

**Michele A. Pearce**  
**Nomination Hearing to be General Counsel of** For Open Publication  
**the Department of the Army**  
**Opening Statement Before the Senate Armed Services Committee**

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Senator Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished Members of the Committee, I am humbled to be here today and wish to thank the President and Secretary McCarthy for their support of my nomination. I also wish to thank my family: my husband Steve, a retired Air Force officer and third generation fighter pilot; my daughter Cate, a junior at the University of Virginia; and my son Alex, a freshman and ROTC cadet at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Their unwavering love and support, and many sacrifices during my nearly 24 years of public service, have made today possible.

It has been a privilege to serve our nation and I would like to briefly share some information as you consider my nomination.

My values and beliefs were shaped by my parents and the opportunity I had to grow up on military bases and live in integrated and diverse communities. My parents instilled in me the value of leading a purpose driven life. My father served in

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the Navy as a radioman with deployments to Vietnam and Antarctica; culminating his service as a submariner on nuclear ballistic submarines during the Cold War.

My mother also selflessly served our nation for more than two decades as a military spouse. She was a devoted mother of four children and a Sunday school teacher, always volunteering to help others in our community; she also worked full-time as a hairdresser to help support our family. She was a woman of unimpeachable character and true grace. Her commitment, dedication, and selflessness serve as examples for us all.

She passed away last month and will soon be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with my father. I am grateful to serve a nation that so well honors those, like my parents, who have sacrificed for the many freedoms we enjoy.

If confirmed, I would bring these values, in addition to my professional experience, to the consequential responsibilities of the position of Army General Counsel. While serving in

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uniform, I worked on legal issues including military justice, sexual assault and harassment, equal opportunity, and operational and administrative law issues. I deployed in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. I also served as an adjunct faculty member at the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School.

After serving for 13 years in the Air Force, I worked as the Staff Lead of the Readiness Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee and as a senior defense advisor here in the Senate. I appreciate the value of working closely and cooperatively with Congress to ensure we meet our national security missions and requirements.

If confirmed, I would faithfully execute my duties as the Department's senior attorney. I would work tirelessly to ensure that Army leaders receive timely, accurate, and candid legal advice – not only to meet our current modernization goals, but also to posture the Army for future challenges, including the

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ethical implementation of Artificial Intelligence, employment of machine learning capabilities, and other emerging technologies that require legal focus and oversight.

I would also focus on legal authorities that facilitate stronger family initiatives including spouse employment and child care availability. Finally, I would continue to support implementation of the Army's Project Inclusion – a program focused on improving diversity across the force; ensuring that all who serve our nation have an equal opportunity to compete for promotion and lead the force.

In closing, I will ensure that the Office of General Counsel team is responsive to the needs of the warfighter and accountable for upholding the laws and regulations that govern our mission.

I am humbled and honored to be here.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee. I look forward to answering your questions.