

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

Hearing to Review the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps

May 24, 2017

(As prepared for delivery)

Good morning, the subcommittee will come to order. Today we are receiving testimony on the fiscal year 2018 Navy and Marine Corps budget request. We are pleased to welcome:

- The Honorable Sean J. Stackley, Acting Secretary of the Navy;
- Admiral John M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations; and
- General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

For fiscal year 2018, the President's budget requests \$171.5 billion in base funding to support the Navy and Marine Corps. The request is \$12 billion more than the current funding level. The request also includes \$8.5 billion to support on-going Overseas Contingency Operations. These funds will support the training and operations of Sailors and Marines throughout the world.

We appreciate the complexity of building the fiscal year 2018 budget and the tradeoffs necessary to ensure sufficient readiness and investments needed to position for emerging threats to our security.

We look forward to your testimony, and sincerely appreciate your service to our Nation, as well as the dedication and sacrifices made daily by all the men and women under your command.

Your full statements will be included in the record.

Now I will turn to the Vice Chairman, the distinguished Senator from Illinois, for his opening remarks.

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