

Ronald Moultrie
Nominee for Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security
Opening Statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and distinguished members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination to serve as the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

I want to thank DNI McConnell for his kind introductory words. His mentorship and tutelage have tremendously shaped my career.

I am honored for the trust and confidence that President Biden and Secretary Austin have placed in me, and if confirmed, I look forward to serving with our nation's outstanding intelligence and security professionals.

I am blessed to have met my wife, Darlene, while we served on active duty and to have benefitted from her love and wisdom for over 33 years.

I am grateful to have a family that embodies service. My father served in the Korean War and in Vietnam and rose to the rank of Army Sergeant Major. My mother's brother made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam.

Duty, honor, and sacrifice. These principles have been instilled in me since childhood and drive me to this day.

Defending "against all enemies, foreign and domestic" takes on new meaning for all in the intelligence and security profession:

- China, our pacing challenge, a global pandemic, malign actors, and other existential threats pose risks to the global order and threaten our way of life;
- Domestic extremism and sexual harassment tear at the fabric of our society and threaten to undermine order in the Defense Department's ranks; and,
- Warfighters need a "decisive, secure information advantage" and our troops must be safe, regardless of their environment.

If confirmed, these challenges will be among my top priorities.

I am confident that we can overcome these challenges and build upon our global leadership role.

We must also innovatively explore, and rapidly adapt, emerging technologies that will enable us to defend our nation against those seeking to erode our technological and intellectual advantages.

We must build and embrace partnerships across our government, with the private sector and academia, and with our key foreign partners and allies.

And we must have a close working relationship with Congress.

Most importantly we must have the support and trust of our citizens. They are the inspiration for all that we do and ultimately why we serve.

If confirmed, I will strive to accomplish these and other priorities as determined by the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

I will always serve with the utmost honor and integrity.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.