

**LTG XAVIER BRUNSON, NOMINEE TO BE GENERAL AND COMMANDER, UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, COMBINED FORCES COMMAND, UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA.**

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, and distinguished members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and more importantly, if confirmed, to continue leading our nation's men and women. I would like to thank President Biden, Secretary Austin, and General Brown for their trust and confidence. I am honored to testify alongside LTG Randall Reed as the nominee for the United States Transportation Command. TRANSCOM is a critical enabler in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring our armed forces have the resources they need, when they need it.

I would like to thank my family for their love and support throughout my military career. My wife of 30 years Kirsten, a retired Army Colonel, member of the Army Women's Hall of Fame and tireless advocate for Army families. She saw me in this chair long before last week's call. She is my confidant, critic, and heart...our family is because of her.

To my children, Raechel, Rebekah, and Joshua, thank you for your continued support. Being your dad is the thing I am most proud of. Josh, I am incredibly thankful you could be here to support me today.

I would like to thank my parents, also with us today, Retired Sergeant Major Albert Brunson and Delphine Brunson. They raised three sons to understand the importance of God, Family, and Service. My father served in the Army for twenty-seven years, including two tours to Vietnam and service in Operation Desert Storm. In 2018, I finally eclipsed my father's record of over 275 static line jumps. His service inspired me and my brothers to dedicate our lives in service to our nation. I am pleased to have in attendance today my brother, Colonel LaHavie Brunson who is currently serving on the Army staff and his wife Karyn. As well as my brother Colonel Tavi Brunson currently in U.S. Army Central Command. Our family carries a legacy of over 130 years of service, and I am proud to be a part of it.

There are a host of mentors, friends, and soldiers, far too many to mention here to whom I sincerely say, "Thanks".

Having spent the last five years focused on the Indo-Pacific, I can tell you that the environment is complex and dynamic. I am aware of the threats South Korea faces and fully understand my role, if confirmed, in ensuring a constant state of readiness for all forces on the peninsula. Most assuredly I understand the need to defend the homelands. North Korea's rapid advancement of its nuclear and missile capabilities, combined with its stated ambition to "exponentially" expand its nuclear arsenal, is the single greatest challenge facing the tri-commands. The phrase "Fight Tonight" is not just a saying but a reality for the men and women serving in Korea.

The Korea Theater of Operations is a combined, joint, multi-domain, and inter-agency operating environment. If confirmed, I will ensure all service members and civilians within the three commands are manned, trained, and equipped to respond in competition, crisis, or conflict. I fully endorse the four longstanding United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and the United States Korea priorities of sustaining and strengthening the alliance, maintaining the armistice, transforming the alliance, and sustaining the force.

I would like to wish a Happy Chuseok to Korea Americans and the people of the Republic of South Korea.

Finally, on behalf of Kirsten and my family I would like to recognize General Paul LaCamera. Having served together in both war and peace time, I can say with confidence he has led the tri-commands in Korea remarkably. To him and his wife, Theresa, thank you for your loyal and dedicated service to our nation.

Thank you again, Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, and members of the committee for this opportunity. I look forward to your questions.

Katchi Kapshida, Under One Flag, Fight Tonight!