

STATEMENT OF JUSTIN OVERBAUGH
NOMINEE TO BE
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of this Committee, thank you for the chance to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination to be the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

I am honored and grateful for this opportunity to serve our great Nation. I am truly humbled by the nomination, and thankful to President Trump and Secretary Hegseth for placing their trust in me.

Above all, I am profoundly grateful to God for His countless blessings and the unmerited grace and forgiveness He so generously offers through His son Jesus Christ.

I am joined today by my precious wife of 21 years, Rebecca and our four sons, Joshua, Benjamin, Gabriel, and Matthias, of whom we are so proud.

If confirmed, I look forward to bringing over 25 years of intelligence and security experience to the role. Most recently, I served as director of intelligence for a special operations joint task force, supporting a new U.S. Special Operations Command organization focused on global coordination of unique capabilities against great power competitors. I collaborated extensively across the intelligence community, the interagency, and with foreign partners to address high-priority threats. Prior to that, I held leadership and staff positions in human intelligence, counterintelligence, and counterterrorism. In these roles, I led both military and civilian teammates in tactical and operational deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq and strategic assignments in Europe and the United States. I routinely informed Pentagon and Combatant Command decision making regarding joint and multilateral sensitive intelligence operations, which I also personally coordinated with chiefs of station and foreign intelligence partners across Europe. These operations were instrumental in countering foreign intelligence and terror threats against the United States and our partners, strengthening relationships with key allies and positioning our forces to deter, and if necessary, defeat our adversaries.

If confirmed, along with supporting the priorities of Secretary Hegseth and Mr. Hansell (should he also be confirmed), I will advocate for the following areas of emphasis:

I hope to *lead* the enterprise in strategic assessments that shape defense requirements, ensuring they are data-driven, actionable, and aligned with national security priorities. I believe that we do not have the resources to cover all threats simultaneously, therefore we must be deliberate and discerning about the capabilities we pursue to defend our Nation and deter, or if necessary, defeat, our adversaries.

If confirmed, I would *encourage* the enterprise to reassess established analytical frameworks, fostering innovation and adaptive thinking to tackle dynamic threats. I believe the Warrior Ethos includes the courage and mental clarity required to challenge personal and institutional bias and overcome bureaucratic intransigence.

Finally, I would *drive* the enterprise to prioritize actionable intelligence, providing clear insights to support decision-making from the platoon leader to the President. I believe intelligence professionals must be able to separate signals from noise in order to be value added to the Warfighter.

Progress in these areas would improve decision support and security for the enterprise and the American people. This is desperately needed as I sincerely believe we face some of the most daunting challenges in the history of our Nation.

Again, I thank you for your consideration and look forward to answering your questions.