

Nomination of Michael J. Borders Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for
Energy, Installations, and Environment

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the Committee. It is the honor of a lifetime to appear before you today as the President's nominee for Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment. The confirmation process reflects one of the great strengths of our democracy and I thank you for your role in it and you and your staff's time. I am deeply grateful to President Trump for this opportunity and humbled by the trust he has placed in me. I would also like to thank Secretary of War Hegseth and Secretary of the Air Force Meink.

With profound gratitude, I give thanks to God who calls us to righteousness and justice. I thank him for the blessings of family the gift of service, and the opportunity to be before you today. I want to thank those who shaped this journey: My parents, Master Sgt Mike Borders Sr. US Army Reserves (Ret) and Karen Borders, they refused to let me quit anything, ever. My brother Rodney and his family. My resilient wife Monira and my son Zayne for their support. This is the foundation that allowed me to serve our nation and hopefully continue serving.

Last month, I concluded a 28-year active duty career in the United States Air Force. A career where I defended nuclear weapons, conducted detainee operations in Afghanistan and led counterinsurgency operations in Iraq, spending over 36 months in the Middle East. I teamed with the interagency to develop US government policy for Thailand and Burma. I've commanded six times with over eight years in command. It taught me that changing paradigms requires more than ideas—it demands execution at the speed of relevance. I have worked to move

beyond traditional approaches, ensuring every project and policy produced measurable results for the mission and for the Airmen and Guardians who rely on these platforms.

The office I have been nominated to lead sits at the heart of operational readiness. Our installations are not simply bases or infrastructure; they are power projection platforms essential to defeating China or any adversary who would test our resolve.

Ending Iranian nuclear aspirations began in the local communities around Whiteman Air Force Base, where our Airmen and their families live and work in. I understand this and so does China. Our bases, energy grids, and military housing represent exactly the kinds of infrastructure they aim to hold at risk. I believe protecting our installations and energy systems is not an abstract policy discussion; it is directly tied to our ability to deter and defeat China or any future adversary. We are at a critical moment. China is investing heavily in capabilities designed to hold our bases at risk and local communities at risk, disrupt our logistics, and deny our access. The question is not whether our installations will be tested; it is will they be ready.

If confirmed, my priorities will remain tightly aligned with that mission:

- Resilient Installations: Building and sustaining bases and local communities that can operate under attack and continue to generate combat power.
- Energy Assurance: Developing secure, adaptive energy systems that reduce vulnerabilities and ensure mission continuity in contested environments.
- Environmental Stewardship: Meeting our obligations to the land, water, and communities we serve while sustaining operational readiness.
- Quality of Life: Given that that our Nation's most valued resource is its

military servicemembers and their families, recognizing that safe, quality and well-maintained homes and strong community integration are essential to mission readiness.

These priorities are inseparable and every decision in this portfolio must strengthen those priorities.

I also recognize that success in this role depends on partnership. The Department of the Air Force's strength lies in its dedicated military and civilian professionals, the local communities that support them, and the oversight and support of this Committee. If confirmed, I am committed to transparency and will work with you, listen to the concerns of Airmen, Guardians and their families, and build alliances across government and industry to ensure rapid, measurable progress.

This nomination is more than an honor; it is a solemn responsibility, and I feel the weight of it. It is the participation in our sacred principle of civilian control over the military. It is a charge to ensure every dollar strengthens mission capability, honors the taxpayer, and sustains the force for the future fight.

As I close, I return to gratitude: to God for strength, to my parents for teaching me the value of service; to my wife and Zayne for their support and motivation; to President Trump, Secretary of War Hegseth, and Secretary of the Air Force Meink for their trust; and to this Committee for your partnership and oversight.

If confirmed, I will bring to this office a record of delivering results, a focus on operational outcomes, and an unwavering commitment to the Airmen, Guardians, and families who defend our nation. Together, we can ensure our installations

remain power projection platforms capable of deterring and defeating any foe, that our energy systems make us more agile and secure, and that our environmental stewardship reflects the trust of the American people.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions and to the opportunity to serve.

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For Open Publication

By kempr on Oct 27, 2025

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW