

Robert Daigle
Senate Armed Services Committee - Nomination Hearing
Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation
Opening Statement

Thank you. Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination to be the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, or CAPE. It is truly an honor to appear here before you.

I am grateful that President Trump had the confidence to nominate me for this position, and I thank Secretary Mattis for his support.

First, please allow me to introduce my wife and 2 boys, who are with me today. You should know that we are a defense family – my wife Veronica recently left CAPE, my oldest son Mitchell interned with the House Armed Services Committee last summer, and my son Justin wants to build either military robots or satellites – he just hasn't decided which.

CAPE is truly an exceptional organization. It plays a crucial role in providing independent cost and schedule estimates that improve the performance of the defense acquisition system. It objectively analyzes defense programs; its analyses allow the Secretary of Defense to make informed decisions. It also uses these cost and program analyses, in collaboration with its Comptroller partners, to develop alternative investment strategies for the Department's Future Year's Defense Program. But, most important, CAPE comprises a team of highly talented, experienced, and dedicated professionals that make the organization exceptional. If confirmed, it would be my honor to lead such an organization.

I have a decade of experience analyzing defense programs - as the lead for acquisition policy on the House Armed Services Committee, as the Executive Director of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, and as a member of the CAPE team. If confirmed, I would leverage these experiences to help rebuild the capacity and capability of our Armed Forces. The Budget Control Act, whose sequestration constraints must be eliminated, has weakened our military at a time when threats to our national security all across the

globe are rising. Concurrently, additional reforms must be pursued so that available resources are used to maximize the lethality of our Armed Forces. If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to assume the responsibilities of this position and support the Secretary of Defense in these efforts.

Thank you again, and I look forward to answering your questions.