

Statement of Mr. John Henderson
Senate Armed Forces Committee Hearing to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations,
Environment, and Energy
January 18, 2018 at 9:30am

Thank you, Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of this Committee; my family and I are grateful for the privilege to appear before you today to seek confirmation as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy.

Thank you, Senator Rounds, for your kind introduction this morning. Thank you also to the President for this nomination, and to Secretary Wilson and Secretary Mattis for their gracious support throughout this process.

I am blessed to have my family here with me today, just as they have always been with me throughout my military career. My wife Amy, and our children Luke and Grace, have not only been strong supporters of me and my military service, but have also been combat multipliers thanks to their thousands of dedicated volunteer hours in support of military families.

Today, I respectfully ask for your support for my confirmation as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and the opportunity to continue serving our great Nation, by serving those who protect it, and all for which it stands. If confirmed, I will focus on assisting Secretary Wilson and General Goldfein in executing the priorities of the Air Force and Department of the Defense, and commit to working with the members of this Committee in a productive and transparent manner.

Through the lens of Installations, Environment, and Energy this means we need to assure readiness by providing the required infrastructure to project power around the world, deliver durable, resilient facilities to support operations, training, and research, and provide a safe and healthy environment for our Airmen, their families, and our community partners.

We also need to cost-effectively modernize the force and drive innovation by incorporating advanced technologies and enhanced management practices to optimize energy requirements and mitigate impacts to our environment. Perhaps most importantly, we must continue to develop the next generation of exceptional leaders to ensure the enduring strength of our Air Force and our Nation.

Our partnerships will continue to be critical to the success of our Installations, as well as our Energy and Environmental missions. As Secretary Wilson has often said, “we’re stronger when we are together.” If confirmed, I will endeavor to build strong partnerships with the members of this Committee, members of Congress, our Department of Defense and Sister Service teammates, the communities who host our installations, our allies, and our private sector partners who support our mission.

As we know well in the military, service to our Nation has always been a “team sport,” and the strength of our team directly contributes to the strength of our Nation. Further, the foundation of any strong team is people who are worthy of trust, who treat all teammates with dignity and respect, and who expect the same from all with whom we serve. If confirmed, you have my commitment to the priorities of the Department and of the Nation, and to do my part to build strong teams through a values-driven, mission focused, and people-oriented culture. Thank you again for this opportunity; I look forward to addressing your questions.