

**STATEMENT OF DAVID J. TRACHTENBERG  
NOMINEE TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
FOR POLICY  
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed, and members of the committee for your consideration of my nomination to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. I am humbled to appear before you today. I also greatly appreciate the kind words of Sen. Blunt in his introductory statement submitted for the record on my behalf.

I wish to thank President Trump and Secretary Mattis for their confidence in me and their support for my nomination. And of course, I owe an immense debt of gratitude to my family, who unfortunately are not here today – my wife Stephanie and my children Kara and Ryan; and my parents Doris and Sam and sister Anita, who were unable to travel from Arizona. Their love and support has been unconditional, and they have been my greatest inspiration.

It is an honor and a privilege to be considered for this important position. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the rest of the Department of Defense team to support Secretary Mattis in implementing the President's plan to rebuild our military and to ensure the safety and security of the American people.

As a former staffer with the House Armed Services Committee, I appreciate the role Congress plays in shaping national security policy. I believe my prior experience as a Hill staffer and as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, along with my work on policy issues in the private sector, have prepared me for the challenges of the position for which I have been nominated.

In my previous Pentagon job, I worked on issues that now span the spectrum of challenges OSD Policy confronts today, including Russia, NATO, nuclear and missile defense policy, and nonproliferation. My time on Capitol Hill also focused me on counter-terrorism, stability operations, and export controls. In the private sector, I supported the Department's efforts to develop non-lethal capabilities that have been used to great effect by our special operations forces. And as an academic, I taught graduate classes in deterrence strategy and arms control – issues that I will have responsibility for if confirmed.

Today we face no shortage of challenges. Russia has invaded a neighbor whose territorial integrity it pledged to respect, violated its arms treaty commitments, and threatened NATO allies with nuclear attack. China is expanding its military capabilities and becoming increasingly assertive. North Korea seeks to hold our homeland at risk. And Iran continues to destabilize the Middle East. Terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and cyber warfare also characterize today's environment.

If confirmed, I will work with the Joint Staff and the rest of the DoD team to help Secretary Mattis develop the policies, strategies, and planning guidance that will allow the Department to successfully meet these challenges by deterring our adversaries, assuring our allies, and strengthening our strategic partnerships.

Many challenges require a whole-of-government approach, where the prudent application of both hard and soft power will be necessary and where the Department of Defense will often play a supporting role. Diplomacy and military power go hand-in-hand, with the latter helping to enable the former. If confirmed, I expect to work closely with my interagency counterparts to help synchronize our DoD efforts with U.S. foreign policy objectives.

When I previously served in the Department just after the tragic events of 9/11, I came to appreciate the professionalism of the action officers and civil servants, whose commitment to the nation's security was exemplary. This was a difficult time for the thousands of Pentagon employees who came to work in a building where 125 of their colleagues had been lost and which still smelled of jet fuel. The resilience they exhibited throughout this stressful period is why I would be honored to serve again and why I am here before you today.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the men and women who have served, and who continue to serve our nation in uniform today. Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are enormous and I cannot thank them enough.

Finally, I pledge to you that should I be confirmed, I will be open to hearing your thoughts and to working with you for the benefit of the Department, our men and women in uniform, and the American people.

Thank you again and I look forward to your questions.