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**ROBERT J. SANDER**  
**STATEMENT**

Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed and members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, it is an honor and privilege to appear before you today as the President's Nominee for General Counsel of the Navy. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify before your Committee. I would also like to thank Secretary Esper and Secretary Spencer for their confidence in my abilities to lead the Navy Office of General Counsel.

To my family, especially my wife, Ingrid, and our children - Javier, Robert Jr, Heidi, and Johann - Thanks for all you do. Like so many other families, especially those with military ties, I know it hasn't always been easy, but I truly appreciate your love and support.

For the past 19 ½ years, I have had been fortunate to serve in uniform as a member of the United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps with some of the best Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coastguardsmen the world has ever seen. In addition to my JAG Corps

experience, I am also fortunate to currently serve in my civilian capacity as the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Army General Counsel and the Principal Deputy General Counsel of the Army.

However, naval service has always been in my DNA. During World War I, my German Grandfather was a member of the German Navy. While serving in the “War to End all Wars”, he was captured by the United States and became a Prisoner of War. Several years later, he married my grandmother, became a United States Citizen, enrolled in the U.S. Navy and eventually became a U.S. Merchant Marine and Master at Arms during World War II fighting Nazism and Fascism.

Four of his sons, including my father, who was a naval fireman on a submarine during World War II, also became members of the greatest generation to whom all of us are deeply indebted. My family’s rich history of service to this great Nation has had a profound impact on my life and worldview; I am sincerely grateful and humbled at the chance to continue my service in this meaningful way.

Secretary Spencer has established three priorities focusing on People, Capabilities, and Processes in order to ensure current and future mission success. If confirmed, I will assist Secretary Spencer and the Navy and Marine Corps Leadership in taking care of our service members, their families, the civilian work force and our retirees. After all, people are the Navy and Marine Corps' greatest and most treasured resource.

As we prepare for future conflicts, the Navy and Marine Corps must be capable of providing maritime dominance and power projection around the globe. If confirmed, I will assist the Navy and Marine Corps Leadership with improving readiness, lethality, and modernization across the Navy and Marine Corps so that our Nation maintains the advantage and sets the conditions in this great power competition with Russia and China.

The Navy must continually improve our processes to meet current and future challenges. In light of future budget constraints and uncertainty, we must maximize the use of every taxpayer dollar. If confirmed, I will continue to assist the Navy and Marine Corps Leadership with building upon the reform agenda that has already begun.

As the Department's Chief Legal Officer, I will be responsible for leading a talented group of attorneys and professional support staff throughout the Navy and Marine Corps. If confirmed to be the Navy General Counsel, I, along with my partners in the law firm called "Navy Law" - Vice Admiral John Hannick, the Navy Judge Advocate General, and Major General Dan Lecce, the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps - will ensure that our Legal team is proactive and engaged with our clients. I also commit to ensuring that our Legal Team zealously follows and enforces the United States Constitution and other laws. I further promise if confirmed that our Legal Team will tirelessly support the total military force, their families, the civilian workforce, and our Retirees. Finally, I will hold myself, my colleagues, and my Legal Team to the highest of ethical standards. After all, the American People deserve nothing less.

In closing, I am honored and humbled to have been nominated by the President as the next Navy General Counsel and grateful for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.

Thank You.