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Opening Statement of  
Andrew Philip Hunter  
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition,  
Technology, and Logistics  
October 5, 2021

Good morning Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe and members of the Committee. I am honored to come before you as President Biden's nominee to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. I'm extremely grateful to President Biden and Secretary Austin for their confidence in putting me forward for this position. I want to start by thanking the committee for considering my nomination and more importantly for your decades of bipartisan support to the Department of Defense. You've set the example of how Congress can and should perform its critical role in providing for the nation's security.

I also want to take a moment to thank some of the many people who have helped me to come before you today seeking your approval. That list begins with my family, especially my parents who emphasized the value of education and the need for a rigorous approach to problem solving, and who always supported my interest in public service. It includes my wife, Karen, and my children Meg and Ben, who have been steadfast with their love and support. My wife and daughter are excited to join me here

today. I have also been fortunate to have many mentors in the national security arena that deserve recognition including Congressman John Spratt, Congressman Norm Dicks, Congressman Ike Skelton, Dr. Ash Carter, Secretary Frank Kendall, Dr. John Hamre, and Dr. Kathleen Hicks. And although my time as a committee staffer was with the other Armed Services Committee, I was privileged to observe and learn from the examples provided by Chairmen such as Senator John Warner, Senator Carl Levin, and Senator John McCain.

If confirmed, taking on the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics will allow me to build on more than 25 years spent working on and in the defense acquisition system as a congressional staffer, a senior executive in the Department of Defense, and as an expert providing advice, support, and analysis while working in my current position. This experience has allowed me to focus on issues relating to the successful development and execution of acquisition programs; the structure of and policy surrounding the defense acquisition system; the dynamics of the industrial base and its supply chains; acquisition and financial reform; rapid acquisition; contracting policy and alternatives to traditional contracting; and the development, training and management of the acquisition workforce. If confirm, I intend to use this experience to pursue a

number of key priorities including ensuring that we focus the acquisition system on delivering operational capability and meeting the needs, both current and future, of U.S. forces who are confronting rapidly evolving challenges from peer competitors and a fast moving pacing threat; that we meet the challenge of sustaining a complex and aging Air Force fleet; that we improve our ability to field innovative new capabilities and especially to acquire software and software-intensive systems; and that we support and develop the skills of our acquisition workforce, allowing them to help our forces meet the challenges we face.

I look forward to answering your questions today, and if confirmed, to working closely with this Committee and the Congress to support our Air and Space Forces.