

## Gina Ortiz Jones

27th Under Secretary of the Air Force; Barrier-Breaking Public Servant and Military Leader

With an unwavering commitment to public service, The Honorable Gina Ortiz Jones has continually pushed boundaries, shattered glass ceilings, and left an enduring impact in the realm of national security, politics, and beyond. She has held several high-ranking titles throughout her career, including becoming the first woman of color and first out lesbian to serve as the under secretary of a military department when she was appointed by President Joe Biden as the 27th Under Secretary of the Air Force in July 2021. Unanimously confirmed by the Senate, the appointment made her the second-highest ranking civilian in the Department of the Air Force, which includes the Air Force and the Space Force. She is a name synonymous with trailblazing leadership and an unyielding commitment to creating positive change.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Jones possesses a remarkable level of expertise in various topic areas that matter most to organizations across industries. From the relationship between national and economic security to foreign policy and international affairs, Jones analyzes the current and future trends in these areas, as well as the projected impact on organizations and industries, and how leaders can adapt their teams for what's coming. She also reflects upon her own extraordinary journey of coming from humble beginnings to becoming an influential public servant to discuss the qualities that make people want to follow you as a leader; highlight why diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are the foundation for establishing a strong culture; and drive audience members to positive action.

Jones' appointment as the 27th Under Secretary of the Air Force was all the more historic considering she, herself an Air Force veteran, served under the now repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. As Under Secretary, she was responsible for the welfare of approximately 700,000 servicepeople and led strategic planning for the department's \$180 billion annual budget to invest in and transition to the next-generation capabilities for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. She is credited with driving some of the most progressive personnel policy approaches in the Department of Defense aimed at addressing inequities and improving recruiting, readiness, and retention.

Beyond her distinguished career dedicated to protecting U.S. and economic security, the Honorable Gina Ortiz Jones is a widely acknowledged changemaker who is an advocate and inspirational voice to people from all walks of life. A proud first-generation American, her story of being raised by a single mother in subsidized housing and going on to write her name in history is one that resonates with groups and empowers them to make an impact in their own way.