

**Opening Statement of Timothy Dill,
nominee to be Assistant Secretary of War (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)**

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of this Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the Assistant Secretary of War for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

I'd like to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for guiding my steps throughout my life, President Trump for nominating me for this role, and Secretary Hegseth and Under Secretary Tata for their confidence and support.

I'd also like to thank Senator Cruz for the opportunity to serve on his staff and for his kind introduction today. It was an honor to work on behalf of the people of Texas, and my time as a Senate staffer deepened my appreciation for the role that the Senate, and specifically this Committee, plays in overseeing our military.

Behind me is my beautiful wife Andrea, a constitutional law attorney who has so graciously supported my career, our daughter Naomi, and our son Claymore. I'm also joined by my father Doug and my mother Annie, my sister Bethany, my brother David, and his wife Aleta. My sister Emily and her husband Robb, a long-serving Department of the Army civilian are currently stationed in Germany and could not join today. I'm also joined by my wife's parents, Scott and Christi Beathard, my aunts and uncles, Liz and Jerry August and Herb and Patty McCracken, and fellow Soldiers from various points of my career. Thank you to each of you, and a special thanks to my mother for so patiently homeschooling me for 11 years, and to my father for modeling a lifetime of servant leadership.

I grew up in Akron, OH, across the street from Sam McNeill, a WWII veteran who earned the Silver Star while serving in the 82nd Airborne Division. Both my grandfathers also served in WWII: William Knapp in the Army, and Leslie Dill in the Navy.

I was 16 when the World Trade Center towers fell. Like many of my generation, that defining event in our nation's history called me to military service, and I commissioned as a U.S. Army officer in 2007 through Army ROTC.

I served ten years on active duty, first in the footsteps of my neighbor Sam in the 82nd Airborne Division, then as a Green Beret in 3rd Special Forces Group. I was honored to lead Soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

My military service was transformational, giving me more than I could ever give back and deepening my love for our country. Serving alongside our nation's finest Paratroopers and Green Berets challenged me to give my all and shaped my future steps.

When I took off my uniform for the last time, the GI Bill covered my graduate degree at my dream school, which is where I met my wife, giving me the best transition to civilian life for which I could have asked.

I am grateful to have a new opportunity to serve. If confirmed, I will strive for excellence in my role as a senior civilian leader in the Department on behalf of three groups:

The first is my comrades in arms who gave their lives to preserve our freedom. I hope for my service to honor their memory and further the cause for which they fought.

The second is the three million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guardians and civilian personnel who now have the watch, including many of the outstanding men and women with whom I was honored to serve.

The third is the generation who will next carry the torch. That generation may include my own children, and I hope to ensure their opportunity to, like me, serve their country in a merit-based military that molds the next generation of leaders.

The U.S. military has long fielded an all-volunteer force, and the Department must continue to inspire our finest young men and women to volunteer to serve, both in uniform and as members of our critical civilian workforce. We must also persuade the best among them to stay and become senior leaders. To do those things the Department must continue to communicate the high calling of military service, the same call that led me to an Army ROTC recruiter 19 years ago. It must also provide them with desirable opportunities, relevant training, and a good quality of life, including for their families. The Assistant Secretary of War for Manpower & Reserve Affairs shoulders each of those responsibilities and more, and if confirmed I will welcome that challenge.

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