

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished
members of the Committee;

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By kempr on Jun 20, 2025

Good morning. I am honored by the opportunity to appear
here today as the nominee to serve as the Assistant Secretary of
the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology. I am
extremely grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me by
President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, and Secretary Driscoll by
nominating me for this critical role.

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

I would like to begin by thanking this committee for
considering my nomination, but more importantly for the
bipartisan support you have shown to the Department of Defense
and United States Army in providing for the nation's security.

I am also very thankful for the support of my family - my wife,
Melanie, and my children Kyler and Amanda, who are joining me
today. I am thankful to my colleagues and friends, and the
mentors that have guided me throughout my career and prepared
me for the role you are considering me for today. Last but not

least, to my parents who are watching from Vermont... I am grateful for your love and support.

“Protect those that Protect Us” is the motto of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle program, where I first served in government, and where I first encountered the deep patriotism, passion, and professionalism that drives our department’s acquisition workforce. Those words have been the north star that has guided me throughout my career, that drive me to ensure that our Warfighters always have a technological advantage on the battlefield with the tools they need to execute the mission, and return home safely to their families.

I have had the privilege to work at multiple levels of our national security establishment: at field commands executing critical acquisition programs; overseas, at a Combatant Command; and at the Pentagon, including my current position Performing The Duties of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. These experiences, along with

my training and experience as an engineer in the automotive industry, shaped and molded me to lead key Department missions, spearhead significant interagency efforts, work hand-in-hand with industry to deliver life-saving equipment to our forces in combat zones, and collaborate on complex, multinational efforts with our allies & partners.

Secretary Hegseth has charged the Department of Defense to match capabilities to threats and to increase lethality across the spectrum of military operations, and I am driven to ensure our soldiers have the capabilities in hand that will allow them to achieve overmatch against any adversary, through the successful execution of acquisition programs.

I will ensure the Army is employing all the modern acquisition tools Congress has provided in order to cut red tape and accelerate the pace of delivery of lethal, effective operational capabilities. We are in the middle of a transformation in the way wars are fought and equipped - the convergence of artificial

intelligence, robotics and automation, and new manufacturing methods enabled by these technological revolutions. The intersection of R&D and acquisition coming together to rapidly field innovative new systems is more important now than ever with the many threats that we face so rapidly evolving. The acquisition enterprise must provide the speed and flexibility our Soldiers need to have decisive advantage today, and in the future. I look to strengthen rapid acquisition pathways and implement flexible contracting methods, to deliver capabilities from the factory floor to the front line, even faster. If confirmed, it will be my job to enable and equip the Army's "Transformation" by delivering the tools that underpin the Army's force modernization plan, and ensure that our Soldiers never have to experience a "fair fight."

One of my top priorities will be to work with DoD and industry to revive our Defense Industrial Base, which is an essential enabler of our ability deliver state-of-the-art capabilities at speed

and scale. We must secure our domestic supply chains away from our adversaries, establish flexible and resilient manufacturing capabilities (to include our organic industrial assets), and maintain a robust sub-tier supply base.

We must attract the most capable and innovative companies while increasing competition, adapt commercial technology, demand modular and open systems, and utilize our modern Software Acquisition authorities to allow for faster integration. We must work closely with industry to unleash the power of American innovation; but we must also hold them accountable on delivering the capabilities, while being good stewards for the American taxpayer.

Finally, none of this is possible without a skilled and mission-oriented defense acquisition workforce. The cadre of Army acquisition professionals is a national strategic asset. I will focus on recruiting, retaining, and training the right talent. Just like our front-line forces, we rely on their professionalism and technical

acumen both before and during conflict, where the factory floor can be just as significant as the battlefield.

Our soldiers operate where the rubber meets the road, where it all comes down to the individual men and women serving this nation - their bravery, patriotism and courage. They deserve the very best equipment, training, and support, to do the hard jobs that our nation demands of them. If confirmed, my guiding light will be what it has always been: to “Protect those that protect us.”

I look forward to your questions today and, if confirmed, to working with Congress, in particular this committee, to support the United States Army. Thank You.