

Opening Statement Confirmation Hearing
Janine Davidson

Good Morning

Chairman McCain and Senator Reed, distinguished members of the committee, I am truly honored to be here today as the nominee for Under Secretary of the United States Navy. I am grateful to President Obama, Secretary Carter, and Secretary Mabus for giving me the opportunity, if confirmed, to help lead the finest Navy and Marine Corps in the world.

I'd like to begin by thanking my family for joining me here and supporting me: Starting with my husband, David Kilcullen and my stepson, Harry. Their good humor and wit keep me grounded every day. My sister, Jennifer Parker, is also here, along with my nephew Colin, my brother Jim Davidson, and his wife Melanie. My mother Joanne, a Navy wife who expertly orchestrated 18 family moves in 35 years, as so many Navy families have done, is no longer with us, but I know she would be delighted at the prospect of my re-joining the Navy family. Finally, I want to thank my stepmom, Sarajane Wallace and my father, retired Rear Admiral, Jim Davidson, for coming all the way from California to be here today. Of course it did help that they were already in town for the Army-Navy game. So special thanks goes to the committee staff for working out that timing for us all. Throughout my career, I have counted on my family's love and support; and in the case of my father, who served proudly for 35 years as a Navy Supply Corps officer, I learned to appreciate how much military power truly does depend on getting the right gear to the right place at the right time, something our globally deployed force does better than any military in the history of the world thanks to professionals like my Dad and his many many shipmates.

If confirmed I will work tirelessly with the members of this committee and your staffs to ensure that we have the **most competitive, creative, and above all, combat-ready** Navy and Marine Corps in the world. This vision would drive my work every day in the service of our proud civilians, Sailors and Marines.

The United States Navy and Marine Corps play a central role in U.S. defense strategy – they provide forward presence to reassure our friends and deter our adversaries, they are our force in readiness – prepared to go wherever required anywhere in the world, and they are ready to fight America's enemies to keep us safe.

After years of high-tempo combat operations and growing fiscal constraints, the Navy and Marine Corps face great challenges in resetting and modernizing their forces to

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meet current threats while also preparing for a complex future. They also face a renewed opportunity as a critical instrument of national power for a new century and a new global environment. As Under Secretary of the Navy, if confirmed, I will work with Navy and Marine Corps leaders to ensure we restore readiness across the fleet, manage a complex investment portfolio to acquire the right capabilities, and that we innovate and experiment to ensure we have the right concepts that can sustain our military edge in the face of growing threats.

I am a proud member of the Navy family, having grown up surrounded by the ships, the people, and the bases that constitute our maritime power. I am a proud veteran, having served as an Air Force officer for 10 years, flying C-130 and C-17 transport planes. I am a proud former Pentagon civil servant, and a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, where I served with America's finest defense leadership and helped oversee the Pentagon's contingency planning process and global basing strategies. I've spent my entire life surrounded by America's best and brightest – those uniformed men and women who sacrifice so much to keep us safe. If confirmed, I will do my very best to ensure that our Sailors and Marines remain unmatched in their training, their equipment, and their readiness. It is a solemn obligation and I would be immensely proud to serve with them.

I am honored to be here today. Thank you.