

Kenneth P. Rapuano
Opening Statement
Senate Armed Services Committee
May 18, 2017

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed. Thank you very much for the privilege of appearing before you in the committee today.

I'd like to start by thanking my family. First of all, my wife, Dixie – who has been my best friend and partner -- and our four kids, all here today: Taylor – who is currently studying to be a social worker; Scott – an infantry platoon leader with the 3rd Infantry Division, with his wife Katie, our brand new daughter in-law; Claire – who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from JMU last week, and is leaving soon for 2 years of service in Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer; and Will, who will be a third year at UVA this fall – and aspires to be a captain of industry ... some day. Dixie and I are extremely proud of our kids – raising them has been the most important and rewarding role of our lives.

I'd also like to thank my parents, Al and Cathie, If it wasn't for their love, hard work, and perseverance, I'm quite certain I would not be here today.

Mr. Chairman, I have been working national security issues my entire career, and I believe that the threats we face today are as complex and unpredictable as any time in our history. The U.S. Homeland is no longer a sanctuary. The growing sophistication and proliferation of threats, such as cyber, space, ballistic and cruise missiles, CBRN materials, endemic diseases, and unmanned technologies, combined with the growing number of nations and non-state actors with access to them, continue to increase risk to the Homeland & mission assurance. I see no more important role in national security than serving as Assistant Secretary of Defense for HD and Global Security, and focusing, in particular, on homeland defense and ensuring the continuing ability to defend our country.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and your staffs, and I look forward to your questions today.

Thank you very much.