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STATEMENT OF BRADLEY D. HANSELL
NOMINEE TO BE
UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination to be the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Hegseth for the trust and confidence they have placed in me.

Nearly five years ago, I was honored by the Committee's strong bipartisan support for my nomination to be the Deputy Under Secretary. While the full Senate was not able to hold a floor vote before the election, I am here today to earn your broad support for my nomination as the Under Secretary.

My first inspiration to serve this country started with those in my family who served before me. For three generations, my family has sworn to protect and defend the Constitution. I will always recall my grandfather's pride when speaking about his service as a young sailor in the Pacific. Both of his sons became Naval Officers and both of my brothers, here today, currently serve. Michael is a civilian with the Navy; and Brian is currently commanding a Marine Corps F-35 squadron.

My commitment and passion for service deepened with my own, as both a Naval Officer and an Army Special Forces Officer. One of the most powerful driving factors of my life came from the privilege of commanding soldiers in combat. I felt there existed a social contract, that some of the most impressive and brave men and women of our country would do what is asked, when it's asked, with incredible risk to their own lives. In return, their leaders hold a sacred responsibility to do everything in their power to ensure, when necessary, it's the right decision and every possible advantage is provided to them.

My role to fulfill this responsibility in uniform ended after being wounded in Afghanistan. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity, if confirmed, to work tirelessly in support of that same contract, and with it the warfighter.

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I would like to thank my truly exceptional wife, who impresses me every day in her own right, for her willingness to sacrifice in support of this cause. As well as Connor, our 1-year-old son, who we hope someday gets to feel the joy of serving a cause greater than himself.

I believe the combination of experiences in my career has made me uniquely qualified to drive meaningful impact in this role. My deep understanding of intelligence ranges from the tactical to strategic level. As a Green Beret, my team conducted the entire intelligence cycle, to include the development and utilization of intelligence sources, which I then relied on when planning and leading combat missions. I know the value of getting it right and the human cost of getting it wrong. As a Senior Director on the NSC staff, I leveraged intelligence in the formulation of policy and led efforts in my portfolio to address the responsiveness of the IC and foundational coordination challenges between IC components. In the private sector, I leveraged my leadership and business operations expertise to advise companies on improving performance. As a leader in Boston Consulting Group's public sector practice, I also had the opportunity to apply industry best practices to the unique government domain, as we partnered with leaders in both the DoD and IC to address their challenges.

Effective management of the Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprise is essential, and we must align efforts to maximize effects downrange and the return on our investment. This includes ensuring we have the right technology and organizational structure to enable our personnel—some of America's best—to increase their impact in today's operational environment, and to position the enterprise for the rapidly changing landscape of the future.

We must better enable intelligence to inform Department investments, effectively matching capabilities with threats. With program costs incredibly high—and the cost of misallocation on the modern battlefield even higher—the premium on intelligence effectively informing the entire acquisition life cycle is at an all-time high.

Lastly, we must ensure the Department has all the tools required to most effectively compete along the full continuum of conflict. Our adversaries are increasingly conducting malign activity below a threshold that has traditionally triggered a military response. Enhancing our Irregular Warfare capabilities will allow us to provide risk-informed options to better compete short of armed conflict

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and re-establish deterrence. I believe offensive cyber capabilities and an increased focus on Defense HUMINT are areas for opportunity. Finally, offensive counterintelligence efforts are essential in imposing a cost on our adversaries.

If confirmed, I look forward to implementing these efforts and serving the amazing men and women of the enterprise in support of the Secretary's priorities.

In closing, I am committed to working closely with this Committee and with Congress to provide the information needed to carry out oversight responsibilities.

Thank you for your time today, and consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.

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