

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

**Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for the U.S. Army**

**May 15, 2018**

*(As prepared for delivery)*

Good morning, the Subcommittee will come to order.

I am pleased to welcome Secretary Esper and General Milley to the committee for an update on Army operations and a review of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget request.

The Army is seeking \$182.1 billion in its current request, which is an increase of about \$5 billion over amounts appropriated for Fiscal Year 2018. With this budget request, the Army will continue to build readiness and counter threats posed by near-peer competitors while modernizing in order to face future threats.

We acknowledge the challenging assignment you face to source an increasing demand for forces today while also modernizing to compete with more technically capable adversaries.

Gentlemen, we appreciate your service and look forward to working with you during the appropriations process to meet the needs of the Army in today's complex strategic environment.

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

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