

Senate Armed Service Committee  
Hearing to consider the nomination of Vice Admiral Frank M. Bradley, USN, to be Admiral and  
Commander, United States Special Operations Command  
Tuesday, July 22, 2025 | 9:30am

Opening Statement

Good morning, Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee. It is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next commander of the United States Special Operations Command.

I am grateful to the President, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their trust and confidence in me for this nomination.

I'd like to recognize and thank the current SOCOM Command Team, General Bryan Fenton and Command Sergeant Major Shane Shorter and their families, for their leadership of the SOCOM force and families these past three years.

I am privileged to be alongside my teammate Lieutenant General Dag Anderson – a longtime friend and colleague; and if we are confirmed, I look forward to teaming with him again in our new capacities.

I'd like to recognize the members of my family, who have been critical to my service to our Nation and without whom I can't imagine being here.

My best friend and wife of 34 years – Katie. The grounding rod and conscience of our family, she has weathered the storms of this career mentoring young SOF families, rearing our children, and keeping me humble and centered. She grew up in an Army family, daughter to an infantry officer who served in Vietnam before joining me in the Navy, and has moved households 27 times – a testament to resilience if there ever was one.

Our children and their families are here with me as well. Mary Katherine and husband Ralph – scientists and parents of our first granddaughter, Rosemary Louise. Our son – Henry, an FBI Special Agent and his wife Brianna, also an FBI employee... *we seem to be making interagency cooperation a family business*. Our son, Lieutenant Frank Bradley – a fellow SEAL, and his wife Kiley, a public servant in Hawaii. And our youngest son, James – a data scientist working in the National Industrial Base on autonomous underwater systems.

I come from a small ranching community in southwest Texas, where I learned the foundations of meritocracy at an early age. I am the son of a WWII veteran, an Army Air Corps Master Sergeant who worked on P-38s from Operation TORCH in North Africa to the final assault on Berlin. After the war, my father ranched and served as the Justice of the Peace – an elected judge – in our small community. I learned a deep appreciation for our democracy and the judicial system watching him dispense judgement in our community. His example of service and the allure of adventure are what drew me to the United States Naval Academy and the SEAL Community... I have had ample opportunity for both in my 37 years since leaving Eldorado, TX.

My mother was the compassionate influence. As much of a rancher as any man in our family, she and

my grandmother were the matriarchs who would weave discipline with love in appropriate measure. Their influence looms large in everything I do.

Finally, I must thank my siblings and the countless coaches, professors, and pastors who have shaped me both on and off the field. Special Operations is the ultimate team sport – where to win is to live, and to lose often means someone you care for does not.

As such, I am grateful to be a member of the most precise and lethal fighting force the world has ever known.

On a strategic landscape where adversaries and competitors challenge the rules-based international order, SOF provide the agility, precision, and nuance needed to confront and disrupt these threats in competition. Should the need arise, we are also ready to integrate into the joint force to respond to crisis and engage in high-end conflict, where the precise delivery of violence will be critical to shaping success on the battlefield.

To this committee and your predecessors, thank you. SOCOM's existence reflects the strong bipartisan commitment in Congress to ensure the U.S. leads the world in special operations – and that commitment has paid off.

If confirmed, I'll work closely with the ASD SO/LIC, my fellow Combatant Commanders, Service leadership, the Chairman, the Secretary of Defense, and this committee to sustain and strengthen the force – to man, train, equip, and care for our SOF warriors and their families.

I will provide the SECDEF and President candid and clear military advice, and I will remain fully transparent with this Committee – ensuring that you have the information necessary to continue your critical constitutional oversight of our national defense.

Thank you for your service to our country. I look forward to answering your questions and engaging with you on the important work ahead.