

# **GENERAL CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY**

## **CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR VCJCS**

### **11 SEPT 2025**

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of this Committee – good morning.

I would be remiss not to pause on the weight of this day. Twenty-four years ago, America was struck by cowards who mistook slaughter for strength. From the smoke and ruin of that morning rose a generation who answered the call of duty. They have carried forward the memory of the fallen, not in words alone, but in service.

It is in that spirit of service that I sit before you today. I am honored to be the President's nominee to be the next Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and thank him for his confidence.

I also want to thank Secretary Hegseth, and General Caine, for their trust and confidence in my nomination.

I am also grateful to the Members of this Committee who gave me their time prior to today's hearing. Our candid discussions were invaluable, and I appreciate your perspectives.

I also want to thank this committee for your tireless work addressing tough challenges at the Department – your efforts to reform acquisition, and your efforts in emphasizing audit accountability – to name two – have propelled the Joint Force toward increased readiness and lethality.

I also want to thank the team who worked tirelessly to prepare me for this process with patience and professionalism.

Most importantly, I want to thank my family. My wife and my children have been a source of strength through countless moves, missed holidays, and the unpredictable rhythm of military life. I will say without a doubt though that the unique experiences and friendships built as a family have been priceless. Their support has made my service possible, and I am forever grateful.

I would also like to thank Admiral Grady and his wife, Christine, for their 41 years of devoted service. Serving alongside him over the past two years has been both an honor and a PhD course in military management. Admiral Grady's steady leadership has kept our Joint Force ready in the face of manifold global challenges and has strengthened the joint foundation for the future.

I take this opportunity seriously, and I want to assure the Committee that, if confirmed, my experience has prepared me for this role. As I want to get to your questions – I'll be brief.

I hail from Massachusetts and grew up on the South Shore. I was trained as an infantryman by the Marine Corps. I was trained as a fighter pilot by the Navy. I've flown sorties for the Air Force to prosecute targets for the Army using what have become Space Force enablers – doing bad things to bad people. I've seen how we fight across the Joint Force – and how we must be prepared to fight next.

If confirmed, that experience will help frame the challenges that demand our focus now.

As we look ahead, we must recognize that the security environment is more contested and dynamic than at any point in recent memory.

While we maintain and strengthen our Homeland defense, China and Russia routinely challenge international norms and seek to undermine U.S. and allied interests both near and abroad. Rogue regimes and malicious criminal actors threaten regional stability. Terrorist networks persist. And the most nascent domains—space, cyber—are no longer novel, they are the new normal for the joint enterprise.

These challenges demand that our Joint Force *remain ready today while evolving for tomorrow*. Meeting these challenges will require:

- Continued modernization
- Innovation at speed and scale (Not only *internally*, but *with* industry)
- Balancing our capability and capacity with allies and partners.
- And deepening integration *across all services and COCOMS*

We must invest in advanced capabilities, strengthen joint warfighting concepts, and maintain our technical edge while never losing sight of the strength that comes from our people — our most critical advantage. If confirmed, I will continue to work to ensure our Joint Force is ready, lethal, and capable of prevailing against any adversary.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear today. I look forward to your questions.