

## **Statement of Michael D. Griffin**

Nominee to be Undersecretary of Defense, Research and Engineering  
Senate Armed Services Committee Confirmation Hearing  
Tuesday, 18 January 2018

Mr. Chairman, Senator Reed, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity and the privilege to appear before you today. I am honored to appear as the nominee for the position of Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Mattis for their confidence in me, and this committee for their consideration of that nomination.

The superiority of U.S. military power, and therefore our ability to deter our adversaries and protect our interests, is critically dependent upon our ability to build and maintain a significant technical edge in key domains that enable U.S. power projection and with that, the effective defense of U.S. assets, interests and allies.

The global proliferation of technology and the vulnerabilities of an open society to asymmetric threats demand that we reassert our technological leadership. Our adversaries are leveraging nearly universal access to technology and exploiting our own scientific and technological advances to threaten our deployed forces, our allies, and the national and economic security of our nation.

We possess the finest technical development capabilities in the world in our national labs, the defense and commercial industrial base, and our academic institutions. The Defense Department represents over 50% of U.S. government expenditures in RDT&E, and is the world's largest employer of scientific and engineering talent. We can and must provide the leadership to focus these critical national resources to foster strategic advances in technology and, above all, the rapid incorporation of those technologies into new military capabilities.

The defense of our nation requires new and aggressive investment in and accelerated development of autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and machine learning, space protection and defense, electronic warfare, hypersonics, advanced computing, strategic weapons, and nuclear command and control. These capabilities are also desired by our adversaries, who seek to exploit our own research and engineering achievements to threaten our interests. Restoring our supremacy in these and other critical areas requires focused leadership and cooperative effort on the part of key stakeholders across the government, industry, academia and our allies.

I want to thank this committee for its ongoing acquisition reform efforts, and for refocusing the Department on regaining our technological edge. The United States established and maintained its dominance in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century through technical advances including GPS, ARPANet, stealth technology, and precision guided weapons, developed under the leadership of the Director of Defense Research & Engineering. The establishment of the new USD(R&E) position offers the

Department and the nation a unique and much needed opportunity to marshal our resources for critical modernization efforts and restoration of our technological edge. If confirmed as the USD(R&E), I intend to ensure that we are fully leveraging the intellectual, economic and innovative capabilities of our people and the nation to deliver the world's most advanced systems to support our warfighters, and to do it with the speed and responsiveness that once astonished the world.

If confirmed, I will work with the members of this committee to sustain and expand U.S. technological superiority in defense of our nation. Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, I thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to answering your questions.