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**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF**  
**LIEUTENANT GENERAL DAGVIN R.M. ANDERSON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**  
**TO BE**  
**GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND**  
**BEFORE THE**  
**SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**22 JULY 2025**

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Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished committee members, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning.

I am honored by the President's trust and confidence in nominating me to serve as Commander, US AFRICA COMMAND, and I am grateful for the support of the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I'd also like to recognize General Langley's 40 years of distinguished service and the strong leadership team he and Sergeant Major Mike Woods forged.

I am joined today by my wife of 26 years, Liz, a native of the great state of Maine. Her unwavering support and sacrifice have been instrumental to my service and the success of the mission. Liz is the heart of our family and despite nine schools in six states and three countries, she is the reason we have two strong and talented daughters: Hala, who is watching from Paris, and Lilja, who is here today.

My commitment to service is rooted in the values instilled in me by my family. My grandmother, a nurse, served her community well into her 80s. My grandfathers, one a sailor in WWI and the other a Marine in WWII, were ordinary people who answered the call during extraordinary times.

My mother, Roberta, a special education teacher, and my father, Charles, a police officer, modeled public service, selflessness, and integrity. These values have guided me through 33 years of military service. My parents are watching from my hometown of Ypsilanti, Michigan, the home of Rosie the Riveter and Willow Run—where, at the age of 17, I learned to fly alongside these symbols of American ingenuity and resilience.

It is an honor to sit beside VADM Mitch Bradley, a Special Operations teammate and one of the finest leaders and warfighters I've served with. If confirmed, I look forward to collaborating closely with him—and the other combatant commanders—to confront emerging challenges.

My career has followed a non-traditional path, with seven joint assignments across four commands—ranging from exercising conventional warfighting in the Indo-Pacific, to conducting special operations in the Middle East and Africa, and from global mobility to stateside training.

My experiences abroad have shaped my career. I had the privilege of studying in the Czech Republic, where I witnessed an outpouring of support for America after 9/11. Almost 23 years later, I had the honor of returning to speak at the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Plzeň by Patton's Third Army. Thousands gathered, waving Czech and American flags—a powerful reminder of our

shared values and enduring ties.

While I've flown several aircraft, the missions flying the U-28, a modest single-engine prop, were among my most rewarding. In under two years, a team of operators, engineers, and acquisitions experts turned an urgent need into a mission-ready, highly capable surveillance aircraft—a testament to empowered innovation meeting battlefield requirements.

As the Commander of Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAF), I witnessed how Africa—strategically positioned between the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific—is increasingly at the convergence of great-power rivalry and terrorism. China is expanding its approach from a focus on economic influence to greater military and information operations. Russia's actions are frequently destabilizing and run counter to U.S. interests. Terrorist networks continue to exploit ungoverned spaces, posing a direct threat to our safety and security.

During my time at SOCAF, an American citizen was taken hostage in Niger. Within 96 hours, we located him, coordinated with multiple African partners and European allies, and Joint Special Operations Command executed the rescue. The speed and success of that mission underscored the seamless integration of the Joint Force and the importance of strong relationships. When we called in the middle of the night, our partners answered.

If confirmed, I look forward to building on that success and those relationships. I will keep this Committee informed, I will be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars, and I will lead by example to advance U.S. interests and counter adversary threats.

Thank you for your unwavering support of the men and women of the U.S. military and thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to your questions.