

Advance Policy Questions for Frederick S. Celec
Nominee for the Position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs

Defense Reforms

The Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 and the Special Operations reforms have strengthened the war fighting readiness of our Armed Forces. They have enhanced civilian control and the chain of command by clearly delineating the combatant commanders' responsibilities and authorities and the role of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These reforms have also vastly improved cooperation between the services and the combatant commanders, among other things, in joint training and education and in the execution of military operations.

Do you see a need for modifications of any Goldwater-Nichols Act provisions?

At this point I do not. However, if confirmed I will remain sensitive to the goals that Goldwater-Nichols set forth to facilitate jointness in operations, command and control, and acquisition.

If so, what areas do you believe might be appropriate to address in these modifications?

If confirmed I will work with the Secretary, the Chairman, and their staffs to periodically review the implementation policies to insure they remain current and are being implemented.

Duties

What is your understanding of the duties and functions of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs?

The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological defense Programs (ATSD(NCB)) has several key duties and functions. First and foremost is to insure that our nuclear stockpile remains safe, secure, and reliable. If confirmed, I will work with the Service chiefs and responsible Commanders to insure that the high standards of safety and security are maintained. I will work with the Administrator of NNSA to insure that the stockpile remains reliable. The ATSD oversees DTRA and the Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. In addition, the ATSD is responsible for the Chemical Weapons Demilitarization Program, serves as the Executive Director of the Nuclear Weapons Council and treaty management

Do you believe that there are actions you need to take to enhance your ability to perform the duties of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs?

I am aware of several independent studies by organizations like the Defense Science

Board that have made recommendations designed to enhance the ability of the ATSD to meet his responsibilities. If confirmed, I will review these recommendations, and working with the Secretary and the Nuclear Weapons Council, make the appropriate recommendations.

Assuming you are confirmed, what duties and functions do you expect that the Secretary of Defense would prescribe for you?

If confirmed I expect the Secretary to charge me with assisting the Air Force in returning the culture and attention to detail that was the hallmark of that service in maintaining nuclear weapons. In addition, he will expect the ATSD to oversee the CTR and Counterproliferation Programs, the Chemical weapons demilitarization program and the Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

Relationships

If confirmed, how will you work with the following officials in carrying out your duties:

The Secretary of Defense, The Deputy Secretary of Defense, The Under Secretaries of Defense.

If confirmed, I expect to report to USD(AT&L), and through him and the Deputy Secretary, to the Secretary himself. On matters directly affecting my technical responsibilities (safety, security, reliability, etc.), I expect to have direct access to the Secretary if needed.

I expect to work closely with USD(P) to insure our nuclear policies, both home and abroad, are understood and implemented. I expect to work closely with the USD(C) to insure nuclear weapons programs are adequately funded and with PA&E to insure that sufficient follow-on weapons are in the pipeline as current weapons systems approach end of life.

The Service Secretaries

If confirmed, I will work with the Service secretaries to insure that nuclear programs are provided sufficient priority to be funded at a level and in time to maintain safety, security, system reliability, and end of life issues.

The Commanders of the Combatant Commands, particularly U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and U.S. Northern Command

If confirmed, I expect to work closely with each Combat Commander with nuclear responsibilities to insure that he has the systems he needs in the numbers and with the capability he needs to execute his mission.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense

If confirmed I would expect to insure that DTRA programs support ASD(HD) requirements.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity

Conflict and Independent Capabilities

The ASD (SOLIC) and the ATSD both have policy responsibilities for our nations nuclear weapons. If confirmed, I will work closely with ASD(SOLIC) to insure our nuclear policies are consistent, understood by our forces and allies, and are being properly implemented.

The Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency

If confirmed, I expect to have daily contact with the Director DTRA in assisting him in executing his responsibilities in Combat Support, CTR, Counter Proliferation, on-site inspection, R&D, USSTRATCOM Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (SCC WMD) and Chemical and Biological defense programs.

The Secretary of Energy

If confirmed, I would expect to work with the Secretary of Energy through the Administrator of NNSA.

The Administrator and Deputy Administrators of the National Nuclear Security Administration

As partners in the nuclear weapons program, if confirmed, I would expect to work closely and personally with both the Administrator and Deputy Administrator to insure that we have sufficient reliable, safe, and secure weapons to support our Combat Commanders, and that we have the capability to maintain them.

Officials in the Department of Homeland Security with responsibilities for nuclear, chemical, and biological homeland defense matters

DTRA and Homeland Security are partners in a number of areas such as nuclear detection, nuclear forensics, and counterproliferation. DTRA focuses on the DOD mission, which often means overseas, while the DHS focus is more on domestic issues. If confirmed, I will work with both organizations to insure their programs are not duplicated, but mutually supportive, and are funded and prioritized at the required level.

Qualifications

What background and experience do you have that you believe qualifies you for this position?

I spent 39 years in the Federal Service, all in nuclear and chemical weapons. Twenty one of those years were in the USAF where I performed nuclear survivability tests on nuclear delivery systems to include underground nuclear testing. I spent several AF assignments developing the simulation tools needed to be able to check the survivability of those systems without nuclear tests. I developed nuclear weapons requirements and assigned specific weapons to specific targets. I had an assignment to the State Department where I worked both nuclear and Chemical Weapons issues, writing a paper (with others) widely distributed throughout the world by the State Department on Soviet Chemical Warfare in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia. I completed my AF career in OSD Policy working on

NATO nuclear issues.

I then joined the Defense Nuclear Agency (now renamed DTRA) where I became Deputy Director for Operations with oversight responsibilities for nuclear accident response, the CTR Program, and NATO nuclear weapons security. I then joined the ATSD office as the Deputy for Nuclear Matters. I completed my Federal Service as the ATSD Deputy for Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. I then joined The Institute for Defense Analysis as an Adjunct Research Associate working nuclear issues, where I remain today. Thus I have spent 44 years working nuclear and chemical weapons issues.

Major Challenges and Problems

In your view, what are the major challenges that will confront the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs?

There are several. First, restoring the pride, interest, and attention to detail to maintaining AF nuclear weapons in a safe and secure manner. Second, supporting the Congressionally mandated Commission on our Strategic Posture and Secretary Gates Task Force on WMD in order to gain bipartisan support for the future of our nuclear stockpile in National Security. Third, insuring the quick and safe demilitarization of our chemical weapons stockpile. Fourth, continuing and expanding the CTR program beyond the Former Soviet Union to help prevent proliferation. And fifth, strengthen the Nuclear Weapons Council.

Assuming you are confirmed, what plans do you have for addressing these challenges?

To meet the first challenge I intend to focus on meeting with the appropriate AF officials to review the actions they have taken to date, review the DTRA conducted inspection reports to insure the actions are effective and work with the AF wherever necessary to insure the proper focus on nuclear policies and procedures at every level in the command structure. For the second priority, I intend to meet regularly and frequently with members of the two commissions to insure that they are getting useful, timely, and accurate information. For the third priority, I intend to insure that the schedule, funding, and priority within the Department are all consistent and if changes or additions are necessary, to make the appropriate recommendation. For the fourth priority I intend to work with OSD Policy and DTRA to insure that appropriate objectives are defined for CTR support beyond the Former Soviet Union and that funding is available to support those objectives. For the fifth priority I will personally review and insure that information and presentations provided to the NWC are timely and sufficiently informative so as to warrant the members time.

What do you anticipate will be the most serious problems in the performance of the functions of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs?

Gaining bipartisan support for the role of nuclear weapons in our National Security

Strategy and then developing the institutional structure and obtaining the funding to support that role.

If confirmed, what management actions and time lines would you establish to address these problems?

Particular attention to the findings of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States will hopefully begin the process to resolve the issue. Their timelines are established by Congress.

Priorities

If confirmed, what broad priorities would you establish in terms of issues which must be addressed by the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs?

. First, restoring the pride, interest, and attention to detail to maintaining AF nuclear weapons in a safe and secure manner. Second, supporting the Congressionally mandated Commission on our Strategic Posture and Secretary Gates Task Force on WMD in order to gain bipartisan support for the future of our nuclear stockpile in National Security. Third, insuring the quick and safe demilitarization of our chemical weapons stockpile. Fourth, continuing and expanding the CTR program beyond the Former Soviet Union to help prevent proliferation. And fifth, strengthen the Nuclear Weapons Council.

Reporting Chain

Section 142 of title 10 of the U.S. Code requires that the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs “advise the Secretary of Defense on nuclear energy, nuclear weapons, and chemical and biological defense.” The responsibilities for chemical and biological defense were added to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs in 1996. The position was originally created as the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense to ensure direct access to the Secretary of Defense in the event that any matter implicating the safety, security, or reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile needed to be immediately provided to the Secretary.

What is your understanding of to whom you would report, if confirmed, within the Department of Defense, and who would report to you?

If confirmed, I expect to report to USD(AT&L), and through him and the Deputy Secretary, to the Secretary himself.

If confirmed, would you expect to have direct access to the Secretary of Defense for matters pertaining to the safety, security, and reliability of nuclear weapons?

Yes

Nuclear Weapons Council

Section 179 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code designates the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs as the Executive Director of the Nuclear Weapons Council. The chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council is the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Would it be your expectation, if confirmed, to have direct responsibility, authority, direction, and control of all the assets, resources, and personnel needed to fulfill the responsibilities of Executive Director of the Nuclear Weapons Council?

Yes

If confirmed as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, how frequently would you expect the Nuclear Weapons Council to meet and, in your view, would that be sufficient to meet the obligations of the Council?

I would expect to meet as necessary, and as Executive Secretary, it will be my responsibility to insure that the agenda, presentations, and issues for those meetings warrant the time that the members need to devote in order to attend.

If confirmed as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, how would you ensure that the Nuclear Weapons Council carries out its statutorily mandated duties?

If confirmed, I intend to work personally with each of the members to insure that the NWC carries out its statutorily mandated duties.

Are there any changes that you would recommend to the membership, organization, or structure of the Nuclear Weapons Council?

It would be premature to make any such recommendations.

Organizational Structure of the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary

What is your understanding of the organizational structure of the office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs?

My understanding is that there is a Principal Deputy who is also responsible for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Treaty Management, a Nuclear Matters Deputy, a Chemical and Biological Defense Programs and Chem Demil Deputy, and the Director of DTRA, who reports to the ATSD. In addition, there are supporting staff to enable the functions of those deputies.

Do you believe this structure is adequate or would you make any changes if confirmed?

At this time it would be premature to recommend any changes.

Nuclear Weapons and the Stockpile Stewardship Program

Do you believe that there are any technical reasons to resume nuclear weapons testing at the present time or at any foreseeable time in the future?

No

Do you believe that the Stockpile Stewardship Program is capable for the foreseeable future of supporting the nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear weapons testing?

Yes

Do you support the Stockpile Stewardship Program?

Yes

What are your views on the current moratorium on nuclear weapons testing?

I support the moratorium.

What are your views on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty?

The CTBT can be an effective treaty to prevent proliferation. That said, there are serious issues with the treaty that need to be addressed and resolved.

In your view, are there any additional capabilities that the Stockpile Stewardship program should develop?

The production complex is aging considerably and needs attention.

What are your views on the feasibility and certifiability (without nuclear testing) of the Reliable Replacement Warhead?

My understanding is that a cornerstone of the RRW program is that it be developed and certified without the need for testing.

If confirmed, how quickly and under what circumstances would you inform Congress in the event there is ever any problem with any nuclear warhead?

As quickly as possible consistent with National Security requirements

If confirmed, what role, if any, do you anticipate you will plan in reviewing the size and makeup of the nuclear weapons stockpile?

If confirmed, I would expect to be a major voice in recommending to the Secretary and the President the size and makeup of the nuclear weapons stockpile.

Security of the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile

If you are confirmed, what role would you have and do you believe the Nuclear Weapons Council should have in developing, implementing, and overseeing implementation of nuclear security orders and regulations?

Both the ATSD and the NWC have responsibilities to insure that our nuclear weapons are secure. Monitoring security operations and implementation policies, reviewing inspection reports, and insuring sufficient funding for Service security programs are some of those responsibilities.

If confirmed what role would you play in nuclear security and nuclear operational inspections?

If confirmed, I would expect to review all DTRA conducted inspections. I would expect the Service Secretary's to review Service conducted inspections and inform me of any issues that they find. Finally, I would expect the unit commanders to inform me personally, of the results of the Mighty Guardian Force on Force exercises.

Degradation in Nuclear Expertise, Technical Rigor and Compliance with Regulations, Rules, and Orders

Over the course of the last 12 months there have been a number of instances within DOD of inattention, sloppiness, and intentional disregard for nuclear rules, orders and regulations. The reviews that have been conducted as a result of these incidents have identified degradation in the attention to nuclear matters as one of the root causes of the many incidents.

If confirmed, what role would you anticipate you would play and the Nuclear Weapons Council would play in restoring discipline and credibility in the nuclear enterprise within the Department of Defense and Military Services?

Since the end of the Cold War the role of nuclear weapons in our National Security Strategy has not been clearly defined. Absent that clearly defined role, the AF in particular, allowed itself to lose focus on the policies, procedures, and attention to detail demanded of the stewards of nuclear weapons. The Congress has recognized this problem and has established the Strategic Posture Commission and challenged it to define the role of nuclear weapons in our post Cold War National Security Strategy. The Commission's findings will hopefully lead to bipartisan support for the way ahead. If confirmed, I expect to support the Commission with regular briefings and meetings with the Commission and individual members to insure that they have the most complete and credible information available to prepare their report.

Implementation of the Admiral Donald Report

If confirmed, what role, if any, would you expect to play in implementing corrective

actions recommended by Admiral Donald in his recently submitted report on the security of nuclear weapons in the Air Force?

I have not seen the Admiral Donald Report, and it would not be appropriate to comment on it.

Strategic Commission

The Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States was established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. If confirmed, would you fully cooperate with and support the work of the Commission in preparing its report?

Yes

Chemical and Biological Defense Program

Section 142 of Title 10, U.S. Code, states that the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs shall advise the Secretary of Defense on chemical and biological defense, as well as on nuclear matters. Your background is primarily in nuclear technology and related issues.

If confirmed, how would you plan to become familiar with the issues and technology associated with chemical and biological defense matters?

While I have some familiarity with chemical and biological defense matters having served for a short period of time as the Deputy ATSD for Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, I will certainly become much more familiar with the current program through briefings from the DATSD, the Director of DTRA, the Director of the JPEO for Chemical Biological Defense, and actual visits to many of the program sites.

Vaccine Development and Acquisition

What role would you expect to play, if confirmed, in ensuring that vaccines needed to ensure medical treatment and protection of deployed US. Service members are developed and acquired?

If confirmed I would expect to work closely with the ASD for Health Affairs to ensure medical treatment and protection of deployed US. Service members are developed and acquired.

What are the urgent vaccine needs for U.S. forces?

My understanding is that the anthrax is the most urgent.

Chemical and Biological Defense Matters

If you are confirmed, what do you expect your roles and responsibilities would be with respect to chemical and biological defense matters?

The ATSD is the principal staff advisor to the Secretary on Chemical and Biological Defense matters. The ATSD is responsible for oversight, coordination, and integration of the joint Chemical and Biological Defense Program. If confirmed, I would expect to work closely with the Services, JPEO, and DTRA to meet those responsibilities.

If confirmed, would you review the chemical and biological defense program and make any needed recommendations to Congress for improving the program?

Yes

What are your general priorities with respect to the Chemical and Biological Defense Program?

The general priorities for the Chemical and Biological Defense Program are: contamination avoidance, protection, and restoration.

Interaction with other Federal Agencies on Chemical and Biological Matters

The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services play important roles in planning and implementing U.S. policy and programs for protecting the United States against biological and chemical threats, including the development and stockpiling of vaccines and therapeutic products.

If confirmed, how would you work with these agencies to ensure the effective coordination and collaboration of efforts to improve U.S. security against chemical and biological threats?

If confirmed I would work with each of these Agencies to insure that programs are mutually supportive, avoid duplication, and share results.

Chemical Demilitarization Issues

Since 2001, responsibility and oversight for the chemical demilitarization program within the Department of Defense have been under the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

If confirmed, would responsibility for and oversight of the chemical demilitarization program remain within your office?

Yes

The United States is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and is obligated to destroy its chemical weapons stockpile by no later than the extended deadline of April 2012.

Do you agree that the United States should take all necessary steps to meet its obligations under the CWC?

Consistent with safety and security, Yes.

If confirmed, what actions would you take to ensure adequate funding is requested to permit the most expeditious destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile, consistent with the legal requirement to protect public health, safety, and the environment?

If confirmed I will review the current program to insure that priorities, funding, and operations are consistent within the program. If additional funding is needed, I will ensure that it is requested.

On April 10, 2006, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld notified Congress that the United States would not meet the extended deadline under the CWC for destruction of the United States chemical weapons stockpile, but would “continue working diligently to minimize the time to complete destruction without sacrificing safety and security,” and would also “continue requesting resources needed to complete destruction as close to April 2012 as practicable.”

If confirmed, what actions would you take to ensure the full implementation of those commitments?

If confirmed, I will review the program against those commitments and make any necessary changes or recommendations needed to ensure full implementation.

What is your understanding of the timeline for the destruction that the Department expects to meet under the current projections and the currently planned expenditures for this program?

I am not familiar with the current details of the program in terms of schedule and funding, so it would not be appropriate for me to comment.

Consequence Management of CBRNE Incidents

The Department of Defense has the mission of providing support to civil authorities for consequence management of domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incidents, if requested. Since 2002, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and the Commander of U.S. Northern Command have had responsibilities for planning and executing that mission.

If confirmed, how would you expect to work with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and the Commander of U.S. Northern Command on issues related to the Department’s capabilities to provide support to civil authorities for CBRNE consequence management, as well their homeland defense missions related to nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons or materials?

DTRA has a number of programs designed to provide CBRNE responders world wide

with equipment, training, command and control support, logistical planning, and technical support. If confirmed I will insure that the DTRA program is responsive to the needs of ASD (HD) and CONCOM.

The Department of Homeland Security is the lead federal agency for planning, coordinating, and implementing consequence management of CBRNE incidents in the United States, in conjunction with the States and territories.

If confirmed, what relationship would you expect to have with the Department of Homeland Security and its component entities?

If confirmed I would expect to oversee the coordination of DTRA programs with DHS for planning, coordinating, and implementing consequence management of CBRNE incidents.

What do you believe is the appropriate role for the Department of Defense in providing support to civil authorities for CBRNE consequence management?

A CBRNE event would constitute a national emergency. DOD's role should be to provide whatever support and assets that the President requested in order to save lives, minimize damage, and facilitate recovery.

What are your views on the adequacy of the numbers of weapons of mass destruction-civil support teams, and do you believe that the training and equipping of these teams is appropriate?

I am not aware of the details, and so it would not be appropriate for me to comment.

Cooperative Threat Reduction Programs (Nunn-Lugar Programs)

Do you support the Cooperative Threat Reduction Programs?

Yes

If confirmed, would you support joint research programs between Russia and the United States in the areas of chemical or biological weapons defense?

Yes

What is your understanding as to your responsibilities with respect to the Cooperative Threat Reduction programs?

The ATSD has oversight responsibility for the implementation of the CTR program.

Congressional Oversight

In order to exercise its legislative and oversight responsibilities, it is important that this Committee and other appropriate committees of the Congress are able to receive testimony, briefings, and other communications of information.

Do you agree, if confirmed for this high position, to appear before this Committee and other appropriate committees of the Congress?

Yes

Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear before this Committee, or designated members of this Committee, and provide information, subject to appropriate and necessary security protection, with respect to your responsibilities as the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs?

Yes

Do you agree to ensure that testimony, briefings and other communications of information are provided to this Committee and its staff and other appropriate Committees?

Yes

Do you agree to provide documents, including copies of electronic forms of communication, in a timely manner when requested by a duly constituted Committee, or to consult with the Committee regarding the basis for any good faith delay or denial in providing such documents?

Yes