is a direct report to R&E and OSC as its
23 first deal out of the gate was involved in the department's
24 Mountain Pass deal and provided a significant direct loan as
25 part of that deal.



1 So I think there are major opportunities for OSC to
2 play a role, noting that the reconciliation bill devotes
3 significant funding for OSC credit subsidies in this regard.

4 I would also say that if confirmed I would look for
5 opportunities to work with entities like DARPA, another
6 direct report to R&E that is doing very interesting work in
7 the critical mineral space.

8 Senator Budd: Thank you. You mentioned some of those
9 other offices. There are multiple offices that report to
10 R&E that seek to innovate and advance technologies so you
11 are going to oversee a variety of units looking at emerging
12 tech.

13 I am concerned. I am all about the innovation but I am
14 concerned about duplication of effort as well. So, if
15 confirmed, in what ways would you encourage cooperation
16 among these offices as well as others like DIU and Strategic
17 Capabilities Office to accelerate innovation and end
18 stovepipes but eliminate duplication?

19 Mr. Mazol: Well, Senator, I agree that coordination
20 between R&E and other innovation entities that are both at
21 the OSD level and in the services is very important and, if
22 confirmed, you have my commitment to ensuring that we are
23 working with OSC and the Strategic Capabilities Office,
24 Defense Innovation Unit, and others, meeting with them
25 regularly to make sure -- understanding their portfolio of



1 programs to make sure there is no duplication of effort.

2 Senator Budd: Great. Thanks so much.

3 Mr. Anderson, thanks for your service to our country.
4 When you served at U.S. Army Special Operations Command in,
5 I think, some time in North Carolina you know it is home to
6 numerous SOF units that are vital to winning our next wars.

7 So as SOCOM recalibrates its focus to irregular warfare
8 and operating within great power competition how do you
9 expect the SOCOM budget and force structure to change?

10 Mr. Anderson: Senator, first and foremost, thank you
11 for the opportunity to come speak about this with you and
12 your office.

13 You know, as we discussed, the Special Operations
14 community -- Special Operations Forces -- brings an
15 interesting value proposition to the department. One of the
16 things -- being a former operator who lived the OEF/OIF time
17 frame, you know, we had 20 years of war in places like Iraq
18 and Afghanistan.

19 I do think this is a great opportunity for the Special
20 Operations community to reevaluate themselves, how they are
21 structured, as we shift to the INDOPACOM fight.

22 I would say that there is another unique opportunity
23 here where we can go back to some of our irregular warfare
24 capabilities.

25 I mentioned my grandfather in the beginning of this.



1 You know, he is one of those -- I will not say old too loud
2 but old Green Berets. That was one of the snake-eater
3 generation where, you know, we had our Green Berets going to
4 places like Laos and Cambodia and building up forces,
5 leaving, and having them conduct operations.

6 So, at the end of the day, in the Special Operations
7 community we are attempting to work our way out of a job
8 and, if confirmed, those are some of the priorities that I
9 would put forward, Senator.

10 Senator Budd: Thank you. In the information
11 operations it is a space that the Chinese have prioritized
12 and are clearly leveraging to gain an advantage over us to
13 persuade local populations to not -- but here is the
14 question. So what role can SOF play in information warfare
15 to counter our adversaries?

16 Mr. Anderson: Yes, Senator. Thank you for that.

17 Information operations has to be integrated into our
18 Special Operations in order to combat adversaries like
19 China.

20 What I can say from a high level is that while we might
21 not necessarily win a conflict with IO we can certainly lose
22 it, and it is very critical that the Special Operations
23 community one of the biggest values that we have or one of
24 the biggest things we have that are a benefit is truth
25 within the Special Operations community, within the United



1 States.

2 I think that that builds incredible credibility with
3 our partners. So as we shift to the INDOPACOM, using that
4 credibility of those years of working with our partners is
5 going to be absolutely critical as we move forward with our
6 information operations.

7 Senator Budd: Thank you. Thank you all.

8 Chairman Wicker: Thank you, Senator Budd.

9 Senator Budd, in your opinion was the Tryon Resolves
10 the first declaration of independence in the colonies or the
11 Halifax Resolves? You represent both counties.

12 Senator Budd: I am going to have to go back and take a
13 poll on that one.

14 [Laughter.]

15 Chairman Wicker: Thank you very much. Thank you very
16 much.

17 And, Senator Slotkin, you are recognized.

18 Senator Slotkin: Thank you, Chairman.

19 Welcome to all of you.

20 Mr. Anderson, I want to follow up on the conversations
21 about these ships that the U.S. fired upon in the last
22 couple of weeks without clear explanation.

23 We have not been briefed up here. We have not had a
24 hearing on this, and the full video of the encounters have
25 not been released.



1 Back in April we had the acting SO/LIC director here,
2 the man who was filling the job you are now applying for,
3 and I told him what I will tell you. I have no problem with
4 these groups being designated foreign terrorist
5 organizations.

6 Fentanyl is killing just as many people, if not more,
7 as any terrorist group we have ever seen. But I do have a
8 problem with the lack of transparency and potential
9 violations of international law.

10 The U.S. government has a way of interdicting ships.
11 You know this. The U.S. Coast Guard uses patrol boats and
12 helicopters. They are able to shoot out a motor and disable
13 the vehicle, board it, and then indict all those people,
14 grab all those people.

15 Show everyone all the drugs that they have secured.
16 They did this back in April. The Coast Guard seized 76,000
17 pounds of drugs off of ships in one encounter and showed all
18 of that to the world.

19 And I guess my question is, you know, you will be
20 informing the chain of command. You will have a role. You
21 will be an important voice in that conversation, and we are
22 hearing that there are individual folks in uniform involved
23 in these operations who are now asking for legal cover in
24 these operations because they believe that they potentially
25 violate the law.



1 So my question is if folks in uniform, as you used to
2 be, come forward to you and say, "I am concerned about these
3 operations, could you please provide me a piece of paper
4 with legal cover saying that I will not be personally
5 responsible for violating international law" will you
6 provide that?

7 Mr. Anderson: Senator, first and foremost, I am
8 unaware of the details within the operation. I have not
9 been briefed, Senator.

10 Senator Slotkin: I understand, but you want the big
11 job and you are going to be -- in two or three weeks you are
12 going to be in the hot seat.

13 So I do not want to talk about the past. I am saying
14 if a soldier or a seaman come to you and says, "I am really
15 worried -- this is really squishy."

16 The Wall Street Journal reported on this and I want
17 your legal cover that I am not going to be held personally
18 liable, which you can imagine no one in uniform wants to be
19 held personally liable. Will you in the future provide such
20 cover?

21 Mr. Anderson: Senator, not being in the position I
22 would not understand the legalities of what that would
23 entail, Senator.

24 Senator Slotkin: Okay. I would offer that you should
25 get familiar with those legalities. This is a very live



1 issue, and I understand you have no involvement in what
2 happened in the past but this could be your job in three
3 weeks.

4 So my question is, we have asked the Mexican government
5 to also step up their involvement in stopping these cartels
6 and stopping the huge amount of drugs that are coming
7 across.

8 If the Mexican navy saw a group of American fishermen
9 that they thought were suspicious of potentially moving
10 drugs and they moved in to kill the 15 American citizens
11 without contacting you, without going through any normal
12 procedures, would you be okay with that?

13 Mr. Anderson: Senator, I think it would be --

14 Senator Slotkin: Because that is what you are asking
15 for. You are -- we understand, you understand, certainly,
16 as a former military man that what we do in combat there is
17 reciprocity, and we are concerned about what other
18 militaries will do to us because we have opened the door on
19 this.

20 So are you okay with the Mexican navy killing 15
21 American fishermen off of whatever, San Diego, if they are
22 suspicious that they are carrying drugs?

23 Mr. Anderson: Senator, first, I think it would be
24 irresponsible for me to engage in hypotheticals.

25 To your point, Senator, I --



1 Senator Slotkin: It is not a hypothetical, man. This
2 is, like, a live -- this is the issue you are going to be
3 asked to touch. So, again, I want to capture that fentanyl.

4 I would love it if the Trump administration showed us
5 the full video from that encounter, showed us that these men
6 did not have their hands up, that they were not waving a
7 white flag, that they were not turning around and getting
8 out of there, and then show us the drugs.

9 The President said that there was all kinds of drugs
10 that were in that ship. Show it. Show us the video that he
11 is apparently alluding to. Will you commit to showing us
12 the video publicly?

13 Mr. Anderson: Senator, if confirmed for the Assistant
14 Secretary of War for Special Operations I can commit to be
15 transparent and all applicable laws, Senator.

16 Senator Slotkin: Well, I think -- my suggestion is we
17 have a briefing on this issue. This is a fundamental issue
18 of this committee, and I would ask that you get smart on the
19 legal authorities because if individual folks in uniform are
20 going to be held personally liable for your decisions you
21 should take accountability for that.

22 I yield back.

23 Chairman Wicker: Just noting, Senator Slotkin, each
24 witness has answered in the affirmative to this question, do
25 you agree to provide records, documents, electronic



1 communications in a timely manner when requested by this
2 committee, et cetera. So that is on the record.

3 Senator Slotkin: Do you understand that is -- do you
4 understand that as video? Just to clarify for me, Chairman.

5 Chairman Wicker: Electronic communications.

6 Senator Slotkin: Okay. Great.

7 Chairman Wicker: Documents, records. I think each
8 witness has answered in the affirmative there --

9 Senator Slotkin: Great. I look forward to the video.

10 Chairman Wicker: -- and they will be obligated to
11 follow that.

12 Senator Kaine, you are recognized.

13 Senator Kaine: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 I will just continue the line of not inquiry because I
15 do not have a question about this but I just want to follow
16 up on Senator Slotkin.

17 Twenty-five of us in the Senate wrote a letter to the
18 President a week ago and we asked questions about these
19 operations in the Caribbean -- give us the evidence that
20 these boats were carrying drugs.

21 Tell us who was on the boats. Tell us what your legal
22 authority was to take a military strike that had not been
23 authorized by Congress.

24 The question that I really want to know is why did you
25 decide to attack rather than interdict? If you interdict a



1 drug boat you get evidence. You seize the drugs but you
2 also get evidence by having access to people and often it is
3 that evidence that leads you to be able to go after the
4 kingpins and the real, you know, muscle behind these
5 operators.

6 If you attack a boat and destroy it it makes an impact
7 but you do not get the evidence. It may actually be
8 counterproductive in fighting narco trafficking to destroy a
9 boat rather than seize it, and if you know where it is
10 enough to destroy it you could have seized it.

11 We asked the President to give Congress answers to
12 these questions, which are fundamental questions about an
13 Article 1 branch's responsibility to be engaged in decisions
14 about military action.

15 We gave the White House seven days to answer. These
16 are not hard questions. They have not answered. The seven
17 days expired yesterday. We have no indication that they
18 will answer and that is likely to lead to a war powers
19 resolution and a required vote in Congress, and sometimes
20 when a vote is required the administration will begrudgingly
21 provide information.

22 I credit what Senator Wicker said. Each of you have
23 indicated that you will provide information to Congress, but
24 on a basic question as fundamental as should the United
25 States be engaging in military action, putting the lives of



1 our men and women who serve at some risk the Article 2
2 branch should not stiff arm the Article I branch and that is
3 what is happening right now.

4 And that is why I am sure Senator Slotkin and so many
5 other members of the committee are very, very concerned.
6 There might be answers to these questions that would satisfy
7 us but I can tell you when the questions are not answered we
8 end up with some real suspicion about why they are not being
9 answered.

10 Mr. Moring, I want to ask you this question. I know
11 many have asked you questions about sort of the independence
12 of the IG role. The ranking member talked about the
13 administration's decisions to fire IGs right out of the gate
14 has caused folks to have a little bit of concern about this.

15 Assure the committee, assure me, that you will be
16 independent and that you will also keep Congress informed,
17 as IGs should, of the work that you are doing.

18 Mr. Moring: Senator Kaine, thank you for the question
19 and thank you for the opportunity to meet with you
20 yesterday. I really enjoyed our session.

21 You have my personal pledge to be independent and
22 objective, and the statute itself -- the Inspector General
23 Act -- provides certain safeguards to ensure the
24 independence of the inspector general, the ability to
25 initiate an investigation on the own determination of the



1 inspector general that it is necessary, and also if a
2 secretary determines that an investigation is not warranted
3 and it is not being blocked for national security reasons,
4 the Inspector General can still go ahead with that
5 investigation.

6 So I pledge to you to follow the letter and tenor of
7 the statute.

8 Senator Kaine: Thank you for that one other question.

9 You would be the IG of the largest IG operation in the
10 U.S. government. I guess you kind of compete with HHS but I
11 think you are probably the largest, and I believe that the
12 complement of employees in the DOD IG is about 1,500.

13 I asked you the question yesterday how many of those IG
14 employees have accepted the resign offer and how much is
15 that likely to shrink the workforce of your office.

16 Mr. Moring: After I left your office yesterday I got
17 the answer to that question. So the workforce had a high
18 water mark of 1,800 as a result of the deferred resignation
19 program. It is been reduced by 200.

20 Senator Kaine: So down to 1,600?

21 Mr. Moring: Yes.

22 Senator Kaine: Thank you for that.

23 Mr. Moring: And there have been some people that have
24 been subject to the layoffs of probationary employees.

25 Senator Kaine: Thank you.



1 Mr. Moring: I do not have the number for that.

2 Senator Kaine: That is helpful.

3 Mr. Anderson, I am going to ask you a question for the
4 record because I think it is probably better that it just
5 not be on the fly. So I will submit it but I will tell you
6 what it is about.

7 The GAO did a report in November of 24 about high risk
8 training oversight and they recommended that Special Forces
9 take a number of actions to reduce injuries and even
10 fatalities in high risk training operations.

11 That was about a year ago and a number of the
12 recommendations have not yet been implemented. So I am
13 going to ask a question for the record about what you might
14 do, should you be confirmed, to implement those
15 recommendations so that we can continue to do appropriate
16 training but bring down the risk of injury to our troops and
17 Special Forces.

18 And so I will submit that for the record to you. Thank
19 you.

20 Chairman Wicker: This concludes our question and
21 answer.

22 Let me say this, though. First of all, Mr. Ranking
23 Member, I do not know when I have seen a more impressive
24 slate of witnesses. So I appreciate they are willing to
25 serve and appreciate them being here today.



1 Let me say this, Mr. Moring. How many cadets did you -
2 - how many of your former cadets did you bring today?

3 Mr. Moring: There are three alumni of the Citadel that
4 were part of my mock trial team. They are all serving in
5 the military now as active duty military officers.

6 They are seated right here -- Marcos Quinn, Thomas
7 Weiss, and Steve Woytek -- and then I have four Citadel
8 cadets that the college was kind enough to buy plane tickets
9 for and bring up here. They are also members of my mock
10 trial team.

11 Chairman Wicker: That is excellent. You know, you
12 have an obligation to follow a statute that is very
13 difficult. You may very well be called on to give unwelcome
14 advice.

15 And also in your testimony you have committed to follow
16 the sixth chapter of the Old Testament book of Micah and I
17 appreciate that.

18 Let me just say, when you are faced with tough
19 decisions, Mr. Moring, and you will be undoubtedly, if you
20 live up to the sixth chapter of Micah and the statute you
21 will be doing them proud.

22 Thank you. This concludes our hearing. For the
23 information of members, questions for the record will be due
24 to the committee within two business days of the conclusion
25 of this hearing.



1 Mr. Ranking Member?

2 Senator Reed: I just want to thank you, Mr. Chairman,
3 and also commend the witnesses for taking on huge
4 responsibilities and I look forward to working with --

5 Chairman Wicker: Let me say this also, Mr. Reed, to
6 anyone listening. The questions about what happened in the
7 Caribbean are going to have to be answered. This committee
8 has congressional oversight responsibility.

9 Members are entitled to ask the questions that they
10 have asked and answers will be given, and I just think it is
11 important for every American to understand that obligation.

12 Thank you, and we are adjourned.

13 [Whereupon, at 11:33 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]
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