

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "No" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

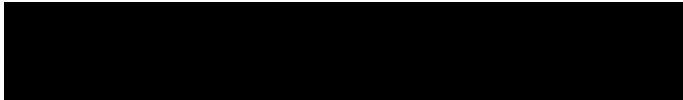
Brendan C. McPherson

2. Position to which nominated:

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral (O-8)

3. Date of Nomination: September 24, 2020

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):



Work:

Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, Washington, DC 20528

5. Date and Place of Birth:

Ridgewood, NJ
DOB: 12/25/1966

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Barbara Mary McPherson

Employer: INOVA Alexandria Hospital, Alexandria VA 22304

Position: Registered Nurse (RN-BSN))

Children:

Brendan C. McPherson (Jr) (27)

Erin E. McPherson (24)

Mary K. McPherson (21)

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT – BS Management (1989)

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC – MA Mass Communications (2000)

U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI – MA National Security & Strategic Studies (2009)

8. List all post-undergraduate employment and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

U.S. Coast Guard Commissioned Officer (1989-Present)

See attached resume for list of all managerial/non-managerial jobs.

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

My official Coast Guard biography & resume is attached.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last five years.

None.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last five years.

Limited Partner in McPherson Family Limited Partnership, Bradley Beach, NJ – two rental properties

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religious organization, private club, or other membership organization. Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. *Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.*

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, Member (1989)

U.S. American Legion, Member (2000)

U.S. Naval Institute, Member (2000)

UNC-CH Alumni Association, Member (2000)

Military Officers Association, Member (2010)

U.S. Naval War College Alumni Association, Member (2009)

National Naval Officers Association, Member (2009)

USCG Puget Sound Officers Association, Member (2015)

National Capital Region Coast Guard Cutterman's Association (2019)

None of these organizations restricts membership based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No.

14. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years. Also list all offices you have held with, and services rendered to, a state or national political party or election committee during the same period.

None.

15. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

USCG Permanent Cutterman (1996)

USCG Public Affairs Officer Competency (2000)

USCG JOC Alex Haley Award – Best Public Affairs Officer (2001)

USCG Commandant's Staff Badge (2008)

See my attached official resume for a list of military medals awarded.

16. Please list each book, article, column, or publication you have authored, individually or with others. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

None.

17. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

None.

18. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

The U.S. Coast Guard is a unique instrument of National and Homeland Security, responsible for providing safety, security and stewardship of our vital maritime transportation system and vast waters, with broad law enforcement authorities that span the globe. As a Commissioned Officer with over 30 years of service, I have served at all levels of command both ashore and afloat. I served as the Commanding Officer of a multi-mission cutter three times throughout my career leading crews ranging in size from 16 to nearly 200 men and women responsible for carrying out a broad range of Coast Guard missions at home and abroad. I also have leadership experience assigned to both Department of Defense and Department of Homeland security-led joint/interagency commands and task forces in support of national contingency operations, including the 9/11 terror attacks on the homeland and hurricane Katrina. I led nearly 4,000 Coast Guard Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian and Auxiliary members within the four-state region of the Pacific Northwest as the Thirteenth District Chief of Staff. More recently, I serve as the Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security. In each of those challenging assignments throughout my career, I provided strategic leadership and guidance, operational direction and administrative oversight of Coast Guard forces in order to accomplish the mission in the most effective and efficient manner possible while addressing the needs of our workforce. As a member of the Coast Guard senior leadership team, if confirmed, I look forward to using my training, experience and knowledge to develop and implement innovative, cost-effective solutions to the challenges we face in ensuring the Coast Guard remains Ready, Relevant and Responsive to the needs of the public.

19. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

I believe my responsibilities, if confirmed, are to ensure that the Coast Guard exercises its authorities for proper management and accounting controls in accordance with the law and intent of Congress. As a member of the Coast Guard's senior leadership team, I will do my very best to ensure Coast Guard policies and programs conform with the rules and regulations of the Department of Homeland Security in accordance with Federal law. I will also seek expert advice and counsel in pursuing opportunities to reduce cost and minimize waste. I will hold myself and others accountable for adhering to the principles of responsible stewardship of the taxpayer dollars while achieving the best return on investment. I will also support and encourage technical innovation where appropriate to enhance efficiency. As the Chief of Staff of the Thirteenth District, I was responsible for managing a 4,000-member workforce responsible for executing a broad range of Coast Guard missions across a four-state region. I was responsible for managing \$22M in operating funds and \$700M in shore infrastructure. As the Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security, I have strived to provide my best military advice consistent with applicable laws and regulations while pursuing the homeland security interests of the nation. I consider it a personal responsibility and professional duty to ensure each and every resource afforded the Coast Guard is employed and expended responsibly in the best interest of the American taxpayer.

20. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

The top three challenges facing the Coast Guard today include: (1) maintaining our *Readiness*; (2) sustaining our *Relevance*; and (3) enhancing our *Responsiveness*. We must invest wisely in the Coast Guard to continue to modernize our obsolete fleet of ships and aircraft while recapitalizing our aging shore infrastructure in order to meet the growing needs of our Nation for securing our maritime borders, enhancing marine safety, protecting the marine environment, facilitating lawful trade and commerce, responding to natural disasters and addressing National security threats. We also need to invest wisely in our workforce to ensure our Coast Guard can recruit and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce (Active Duty, Reserve and Civilians) that represents the American public we serve. The Coast Guard will also be challenged to effectively acquire and employ big data and artificial intelligence (AI) systems needed to be competitive and meet mission in an increasingly complex, interconnected world.

I will focus my efforts as a member of the senior leadership team on training, equipping and supporting our men and women so they will remain Semper Paratus – Always Ready – to meet mission. The Coast Guard must understand and be responsive to the needs of our many stakeholders as well if it is to remain relevant in the future. This will be essential as resources continue to be strained as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the demand for Coast Guard services continues to grow and evolve as we confront potential threats posed by near-peer competitors.

The Coast Guard will retain and build trust and confidence amongst our many maritime and public stakeholders by pursuing a collaborative approach to solving our most challenging problems through a robust network of interagency, international, state, local, tribal and private industry partners. Finally, the Coast Guard ethos is inextricably linked to our bias for action. The Coast Guard's ability to save lives, enforce our laws, facilitate commerce, respond to disasters and safeguard our ports and waterways is a hallmark of our success. It is our purpose for being and is why we have a Coast Guard. As a member of the senior leadership team, this will be my highest priority.

A *Ready, Relevant* and *Responsive* Coast Guard is essential to being able to serve and protect the American people and our national interests while serving as a responsible steward of America's resources. As a member of the Coast Guard Flag Officer corps, if confirmed, I will make it my personal duty and responsibility to lead with integrity and purpose.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

Please see my nominee Public Financial Disclosure Report.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

None.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

None.

5. Describe any activity during the past ten years in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

None.

6. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics by, or been the subject of a complaint to any court, administrative agency, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain.

No.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Have you or any business of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

Yes. I was the plaintiff in legal action against the State of Virginia in 2012 seeking In-State tuition status for my dependent son attending Virginia Technical Polytechnic Institute (VaTech). The State of VA ultimately granted In-State tuition status before the matter was adjudicated in State court.

I also pursued legal action in Leesburg, VA (Loudoun County) in 2016 against a tenant who failed to pay rent in accordance with a legal rental agreement. Ultimately, the tenant was evicted from the property by the court for failing to meet the obligations of the lease along with the conditions agreed to by both parties as a result of court-ordered mediation. There were no allegations or complaints against me or my property manager by the tenant. The matter was fully resolved, and I sold the property in April 2017.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No.

6. If you ever served as a general court-martial convening authority involving an offense involving sexual misconduct or assault, have you ever disapproved the findings of a court-martial related to the offense(s) or reduced the sentence adjudged by a court-martial, other than in connection with a pre-trial agreement?

No.

7. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

I have no other information to report.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees?

Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?


Yes.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

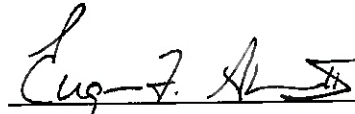
Yes.

F. Affidavit

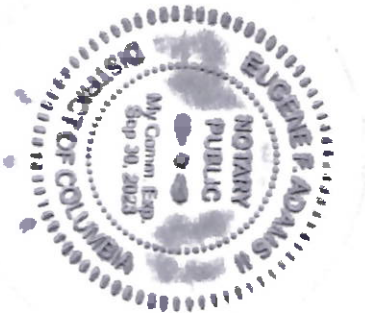
Brendan C. McPherson being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.


Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 14th day of October, 2020.


Notary Public

Eugene F. Adams II
Notary Public, District of Columbia
My Commission Expires 9/30/2023





Rear Admiral Brendan C. McPherson
Military Advisor to the Secretary
U. S. Department of Homeland Security



Rear Admiral McPherson assumed the duties of the Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security in June 2019. His primary responsibility is to provide counsel to the Secretary regarding policies, plans, and other affairs between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense.

Rear Admiral McPherson has more than 30 years of service including nearly 12 years cumulative sea time aboard six cutters, including Commanding Officer of cutters MIDGETT, VIGOROUS and BARANOF. Staff assignments included Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard Thirteenth District headquartered in Seattle, Chief of the Response Division (DR) and Chief of the Enforcement Branch (DRE) for the Coast Guard Seventh District in Miami, Press Assistant to the Commandant of the Coast Guard in Washington, D.C., Chief of Strategic Communications in the Headquarters Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, Public Affairs Officer for the Atlantic Area/Fifth District in Portsmouth, Virginia, and an assignment to the Seventh District Tactical Law Enforcement Team (D7 TACLET) in Miami, Florida.



In addition to his regular duties, Rear Admiral McPherson was assigned to several joint and interagency unified commands in response to national contingency operations. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he was responsible for leading public affairs efforts for all Coast Guard forces within the Atlantic Area and U.S. Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic. In 2002, Rear Admiral McPherson deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (JTF GTMO) Joint Information Center in support of Global War on Terror (GWOT) detention operations there. Rear Admiral McPherson also served as Press Secretary to the Principal Federal Official for disaster response and recovery operations in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita along the Gulf Coast in 2005.

A native of Bradley Beach, New Jersey, Rear Admiral McPherson graduated with Honors from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management. Rear Admiral McPherson earned a Master of Arts degree in Public Relations from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication and holds a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. His personal awards include one Legion of Merit, six Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals (with "O" device), two Coast Guard Commendation Medals (with "O" device), one Navy Commendation Medal, and two Coast Guard Achievement Medals.

RDML Brendan C. McPherson
YG 1989 (DOR JUL 2019)

Current Assignment

Military Advisor to the Secretary, DHS – Jul 2019

Assignment History

Jun 16 – Jul 19	CGDTHIRTEEN, Chief of Staff, CAPT
Jul 14 – Jun 16	CGC MIDGETT, Commanding Officer, CAPT
Jul 13 – Jul 14	CGDSEVEN, Chief of Response (DR), CAPT
Jul 11 – Jul 13	CGDSEVEN, Chief of Enforcement (DRE), CAPT
Jul 09 – Jul 11	CGC VIGOROUS, Commanding Officer, CAPT
Aug 08 – Jul 09	U.S. Naval War College, M.A. Strategic (Honors), CDR
May 06 – Aug 08	HQ G-C, Press Assistant to the Commandant, CDR
Aug 05 – May 06	HQ G-I-1, Strategic Comms, Govt & Public Affairs, LCDR
Jul 03 – Aug 05	CGC BEAR, Executive Officer, LCDR
Jun 00 – Jul 03	CGLANT/CGDFIVE, Public Affairs Officer, LCDR
Jul 98 – Jun 00	Univ. North Carolina, M.A. Mass Comms (Honors), LCDR
Jul 93 – Jun 96	CGDSEVEN TACLET, Executive Officer, LT
Jun 96 – Jul 98	CGC BARANOF, Commanding Officer, LT
Jul 91 – Jul 93	CGC NANTUCKET, Executive Officer, LTJG
Jun 89 – Jun 91	CGC DAUNTLESS, Deck Watch Officer, ENS

Educational Summary

2015 CNO Strategic Studies Group (First Alt)
2009 U.S. Naval War College, MA in National Security & Strategic Studies (Honors)
2000 Univ of North Carolina Chapel Hill, MA in Mass Communications - PR (Honors)
1989 USCGA, BS in Management, 3.5 Cumulative GPA (Honors)

Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement

CG LOM, CG MSM (6), CG COM (2), Navy COM, CG ACH (2), CG LOC
2014, HSTF-SE, Miami FL (Ops Sec Chief)
2006, Capitol Hill Workshop
2005, Hurricane Katrina, Press Secretary to the PFO
2002, JTF-160 Guantanamo Bay – Detention Ops Joint Info Center (JIC)
2001, JOC Alex Haley Award – Best Public Affairs Office

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

SOPA, CG Fleet (2015-16)
2008, Commandant's Staff Badge
2003, Tactical Action Officer Qualification
2000, Public Affairs Officer Competency
1996, Permanent Cutterman Pin
1989, Deck Watch Officer Qualification
Member, U.S. American Legion
Member, U.S. Naval Institute (USNI)
Member, Military Officers Association (MOA)
Member, USCGA Alumni Association
Member, Univ North Carolina Alumni Association
Member, National Naval Officers Association (NNOA)