

**Chairman Thad Cochran Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense**

**Hearing to review to Review the FY2017 Budget Request & Budget Justification
for the Missile Defense Agency**

April 20, 2016

(As prepared for delivery)

The hearing will come to order. We welcome our panel of witnesses today to a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request for Defense Innovation and Research. We are specifically pleased to welcome:

- Mr. Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics;
- Mr. Stephen Welby, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Development, Research and Engineering; and
- Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Today, we look forward to learning more about the science and technology investments proposed in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

This subcommittee has been a strong advocate of science and technology investments and has ensured funding to make certain our nation can maintain its role as the world's leader in technology and innovation. We want to continue to receive input from experts at the Department of Defense so they can inform Committee action as we do our work.

We appreciate your joining us today to testify as our committee continues to evaluate the budget request.

Now I will turn to the Vice Chairman, Senator Durbin, for his opening remarks.

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