

STATEMENT OF KIRSTEN DAVIES

NOMINEE TO BE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Good morning, Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense. I am deeply grateful to President Trump for this honor and for his confidence in me and am thankful to Secretary Hegseth for his trust.

I first want to recognize many treasured people supporting me today: my dear friends who have traveled to be in person; my dad, who served in the 8th Army boat detachment during Vietnam, watching from home due to his health; and my dear cousin, extended family members, and close friends watching online. My mom, my greatest supporter, is peering over the balcony of heaven. Finally, I am thankful beyond words for the presence and grace of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People know me as a leader with a unique blend of “Heart” and “Head”. I am passionate about the work I do, solving complex problems and accomplishing what many claimed would be impossible. I am purpose-driven and excellence-focused.

I also lead analytically, using data-driven insights. I am precise when planning, agile in delivery, and drive measurable results.

I bring an extensive background in Industry. I am unique as I have multi-vertical experience across multi-national and Fortune 500 companies - some of industry’s largest and most complex networks and supply chains. For nearly two decades I have led *change* - transforming organizations for the digital age, building cyber defenses, tackling tech debt, and innovating at scale.

I’ve applied key principles across my career that, if confirmed, I will also bring to the DOD: build a strong culture, ignite a bias for action, and lead with, and drive accountability.

While living in Africa to establish one of the largest banks on the continent, I led end-to-end security, resilience and anti-fraud operations, building the cyber program and a cyber skills academy from scratch. I co-led broad tech modernization, extensive migration to the cloud, and tech innovations. President Trump has set the charge for America to dominate in innovation, specifically AI, ahead of our adversaries. Digital transformation and data optimization are critical building blocks for AI. I have successfully led this work at scale and am a known innovator.

For a consumer goods conglomerate with a footprint in 190 countries, I led cybersecurity and tech risk reduction across Enterprise IT, R&D, manufacturing, and the global supply chain. I spearheaded a cultural movement to embed cyber security as a *safety* requirement from the top floor to the shop floor, a massive shift for manufacturing.

Secretary Hegseth recently said, “Cyber will be part of every single way that we plan and look at the world”. If confirmed, I will passionately drive this forward.

For a Global 50 manufacturing giant, I led a multi-year transformation across Information Security, eliminating excessive policies, dismantling “ivory tower” silos, and collaborating on what is now arguably the leading approach to industrial control systems security.

Challenging the status quo and gracefully employing targeted, constructive disruption are necessary for modernization and innovation. These are hallmarks of my career.

America’s warfighter readiness and lethality depend upon secure, resilient, modernized systems and innovative technical and cyber capabilities. The Department has challenges to overcome. It is weighed down with legacy systems and un-optimized data. There are great people, but at today’s speed of change, skills must be constantly refreshed and future fit. New entrants with innovative tech solutions struggle with red tape and lack of access. Cyber-attacks are pervasive, and America’s adversaries are motivated and capable to inflict massive impact, and there is little deterrence. Great change is needed in this time and in this hour.

If confirmed, my priorities will be to actively address tech debt at DOD, surgically prioritizing modernization initiatives which support readiness. I will work across the Department to embed the building blocks of AI, supporting data supremacy and decision dominance for our warfighters, partners, and allies. I will forge the next generation of industry tech and cyber partnerships. I will work across the Department and interagency to catalyze cyber deterrence. And I will bring the voice of the warfighter into the DNA of the Office of the CIO.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions.