

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

**Hearing to Review Defense Innovation and Research Funding**

**May 3, 2017**

*(As prepared for delivery)*

Good morning, the subcommittee will please come to order. Today we will receive testimony on Defense Innovation and Research.

We are pleased to welcome:

- Mr. Robert Work, Deputy Secretary of Defense;
- Dr. Will Roper, Director Strategic Capabilities Office; and
- Dr. Steve Walker, Acting Director of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

The Department has recently led technology innovation in many areas, such as swarming mini-drones, high performance computers, hypersonic weapons, and the development of the world's first cyber hacking robot.

We look forward to your testimony, and commend you for your efforts to strengthen and expand innovation and research so that our nation is well-positioned for emerging threats to our security.

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