

**LT GEN ALEXUS G. GRYKEWICH, NOMINEE TO BE GENERAL AND
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND AND
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, EUROPE**

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I also would like to thank President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, and General Caine for their trust and confidence in me, and for the opportunity, if confirmed, to continue serving and leading those who raised their right hand and swore an oath of service to our nation.

Today I am honored to testify alongside Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, the nominee to Command United States Central Command. Brad and I fought alongside each other in our previous jobs as the Maritime and Air Component Commanders in U.S. CENTCOM. And having seen Brad in action, I know of no other leader more focused on leadership, warfighting and excellence.

Upfront, I would like to thank my family for their support and sacrifice throughout my career. A former Air Force Chief of Staff used to remind us our families are the best possible deal the military could ever get. Our spouses toil to take care of the troops and families we lead, and our children learn to make friends and grow roots quickly as we move from assignment to assignment. My wife, Shannon, is here with

me today. We have been married for 27 years, and over that time she's been a tireless supporter not just of me, but of all military families.

Our son Justin, a rising college Junior currently overseas for a summer program, endured – or he would say experienced – 10 moves by the time he was seventeen, and attended three high schools. I asked him if he wanted to stay in place with his mom for his senior year of school when I received an assignment as he completed 11th grade. With a year-long deployment for me during his freshman year still fresh on his mind, he said “no way, I don't want to be the reason the family is apart.” We are super proud of Justin, and can't wait to see him this summer.

Representing the much broader swath of family and friends who've supported us over the years, we are also joined today by Shannon's sister, Sarah, whose kids, despite my previous nomination and confirmation by this body to my current grade, still insist on referring to me as “Uncle 2-star”.

I was inspired to serve by two men, my grandfather who served in World War II and Korea, and my Uncle Nick, who flew F-4s in the Air Force during Vietnam and is watching today. My mother, who is also watching these proceedings down in Georgia, recognized the influence these men had

on me and my desire to serve. As a single mom she worked 2-3 jobs in order to have enough money to send me to Georgia Military College Prep School. There I was mentored by LTC Curt Landers, a retired Army helicopter pilot, who sealed my fate when he told me flying was great, but that if I wanted to do it I ought to consider the Air Force. And the rest is history.

Since I first marched up the ramp at the U.S. Air Force Academy on Day 1 of Basic Cadet Training in June of 1989, countless others have shaped and molded me as an Airmen, a Fighter Pilot, and as a leader. No one gets to this point in a military career without a legion of friends, mentors, and supporters. For all of those who've helped make me who I am today, I am filled with gratitude.

In my current role on the Joint Staff, I've had the privilege of seeing the broad swath of global challenges facing America today. Our adversaries are converging, and the risks of conflict with one or more of them grows each and every day. Accordingly, it is more essential than ever for us to focus on warfighting readiness and lethality at all echelons. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee and Congress on these and other issues of critical importance to U.S. forces in Europe, and to the Alliance.

And while the Indo-Pacific has risen in importance over the previous two decades, European and American security remain as intertwined as our history, our cultures, and our economies. As such, a strong NATO capable of defending Europe remains essential to American interests. If confirmed, it will be the honor of my lifetime to lead not only U.S. forces in the European region, but the men and women from across the Alliance within Allied Command Operations.

Finally, I'd like to offer a brief word of thanks to the current Commander of U.S. EUCOM and SACEUR, GEN Chris Cavoli, and his wife Christina. They have led our forces and those of the Alliance during a highly consequential time, and I know the nation joins Shannon and I in wishing them all the best as they head into their next chapter after an incredible 38 years of service to the Army, the Joint Force, and the Alliance.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here today, and I look forward to your questions.