

Oct 18, 2019

Department of Defense  
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

**Dana Deasy**

**Nominee, Department of Defense Chief Information Officer**

**Senate Armed Services Committee**

**October 29, 2019**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to discuss the important work and position of the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO). I am honored that the President has nominated me for the position of the now Senate-confirmed DoD CIO, and I would like to thank Secretary Esper for his continued support.

As you know, I currently serve as the DoD CIO in a non-Senate-confirmed capacity. First and foremost, I would like to recognize and thank my wife Karla. I would not be here today without her support. I received the call to serve while on retirement, hiking in the mountains of North Carolina. As I thought about the decision that day, it was Karla who reminded me that it had always been my aspiration to serve this great Nation. She gets full credit for me being here today. Thank you for your love and amazing support. After almost a year and a half in the position, I can tell you this was absolutely the right decision.

Although this is my first position in government, during my 38 year career I have had the opportunity to work for some of the largest, most complex companies in the world, including building and launching the space shuttle at Rockwell, the automotive industry at General Motors, my international experience at Siemens, the oil and gas sector at British Petroleum (BP), and most recently at JP Morgan Chase in financial services. All of these positions have had one key thing in common: technology is at the heart of their success. My diverse industry experience has been an incredible asset in navigating the complex dynamics of the Department of Defense.

I have been in this role since May 2018. During this time, the office of the DoD CIO has accomplished a number of significant achievements in support of the National Defense Strategy (NDS). My first priority was building a world-class leadership team within DoD CIO. This new team is now in place, and is at the heart of implementing the DoD Digital Modernization Strategy. I am humbled to have been given the opportunity to lead this group. The Digital Modernization Strategy advances the NDS' vision by leveraging key technologies, specifically Cloud, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Command, Control, and Communications (C3), and Cybersecurity. We developed the first Cloud Strategy to move the Department towards an enterprise warfighting Cloud. We wrote an AI Strategy that outlines five pillars critical to accelerating DoD's adoption and integration of AI. We stood up the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center as the focal point to accelerate and scale the fielding of AI across the Department. We have developed a comprehensive cybersecurity program that addresses our greatest cyber risks, and creates accountability to ensure that improvements are made. Additionally, we have several IT reform efforts underway, with the goal of finding cost savings that can be leveraged to effectively support the Department's mission. Regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of effort in the NDS, we continue to strengthened relationships with our international, interagency, and industry partners to promote technology collaboration. Finally, we attained the Department's highest ever score on the Federal IT Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA).

Since the day I arrived, my objective has been to ensure our warfighters have the tools they need to fight and win in great power competition. This drives everything we do.

Should I be confirmed, my commitment to the President, the Secretary, to Congress, and to the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and civilians of the Department of Defense will be to implement the Digital Modernization Strategy. This will be critical to supporting the National Defense Strategy by modernizing our digital environment. Technology is foundational to how our warfighters will fight now and in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your questions.