

Ms. Kathleen Miller
Nominee to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)
Senate Armed Services Committee
July 13, 2021

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and distinguished members of this committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I know from my role as a senior career Army official how vitally important the bi-partisan work of this committee is to our nation and to all the men and women of the Department of Defense. I appreciate and am grateful for your service and honored by your consideration of my nomination to serve as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller.

[Secretary McHugh, Sir, thank you for your warm introduction. I appreciated working under your leadership during your tenure as the Secretary of the Army.]

I want to express my deep gratitude to President Biden, Vice President Harris, Secretary Austin, Deputy Secretary Hicks, and Under Secretary McCord for their trust and confidence in me and their support for my nomination.

I'd like also to express my appreciation to all those who serve this nation, both in uniform and out, for their unwavering dedication to our democracy. I would like to express a sincere and heartfelt "thank you" to the many appointees, civil servants and military personnel who took time to mentor, teach, and encourage me throughout my career.

I am grateful for the support of my extended family. First and foremost, my husband Brian Pickerall, a Navy veteran and fellow Cornell graduate – he is my rock and my harbor. Also my parents, Pat and Shirley Miller who taught me the values of hard work, persistence, truth, and compassion. While Dad is no longer with us, as a former Navy pilot, I think he would be very pleased to see his eldest daughter here today before you. I'd also like to thank my siblings and in-laws for the love, support and encouragement they've given me.

I was a student at the Army War College on 9/11. That horrible day nearly 20 years ago cemented my passion for public service and my belief in a strong national defense using all elements of national power. Since then, I have led large, diverse, federal organizations. Some of my key accomplishments include; implementing new financial systems at the Internal Revenue Service; building and executing Army budgets; implementing Army logistics systems; and overseeing numerous reform activities. In my current role, the team I lead executes Army-wide administrative programs and provides support services, including human resources, financial management, and facilities for the Army's headquarters. I have been recognized by two different Presidents with the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for my contributions.

My top priority, if confirmed, is enabling the continued security of this Nation through

the work of the Department of Defense Comptroller – building adequate, defensible budgets; providing Congress accurate and timely information about those budgets; and stewarding the resources authorized for and appropriated to the Department.

I will, if confirmed, prioritize a strong relationship with the congressional committees on all matters under the purview of the Comptroller. I will, if confirmed, also give full effort and attention to the Department's financial audit, building on progress made to obtain a clean opinion. I will, if confirmed, further the Department's performance improvement work making DOD more effective through; workforce development, the expanded use of technology, and data-informed decision processes.

Finally, I will continue serving as a role model to the military members, civilians, and contractors of the Department, leading with compassion, commitment, respect, and integrity.

I am truly honored to be here today. Thank you again for your service to the nation and for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions.