

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF
LT GEN B. CHANCE SALTZMAN
SASC CONFIRMATION HEARING TO BE CSO
13 SEPT 2022

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, distinguished members of this committee, I am honored and deeply humbled by the opportunity to be with you this morning. Let me start by expressing my appreciation to this committee for your relentless support and advocacy for our Space Force and its Guardians and families. For the last two years, I have had the privilege of serving with these Guardians and I can attest that they are the finest men and women that America has to offer. If confirmed, it will be the honor of my life to lead them as the 2nd Chief of Space Operations for the United States Space Force. I would like to thank President Biden, Secretary Austin, Secretary Kendall and Chairman Milley for this amazing opportunity.

I would also like to offer a special thanks to General Jay and Mollie Raymond. The Saltzman and Raymond families go back many years and we have benefitted greatly from their mentorship and friendship. They are concluding 38 years of distinguished service to our nation, but these last 3 years have been critical to the historic establishment of the Space Force. Their passion, dedication and vision have set the Space Force on a solid foundation. If I have the good fortune to be confirmed, Jennifer and I will work hard to build on their successes and continue to push the Space Force to new heights.

I am extremely proud to introduce the most important people in my life...my family. First, my wife, Jennifer. Yesterday, we celebrated our thirtieth wedding anniversary. She has been steadfastly by my side for this entire military journey through 15 moves, nearly 200 overnight ICBM alerts, countless late nights and trips away from home and most recently a year separated while I deployed to the Middle East. She has taken on all those challenges and conquered them with a smile on her face and warmth in her heart. But her most amazing accomplishment was raising our two children into the fine young adults you see here. Our son, John, a director of social media content for a sports marketing firm in Chicago. And our daughter, Sarah, who recently

completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration and is moving to Washington DC to begin her career. Jennifer and I could not be prouder of these two...they have followed mom and dad all over the country and been successful at every turn. They meet challenges head on and have always shown maturity beyond their years, optimism and contagious wit. My home and family are my bedrock and they are clearly at the center of any career success that I've enjoyed...I owe all of that to these three and I will be forever grateful for the love and support they have shown and the sacrifices they have made.

Not quite three years ago, Congress established the United States Space Force to provide freedom of operation for the United States in, from, and to space; to conduct space operations; and to protect the interests of the United States in space. In my three decades of service, I have seen U.S. space capabilities expand from a few dozen exquisite satellites to nearly 3000 satellites today underpinning our military capability and driving the global economy. In the few short years since the Space Force was established, the number of satellites on orbit has doubled and the global space economy is approaching half a trillion dollars. Space is truly a critical domain for U.S. interests, so we must all be clear-eyed in our understanding that our strategic competitors have invested heavily in fielding systems capable of disrupting, degrading and even destroying our space capabilities. If confirmed, I will work to ensure the Space Force provides the needed support to our combatant commands to deter threats to our space capabilities and interests, and to promote responsible behaviors in space.

To ensure the Space Force can accomplish this important mission, we need to be successful across three broad fronts. First, we will continue to mature as an independent service. We must continue to develop the Space Force into a world class organization capable of integrating effectively into the Department of Defense, which will take considerable effort to put the right

processes with the right people in the right places. Second, we will leverage key partnerships. We need to build and enhance our relationships with allies and partners in order to benefit from the expanding commercial space sector, High-Tech industries and the expertise, advanced technologies and capabilities they possess. And finally, we must innovate new ways to accomplish our complex missions. We will not succeed if we assume our old habits will be effective in the emerging security environment. We must be innovative in everything we do from recruiting and retaining our talented Guardians, to acquiring space capabilities and training for the contested space domain. I am convinced we have the right people asking the right questions and doing the right things to get this done.

It is truly an honor to be nominated to serve as the Space Force's next Chief of Space Operations. I am excited about the opportunities ahead for the Space Force. The inspired work that General Raymond started has set us on a path. It is a path towards advanced capabilities, modern, resilient architectures, and innovative approaches to meet our service missions. The heart and soul of this vision are our amazing Guardians and I am committed to making sure they have the resources, training and equipment they need to be successful. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and Congress to continue to enable the United States Space Force as the Guardians of progress, innovation, and security in the space domain. Once again, thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to your questions.