

JAMES H. ANDERSON
Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities
Senate Armed Services Committee
May 10, 2018

Senator Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to be here today.

I am thankful for the confidence that President Trump and Secretary Mattis have placed in me as the nominee for Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

I would not be here today without the support of family, friends, and mentors who have helped me throughout my career.

My parents, Barbara and Michael Anderson, instilled in me the value of hard work, honesty, and respect for others. My children, James and Olivia, inspire me every day. Most of all, I wish to thank Emily Anderson, my much better half, who is present today. She knows well the sacrifices Pentagon positions demand from my prior service in the building. Her love and support make everything worthwhile.

My professional experience has helped prepare me for this opportunity.

I served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2001-2009, initially working in Legislative Affairs. I then spent most of my appointment working policy issues in International Security Affairs. I served as Country Director, Israel, and coordinated defense cooperation activities with a key U.S. ally. I also served as Director, Middle East, and gained a broader perspective on regional dynamics.

I have also taught national security topics at several civilian and military educational institutions, to include the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies in Germany. Living overseas and working at this splendid institution reinforced to me the importance of working with allies and partners.

I have authored (or co-authored) a wide range of strategy-related topics during my career. These topics include the threat of weapons of mass destruction; theater and national missile defense; security alliances; great power competition; and national defense strategy and policy.

In my current job at Marine Corps University, I am the chief academic officer for educational programs that reach thousands of Marines annually. In this capacity, I help officers and enlisted personnel develop the critical and creative thinking skills necessary to prevail on future battlefields.

I served three years on active duty as a Marine Corps officer in the late 1980s, an experience that indelibly imprinted upon me the importance of teamwork and esprit de corps: Nothing is more inspiring than working alongside fellow professionals in defense of the country's interests and values.

The Department of Defense issued its National Defense Strategy in January. The document clearly outlines priorities and concepts needed to ensure our nation's competitive advantages amid the exacting demands of long-term strategic competition.

If confirmed, I will do my level best to help implement this strategy in a cost-effective and timely manner. The men and women in uniform, as well as the citizens of our great nation, deserve no less from their senior defense leaders.

I look forward to your questions.