

Statement of Senator Thad Cochran
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense
Hearing on FY 2016 Department of Defense Request
May 6, 2015

Today our Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations reviews the budget request the Department of Defense. We are pleased to welcome:

- Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter; and
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin E. Dempsey, United States Army.

This is our final scheduled hearing on the fiscal year 2016 defense budget request. This Subcommittee recognizes the uncertainty of the current fiscal environment and the impact it has on the Department of Defense and its planning. We also appreciate the complexity of building the fiscal year 2016 budget request and look forward to comments from Secretary Carter and General Dempsey on how we can support our men and women in uniform and our national security interests.

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Ash Carter on his first appearance before the subcommittee in his capacity as Secretary of Defense. Mr. Secretary, we look forward to working with you.

I also want to recognize that this will be General Dempsey's final appearance before the Defense Subcommittee as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Dempsey, you have served with distinction since your valuable insight when your term comes to an end in October.

The Committee also welcomes Mr. Mike McCord, the Under Secretary of Defense and Chief Financial Officer, for the Department. I am confident that Mr. McCord will provide the committee with useful information as the subcommittee formulates the fiscal year 2016 defense budget.

Thank you for appearing before us this morning. Your full statements will be included in the record.

Now I will turn to my friend and the Vice Chairman, Senator Durbin, for his opening remarks.

Thank you.