

**STATEMENT OF RYAN MCCARTHY
NOMINATED TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed, and Members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I'd like to thank President Trump for nominating me and Secretary Mattis for his confidence in recommending me for the opportunity to serve again in the Department.

I would like to recognize my family who join me today. My parents, David and Kathleen, and my sister, Shannon, who have provided me love and support throughout my entire life. The solid foundation of values they instilled in me are the reason I am here today.

But the two most important people in my life are my wife, Jennifer, and our five year old daughter Aleksandra, who is with her maternal aunt and uncle back in Texas. Jennifer and Aleksa provide me with the strength and motivation to do what I do, and be the best husband, father, and man that I can be.

Six years ago when I left the Department of Defense, the world was a complex and dangerous place. The Army had over 178,000 Soldiers deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq engaged in counterinsurgency operations, with additional Soldiers advising partners across the African continent, conducting counterterrorism and counterdrug operations in Southeast Asia and Latin America, serving forward deployed in both Korea and Europe, and defending our homeland.

Today, the danger and complexity in the world has only increased while the size of America's Total Army has decreased. Yet, the Army contributes half of the global force management requirements and over sixty percent of unforecasted or emergent Combatant Commander demands. The Army's contributions, past and present, support the statement of General Dundford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, that the U.S. Army is "the linchpin of the U.S. military since 9/11." If confirmed, I will prioritize the readiness of the Total Army, the modernization of capabilities, and care of the force.

Acting Secretary Speer and General Milley have made Army near term readiness their number one priority. I too believe the Army must be manned, trained, equipped, and led to be ready to fight tonight. Through leadership and resourcing, the Army has made progress in improving its readiness posture across the total force. If confirmed, I will work with Army senior leaders, the Department of Defense and Congress to make the decisions necessary to sustain this positive trajectory.

But, being ready to fight tonight is not enough. The Army must modernize today to be ready to fight tomorrow's wars against increasingly capable adversaries and near peer competitors. The Army must make the hard choices and needed investments to rapidly develop capabilities that our Soldiers will need to shape, fight, and win decisively across all domains on complex future battlefields. The Army must leverage commercial technology, fully implement acquisition reforms, and change business processes to inform strategic decisions that will organize, train, and equip the force of tomorrow. If confirmed, I look

forward to partnering with this Committee, Congress, Army Leadership, and the Office of Secretary of Defense to address this imperative.

At its core, the Army is a people organization. Over the last sixteen years, much has been asked of Soldiers and their families who have collectively fought the longest war in our nation's history while continuing to meet additional challenges worldwide. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to develop solutions to address the well-being of the men and women in uniform across the total force, their families, and the civilian workforce.

In closing, I have served the Army in uniform in peace and combat, worked in the private sector in financial services and the aerospace industry, and served in both the executive and legislative branches of government. Among all of these experiences, my most important responsibilities have involved leading Soldiers and promoting policies and programs to enhance the ability of our men and women in uniform to survive and prevail on the battlefield. Further, I have seen that direct leader involvement in complex problems is essential to simplifying processes and providing clarity to objectives. If confirmed, I look forward to applying those experiences in working with the Secretary, the Chief, the Congress, and our Soldiers and their families in continued service to the Army.

Thank you for considering my nomination and I look forward to your questions.