

Opening Statement of William Jordan Gillis

June 26, 2025

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment.

I want to first thank the President for providing me with this opportunity and also thank Secretary of the Army Driscoll for his support and trust. This is indeed a high honor and a distinct privilege.

I have a number of friends and colleagues in attendance today. I thank them for their support. I would be remiss if I did not especially recognize my wife Leigh Ann and my children Ann Bedford and Thomas and thank them for their love and support without which I would not be here at all.

For as long as I can remember, I'd wanted to be a U.S. Army officer and follow the tradition on both sides of my family that includes CPT Thomas Bedford of Virginia in the Revolution; BG John Moulder Wilson, medal of honor winner in the Civil War; LTC George Gillis in WWI; and my grandfathers, both of whom were retired colonels and combat veterans of WWII and Korea. To that end, thirty years ago this summer, I was an ROTC cadet intern at the pentagon in the Army Secretariat. But for that experience, I would not have known that there are appointees who carry out the principle of civilian control of the military. I am grateful for the opportunity to have one of those roles and to increase lethality and improve the lives of soldiers and families.

Since that internship, I've wanted to return to the pentagon. Along the way, as an active duty field artillery officer also having served in the Guard and Reserve – in peacetime and in combat, I learned the importance of taking care of soldiers and families. I've seen enough former installations and empty places of the past to know that the Army as an institution is nothing without its people. And the IE&E portfolio has a direct impact on them.

The IE&E mission set is unique. At the same time it is broad and deep and enterprise-wide, but also deeply personal to a family trying to get a work order completed in housing or to a member of congress advocating for an issue particular to their installation. I appreciate that and it draws me to this mission.

My decade plus of experience in the private sector as a management consultant for electric utilities as well as my previous service as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for IE&E and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment (at a time when Sustainment included the OSD EI&E portfolio too) make me uniquely qualified for this role.

We are facing many of the same challenges now that I worked on personally five or more years ago – including competing priorities every budget cycle.

My preliminary focus areas if confirmed – and pending input from the Secretary – will be improving soldier and family quality of life, achieving a clean audit opinion, and enhancing energy resilience. I think that as important as the “what” is the “how” and so I'll share the two guiding principles:

1. Driving Value for Money. This includes evaluating MILCON, and using our authorities to leverage other people's money, such as Energy Savings Performance Contracts.
2. Achieving Results. We have to make sure that our actions and return on investment have demonstrable results. These range from those directly in support of Army priorities like Warfighting and Delivering Combat-Ready Formations to those specifically related to our environmental commitments around former Army properties.

If confirmed, I will commit to being as innovative as I can, and as efficiency-minded and results-driven as possible. I've worked with many of you on this committee as well as with your colleagues in the full Senate and the House. I've worked with your personal staff and the professional staff of this committee and others. As I've done before, I commit to partnering with you for the betterment of the Army.

If confirmed, it will be my honor to advance the mission of the Army in support of this great nation, and in support of the men and women who serve, both military and civilian, their families and the American people.

Thank you again for allowing me to be here today. I look forward to your questions.