

LTG Joshua Rudd, Opening Statement for SASC, January 15, 2026

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee, I am deeply honored and humbled to appear before you today as the nominee for Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Director of the National Security Agency, Chief Central Security Service. I want to thank President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, the Chairman, and the Chief of Staff of the Army for the nomination and their trust in me to lead this critical role in our National Security Apparatus. I am also honored to be alongside my friend and fellow warrior leader, LtGen Frank Donovan.

I am the grandson of members of the Greatest Generation. Both grandfathers served during WW2. I was raised by a single mother, who I know is watching. My mother instilled the values of faith, family, strength, courage and hard work in me and my older brother. It was an upbringing that planted the seeds which have led to a life of service, and the relentless pursuit of excellence in everything I do.

I was commissioned in the Army through ROTC, at Furman University, where I met my lovely bride Ansley. She has been with me and supported me in this adventure since the beginning. Ansley, I am eternally grateful for your love, strength and support over the last three and half decades. You are, and always have been, the rock upon which our family finds stability and resilience. Our two daughters are also here with us today. Our oldest is a Congressional Fellow with the Senate Committee for Commerce, Science and Transportation. Our youngest, has traveled from Texas where she is a business professional in San Antonio working for a company that provides services and support to our service members, families and veterans. Thank you both for all the sacrifices you have made over the course of your upbringing. You both inspire me to continue to serve and defend our American way of life.

I'd also like to recognize the selfless men and women I've served with throughout my career, both uniformed members and civilians. An incredible Non-Commissioned Officer Corps who have always guided me in the right direction, and the many who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation.

My journey as an Army officer started as a logistician and as a captain, I transitioned to Special Forces. When people learn of this, many remark "What an unlikely beginning to a career such as yours". Yes, in fact, unconventional in many ways. It is this nontraditional path that has led to a rich experience as a Joint warfighter at the forefront of our Nation's most imminent and challenging problems. This includes command of Joint, Combined and Inter-agency teams at various echelons, in peacetime and conflict, preventing attacks against our Homeland and delivering effects against our Nation's adversaries in all domains.

For decades, I have had the opportunity to be a leader, consumer, enabler, generator, and integrator of the intelligence and operational capabilities of the NSA and Cyber Command. For the past six years, I have held a variety of positions in the Indo-Pacific where we are focused on defense of the Homeland, deterring adversaries, and strengthening alliances and partnerships in the region, through delivering credible combat capabilities in all domains, and this certainly includes the cyber domain. If confirmed, I am prepared to lead these organizations as an integrated and essential team to rapidly deliver options and solutions to our nation's toughest security challenges, at this critical time in our history.

Thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and answering your questions.