

Kevin M. Fahey
Senate Armed Service Committee
Confirmation Hearing-Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of this committee for the opportunity to appear before you today and for consideration of my nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition.

I start by thanking President Trump, Secretary Mattis and Under Secretary Lord for their confidence in me and their support for my nomination. It is truly humbling and an honor to be considered for this critical position in a time when Defense acquisition needs to be effective, efficient and responsive to give our Military what they need and deserve to do their job protecting our freedom. I accepted the offer to be nominated because I believe the conditions are set to really make a difference because of the support of congress, the direction of this committee, and the leadership in the Pentagon.

On a personal note I would like to thank my parents who no question are looking down on me from heaven today, it was my father who, as a career DoD civil servant at Watertown Arsenal in Massachusetts, instilled in me what it means to be a civil servant and influenced my decision to make it a career. I would also like to thank Judy, my wife of over 35 years, who is sitting right behind me for her continued love and support. She knows that if I am confirmed, she will once again see very little of me, but also knows that my passion is supporting our military. In my opinion, there is no more rewarding profession. I would like to thank my two sons; Mackenzie a PHD student at Indiana University, and Keegan, an undergraduate student at Georgia Southern University, for their continuous love and support. Lastly, I want thank Mackenzie and Erin for giving me my fist grandson Declan Fahey last November, helping to remind us all that we need to keep this country safe for generations to come.

If confirmed, I will work closely with this committee on innovative ways to continue to improve Defense acquisition. I believe the actions of congress over the last several years have set the conditions for success, in addition to the tremendous leadership of Secretary Mattis and Under Secretary Lord. I believe my background of 34 years as a civil servant and the last two years consulting with industries, both large and small, will serve me well if confirmed for this position. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts as an engineer and was an Army intern many years ago with my first job being a quality engineer at Watervliet Arsenal, in NY, which is part of the Departments organic base. Then moved to Picatinny Arsenal, NY and worked there for 17 years, where I had several jobs; systems engineer, chief engineer for a major program, deputy PM, technical director of an R&D center and lastly Deputy Program Executive Officer Ammunition before moving to Detroit Arsenal, MI, where I was Program Executive Officer Ground Combat Systems for about 5 years, and Program Executive Officer Combat

Support/Combat Service Support for 5 years. During the time as a Deputy PEO and two time PEO, we were at war, so I effectively learned to field capabilities quickly, having a big role on critical rapid acquisitions like Stryker and Mine Resistant Ambush Protection (MRAP) programs in addition to continuous improvements of our combat and tactical vehicle fleets. I finished my career in the Pentagon as the Army's Chief Systems Engineer, working directly for the Army Acquisition Authority (AAE) and very active in cross portfolio analysis and better buying power initiatives. Being in the Pentagon, I realized that in many instances people writing policies on how to do business have never actually been in an executing organization or it has been so long they forgot what it takes to execute all the written policy. I believe my experience of actually having to execute programs, at every level, will allow me to work well across the acquisition community to improve acquisition execution. Over the last couple of years, I have been consulting with industry, helping them understand what the Government is asking for so they could be responsive to the Government's needs. This emphasized to me the importance of good communications, collaboration and transparency with industry.

I would like to thank this committee for its consideration of my nomination and look forward to answering your questions