

Opening Statement of John Noh
To Be Assistant Secretary of War for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs
Before the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished Members of the Armed Services Committee:

It is a great honor to appear before you today and to be considered for the position of Assistant Secretary of War for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs.

I am deeply grateful to President Trump for nominating me for this role. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Secretary of War Hegseth, Deputy Secretary of War Feinberg, and Undersecretary of War for Policy Colby for their leadership and support. I am fully committed to implementing the President's policy of putting Americans' interest first and achieving peace through strength.

And thank you – Members of this Committee – for your consideration. I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to meet with you and your staffs over the past several weeks.

Finally, I'm very fortunate to have my wife, Isela, and our children, Jaku, John, and Nina, sitting behind me today. The love, understanding, and support I've received from them have made everything possible. I cannot thank them enough. I also want to thank my parents who are not here but have supported me throughout my life.

I joined the Army right after college. Our Country was at war, and I wanted to do my part and serve. I was fortunate enough to deploy to Afghanistan and lead Soldiers in combat. To this day, my military service fundamentally shapes how I think, including about the role for which I have been nominated. Defense policy is deeply personal to me because ultimately, it has to do with the wellbeing of our men and women in uniform who might one day be put in harm's way. For me, there is no more important mission than doing everything I can to prevent war, to deter conflict. But if they are called upon to fight, ensuring that our servicemembers can execute the mission and come back home safely.

My nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of War for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs comes at a perilous moment for the Indo-Pacific. It was my time as a congressional staffer working for the House Select Committee on China that helped me understand and appreciate many of the challenges we face in the region today. I do not believe conflict is inevitable. But I also do not believe that peace can be assumed. If confirmed, I will do everything in my power to ensure we achieve peace and prevent war in the region, with the utmost urgency and focus.

Since January of this year, I have had the privilege of serving in various roles within the Indo-Pacific Security Affairs team of OSW Policy. And over those months, I was able to conduct

numerous engagements with counterparts from various countries. I know that America First does not mean America alone. I value greatly the alliances and partnerships we have throughout the region.

Members of the Committee, it truly is an honor of a lifetime to be given an opportunity to earn your trust and continue serving our great Country. If confirmed, I pledge to work with closely with you and your teams through the numerous issues and challenges that the United States faces in the Indo-Pacific.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.