

STATEMENT OF HON. BRAD R. CARSON
TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, PERSONNEL AND READINESS

Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished Members of the committee, thank you for having me here today.

I would like to thank President Obama for nominating me to this position and to Secretary Carter for his support of my nomination. It's been a great professional pleasure of mine to have served as the Under Secretary of the Army for 16 months under Secretary of the Army, John McHugh. I looked up to the example he had set. But my greatest motivation were the soldiers I worked with, day in and day out, devoting their lives to the betterment of our nation.

I have many friends here today from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and from across the Pentagon, and I am grateful to be part of their team.

Of course, behind me is my wife Julie, who is an attorney herself, and has sacrificed so much as I have pursued my own career, often at the expense of the things that she would have done for her own professional development. I am so very grateful to her.

The Department of Defense is an amazing place, filled with extraordinary people, both military and civilian. People who risk their lives, on and off the battlefield, to ensure that our nation is safe, and that our citizens can sleep soundly at night. This is no small feat, and it deserves our recognition and support. And that is exactly what I will do if I am confirmed.

There are many issues facing our young people today, and wondering if a career in the military shouldn't be one of them. Our Department should be the first stop for the best and brightest our country has to offer. For decades, we have managed to attract just these people, the tip of the spear, and we must continue doing all we can to ensure that they will always look to service first.

I think my background in law, politics, higher education and business have well prepared me to be the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. One thing I can assure the committee is that if I am confirmed I won't forget the example of those people I've mentioned and I will do my best to acquit myself in their honor.

I look forward to your questions.