

Marc Berkowitz

Opening Statement

Assistant Secretary of War for Space Policy Nomination Hearing

Senate Armed Services Committee

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you as the President's nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of War for Space Policy.

I am grateful to President Trump for nominating me for this important position. In addition, I want to thank the Committee for its role in the legislation which elevated it to a Senate-confirmed position and for considering my nomination.

Please let me express my deep appreciation to my wife, Mary, my children, Melissa, Margaret, Maria, and Michael, and son-in-law, Scott, as well as my parents, sisters, extended family, and friends for their love and support. Michael recently passed away and was very proud about this opportunity for me to return to the federal government.

Our family has a history of public service including my paternal grandfather serving under General Pershing during the Mexico expedition, both of my grandfathers' seeing combat in the Army during World War I, my uncle's service in the Army during the Second World War and subsequently at Los Alamos, and my father's service in the Navy during the Korean conflict.

It also has been my good fortune to have been guided by wise mentors and thoughtful colleagues. I especially appreciate the inspiration, opportunities, and counsel provided by Dr. Colin Gray, General Tom Moorman, and Mr. Pete Aldridge.

I believe my prior experience in both the public and private sectors have uniquely prepared me for the responsibilities of the office for which I have been nominated and, if confirmed, working with this Committee to protect and advance U.S. national interests. Over the course of my 45 year career, I have served in directly relevant and increasingly responsible positions in the federal government and industry.

In particular, I served under from the end of the Cold War to the Global War on Terror as the executive in the Office of the Secretary of Defense responsible for the analysis, formulation, coordination, and oversight of the implementation of United States and Department of Defense space policies.

After departing federal service, I was an executive at a leading aerospace and defense corporation where I was responsible for strategy, strategic planning, and systems engineering and architecture analyses. I also served as a special government employee, senior advisor, and consultant to the Defense Department and Intelligence Community.

America has leveraged its position as the preeminent spacefaring nation to advance our national interests, especially our prosperity and security. Indeed, space capabilities enable our armed

forces to deter aggression, project power, and defend the homeland and U.S. interests. Unimpeded access and use of space is a U.S. vital national interest.

As this Committee is aware, the threat environment is extraordinarily complex and perilous. Our rivals, most notably China, have fielded and operate a variety of space, counterspace, and missile capabilities to undermine our historic advantages in space, contest our freedom of action, jeopardize U.S. military forces and operations, and hold the U.S. homeland at risk.

In this regard, I want to commend the President for providing the historic leadership to create the U.S. Space Force, reestablish U.S. Space Command, and initiate the Golden Dome for America to establish a comprehensive homeland missile defense.

During their confirmation hearings, Secretary Hegseth, Deputy Secretary Feinberg, and Under Secretary Colby outlined the President's national security goals and the Department's key objectives. These include reestablishing a warrior ethos, rebuilding the military, restoring deterrence, and achieving peace through strength. I strongly support those goals and objectives.

In his First Annual Address to Congress, George Washington said that "to be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." The Assistant Secretary of War for Space Policy is responsible for policy, guidance, and oversight of the Department's conduct of space and missile defense activities.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee and doing everything in my power to assure that U.S. space and missile defense forces are prepared to defend the homeland and prevail in conflict to deter foreign aggression and preserve peace through strength.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to your questions.