

Statement for the Record

by

Mr. Terrence L. Edwards

Nominee for the Position of Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

August 2, 2022

Chairman Warner, Vice Chairman Rubio, and distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be the Inspector General for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO).

I am deeply honored that President Biden nominated me for this position and I am grateful for the support of Director Haines, Principal Deputy Director (PDDNI) Dixon, and Director Scolese. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with you, Director Scolese, and the dedicated professionals at the NRO. In addition, if confirmed, I look forward to leading the talented NRO Office of Inspector General (OIG) to effect positive change at the NRO and to further the NRO's critical mission.

Although a few of them could not make it today, there are several important women in my life that I would like to thank before I outline my qualifications. First, I would like to thank my mother – Deborah Edwards – who retired last year after serving this country for 30 plus years as a career civil service. She taught me the importance of commitment to service, having integrity and being a hard-worker. Second, I would like to thank my partner and best friend, Cristan Farmer, for taking this journey with me for more than 17 years. Third, I would like to thank the Honorable Susan Gibson, the Honorable Stacey Dixon and Senior Army Executive Kathleen Szymanski for their leadership, mentorship, and confidence in me.

I would also like to thank the many colleagues, family, and friends who have helped me throughout my career, and this nomination and confirmation process.

At a time when the American public demands more transparency and confidence in their institutions and policymakers, I believe the Inspectors Generals' oversight role to provide independent, objective, and fact-based analysis of agencies' programs, policies, and operations are vital in reassuring the American public that their institutions are serving them in a lawful, ethical, and effective manner.

At each stage of my career, I have seen firsthand the importance of conducting careful and objective analysis of the facts and the law. I started my career in government as an Army fellow at the Army Materiel Command. From there, I become an attorney in the Office of General Counsel (OGC) at the Army Sustainment Command in Rock Island Illinois, where I was immersed in (and ultimately fell in love with) federal acquisition law, regulation and policy. In that position, I learned the importance of oversight, knowing your craft, and having the courage to provide sound, objective advice despite the possible consequences. Being the lead attorney as a GS-9 on a \$150B+ contract that provided critical services to our soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait taught me those lessons and more.

I then went on to the Army Communications and Electronics Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, where I continued, amongst other things, to practice in areas of acquisition, procurement and fiscal law, ultimately serving in the role of Senior Acquisitions Attorney in that Command until I departed in 2012. In 2012, I joined the

Intelligence Community, working as a senior attorney at the National Security Agency (NSA). In 2014, NSA nominated me for a joint duty assignment at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) as a Senior Associate General Counsel for Acquisition, Technology, and Facilities. I subsequently joined the ODNI's Office of General Counsel in 2016, where I served as the Deputy General Counsel for Management. In this position, I provided overarching legal advice on a full range of mission service areas for the DNI and the broader Intelligence Community, including ethics, appropriations, acquisitions, security, personnel, and Space. Currently I am serving as the Chief of Staff to the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, where I manage the operations of the PDDNI office and serve as the PDDNI's senior advisor on a full range of national security and management issues on behalf of the ODNI and Intelligence Community.

Because of the knowledge and experience that I have gained in those positions, I am well grounded in many areas of law relevant to the NRO and OIG missions, including fiscal and intelligence law, procurement integrity, whistleblower protections, accounting, ethics, and security.

My experience at both NSA and ODNI has given me vital exposure into the essential acquisitions and intelligence roles of the NRO to ensure that the nation has the right space based capabilities it needs to remain safe and secure. I am also aware of the rapidly changing nature of the space domain that brings new possibilities and new challenges. I am mindful of the potential risks to NRO's mission as the space domain becomes more competitive and contested. I have watched as the NRO has moved to embrace the growing commercial marketplace to bring online new space capabilities and increase resiliency and speed to address potential risks. I believe the NRO OIG's oversight, in coordination with Congress, plays a critical role in ensuring these new possibilities are developed, implemented, and maintained in a lawful, effective, and economic manner.

To that end, I pledge to be transparent, accessible and responsive to this committee in support of Congressional requests and interests. Congressional oversight is fundamental to the checks and balances established in our Constitution. If confirmed, I will fully support the NRO OIG's notification and reporting responsibilities and keep the NRO's oversight committees fully and currently informed.

Mr. Chairman, I have been both blessed and honored to devote my career to public service. Each and every day that I wake up, I come to the office, give it my all and look to make a positive difference. I know the position that I have been nominated for comes with great responsibility, and if confirmed, I pledge to do my very best to keep making a difference and to serve with the integrity and purpose that this position and our nation demands.

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