

**Joseph Kernan**  
**Nominee for Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence**  
**Opening Statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee**  
**2 November, 2017**

Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination to be the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)).

I am appreciative of the trust and confidence that President Trump and Secretary Mattis have placed in me, and if confirmed, I look forward to assuming the responsibilities of the USD(I), a role that I view as extremely important to our nation's security.

I would like to recognize my family, who are not here in person, but in spirit and fully supportive of this commitment should I be confirmed. My father who left Columbia Medical School in 1939 to fly B-17's throughout WW-II, my father-in-law who flew Navy Corsairs in WW-II, my brother Bob, a career Navy pilot, and two sisters, Martha and Mary, who, with their families, are active humanitarians on many fronts. Most importantly, my wife Jan, always patriotic, supportive, and caring. She was alone for much of my military career, raising our two children, Sean and Shannon, and too often was called upon to support and console the families of casualties from my command. Lastly, the preeminent reason for my willingness to serve, the men and women who stand in defense of our country – they deserve the best we can provide them — and should I be confirmed, they will have my unwavering commitment to that task.

The fidelity of intelligence, when combined with the skill and courage of those men and women along with its impact on leader decision-making, is crucial to our nation's security. During combat and contingency operations, I placed a high value on intelligence support because that intelligence allowed us to plan effectively, prosecute high-value targets, and exploit

target sites. In my experience, our country's and our allies' intelligence and law enforcement enterprises were routinely vital contributors to our military operations. My commitment to the value of leveraging collective intelligence capabilities, partnering, and collaborating remains firm and, if confirmed, that will continue.

If confirmed, my initial priorities would include: providing intelligence support to warfighters and national security decision-makers; proactively collaborating across the Department of Defense, the Intelligence Enterprise, and with our allies and emerging foreign partners; and finally, leveraging commercial technologies and innovations, where they can support mission success and address other internal and external security threats and challenges.

In this complex security environment, we must collect, process, and analyze information from all domains, human, sea, air, land, space, and cyber, to counter traditional and non-traditional adversaries that constantly maneuver and adapt - our intelligence enterprise must be trained and equipped to do so as well. If confirmed, I will relentlessly pursue the resources, technologies, and solutions that meet our intelligence needs.

In closing, I am committed to working closely with this committee and other committees of jurisdiction to provide the information needed to carry out oversight responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.