

**Chairman Richard Shelby Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense**

Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Defense

May 9, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

The Subcommittee will come to order. I am pleased to welcome our distinguished panel to review the fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Department of Defense.

Today the committee will hear from: The Honorable James Mattis, Secretary of Defense, and General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It is an honor to have you both back before the Subcommittee this morning, and we look forward to hearing more about your priorities.

The world is a complex and dangerous place, and as we consider the appropriate funding level for the Department in 2019, we remain interested in the Department's work to restore military readiness, and improve our national security.

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

###