

**Gen CQ Brown, Jr.**  
**Confirmation Hearing Opening Statement**  
**7 May 2020**

Chairman Inhofe, Ranking member Reed, distinguished members of this committee, I am grateful and deeply humbled by the opportunity to be with you and my fellow nominees this morning. I'd like to express my appreciation to this committee for your relentless support and advocacy for our Air Force and its Airmen and Families.

I'd like to take a few moments to acknowledge my family who due to the hearing protocols could not be with us today, but are watching on line. First, Sharene, my wife of nearly 31 years who not only has been committed to our family, but to the families of our Airmen specifically focused on quality education for military children. I am extremely proud of our two sons, Sean who lives in Tampa and Ross who lives here in DC, who are both outstanding in their own right. Sharene, Sean and Ross have been instrumental to my success and there is no way I would be here today without their sacrifices, love, and support.

I'd also like to acknowledge, my #1 fan and most vocal supporter, my Mother Kay, and the most influential officer in my career and my commissioning officer, my father Charles, a Vietnam veteran who retired from the U.S. Army as a Colonel after 30 years of service.

Finally, I appreciate the unwavering support of my sister Stephanie and the influence my younger brother Kevin had on me and our family before his passing.

I would like thank President Trump, Secretary Esper, and Secretary Barrett, for their confidence and support in nominating me to be the next Air Force Chief of Staff.

I cannot thank General Dave and Dawn Goldfein enough as they conclude 37 years of service to our nation. For Sharene and I, it has been an honor to serve with the Goldfeins and we wish them the very best as they transition to their next chapter.

Chairman and members of the committee, the 2018 National Defense Strategy provides the Department of Defense with clear, actionable, and attainable goals to compete, deter, and win. For the past 11 years over 7 different assignments, I have served in leadership positions focused on the five challenges—China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and Violent Extremists—that are outlined in the National Defense Strategy. If confirmed, I am committed to the Air Force achieving irreversible momentum towards implementation of the National Defense Strategy and an integrated and more lethal joint force. At the top of the list is to work with Secretary Barret and General Raymond to take the appropriate steps to ensure the success of the Space Force.

Concurrently, I am committed to realizing the Joint Warfighting Concept that is in development. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the Joint Chiefs to increase our joint interoperability. Of particular importance will be building the digital foundation to support Joint All Domain Command and Control or JADC2 enabling the joint force, our allies, and our partners to connect, communicate, and integrate our collective efforts across all domains.

To compete, deter, and win, we will need to Generate Combat Power faster than our adversaries. If confirmed, I am an advocate for early and constant collaboration between operators, acquisition professionals, and industry partners to unleash innovation and spiral development so that the warfighter has access to the most capable and state of the art assets, sooner than later.

I expect there will be tough decisions regarding legacy programs and future modernization. If confirmed, I would continue carefully considered risk assessments balancing the Air Force's support to current Combatant Command requirements while investing in capabilities that prepare us for future competition, conflicts, and challenges.

Finally, I am and will remain committed to the well-being of our Airmen and families. It is an imperative to provide our Airmen and families the quality of service, the quality of life, and the environment where all can reach their full potential.

It is truly an honor to be nominated to serve as the next Air Force Chief of Staff. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the Congress to organize, train, and equip our Air Force to ensure the security of our national interests. Once again, thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to your questions.