

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

**Hearing to Review the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request
for the U.S. Department of Defense
June 14, 2017**

(As prepared for delivery)

The Subcommittee will please come to order.

I want to begin today by acknowledging the sad incident this morning in Alexandria, Virginia, and to commend the service of the U.S. Capitol Police. Our thoughts are with those who were injured, and hope for their speedy and full recovery.

Today we will receive testimony for the budget request submitted by the Department of Defense to Congress for the 2018 fiscal year. We are pleased to have with us today:

- The Honorable James N. Mattis, Secretary of Defense
- General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

We are very pleased with their attendance and for providing us with our needs to review the budget request. This is their second appearance before the Subcommittee this year. We thank you for your distinguished service and your commitment to the defense and security of our nation.

We look forward to hearing more about the budget request for the Department of Defense. The committee needs to respond to this request in a responsible way to ensure the military is prepared to meet current and future threats.

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