

**Anthony M. Kurta**  
**Nomination Hearing for Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense**  
**for Personnel and Readiness**  
**Opening Statement Before the Senate Armed Services**  
**Committee**

Mr Chairman, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of the Committee on Armed Services.

I am:

- honored to appear before you today
- humbled by the confidence placed in me by the President and Secretary of Defense
- energized by the opportunity to continue to serve, which I have done, in and out of uniform, for just over 40 years.
- buoyed by the presence of my wife, Maria, who also serves as a Department of the Navy civilian, working for the CNO, and who also served as a military spouse. Her past and present service is a continual reminder to me of the importance of our families, and the fact that we are a Total force....comprised of those in uniform, their families, our dedicated civilians, our retirees, and our contractors. All of these contribute to the success of our All Volunteer Force.

I would also like to thank my teammates, members of the superb Personnel and Readiness team, who are able to be here today.

Mr Chairman, if confirmed, I will continue to be laser focused on enhancing the readiness and lethality of the

All Volunteer Force and our Total Force. The All Volunteer Force is our strategic advantage over our competitors and foes, and its future success is not guaranteed. I pledge to work with this committee, all our partners in the Department and Administration, our Military Service Organizations, our Veteran Service Organizations, and our communities across America to ensure the All Volunteer Force is as strong 20 years from now as it is today.

Mr Chairman, it is all about the opportunity to serve. I was truly honored to wear the uniform of the United States Navy as a destroyerman for 36 years. I was proud to continue to serve as a Navy and DoD career Senior Executive. And, if confirmed, I relish the opportunity to continue my service in this new role.

The opportunity to wake up each morning, and know I can make a difference....a real difference, in the lives of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen is a singular honor, one I do not take lightly. Mr. Chairman, I pledge to make every day count and I look forward to your questions.