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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF  
MR. GORDON R. ENGLAND  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
73<sup>RD</sup> SECRETARY OF THE NAVY CONFIRMATION  
23 SEPTEMBER 2003

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, it is a privilege and an honor to appear before you to again seek confirmation as Secretary of the Navy. I am once again humbled by the level of trust and confidence that President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld have placed in me, to return to my previous position of service to our Sailors and Marines and to our Nation. My earlier commitment to you to maintain the strongest and most combat-capable naval force in the world remains undiminished. My thanks to this Committee for your continued strong support of the Naval service and for all of our military. I also want to thank the Honorable H. T. Johnson for his leadership and personal commitment to Naval excellence during his tenure as Acting Secretary of the Navy.

It has been a unique privilege and an honor to serve Secretary Tom Ridge as his Deputy in the Department of Homeland Security. Under his leadership, our Nation daily grows stronger in securing our borders, protecting our travelers, enhancing our intelligence, protecting our critical infrastructure and responding to catastrophic events. The Department has come a long way in a short time.

I appreciate the opportunity provided to me by President Bush and Secretary Ridge to have been part of this important and historic mission.

In May of 2001, I first appeared before you to address your questions related to my nomination as the 72<sup>nd</sup> Secretary of the Navy. Much has changed since that hearing. Today, we face a threat to the very foundations of our country – liberty and freedom – justice and law – unlike any fight we have ever encountered. 9/11 was the confirmation of these dramatic new threats to America. For the first time in the history of mankind,

small numbers of people can wreak untold havoc in our cities and against our citizens ... against our economy ... and against freedom-loving people around the world. The past is no longer prologue to the future.

In this new environment with new threats to America, Secretary Rumsfeld's commitment to transformation is ever more critical ... and the Naval Services stand with him in this mission. This Naval transformation is embedded in the four core initiatives that have underpinned the leadership focus for the past two years; namely, (1) improving combat capability, (2) achieving a quality workplace and enhanced quality of life for Sailors and Marines in order to create an environment of excellence, (3) improved application of technology and interoperability, and (4) more effective management techniques to systemically improve the efficiency of the Department of the Navy.

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom have validated the importance of inter-service cooperation and fluidity of operations. The Naval Services are committed to continue to transform as part of a joint warfighting team. The United States has shown, through the Global War on Terrorism, that it has the will and the capability to protect America, even at the far corners of the earth. The recent operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Liberia highlight the Naval Services' ability to quickly respond to an international crisis while providing a strong stabilizing presence. All such operations have confirmed the Navy and Marine Corps' essential role to control the sea, project military power and influence events well beyond the ocean. The country's ability to provide persistent Naval warfighting capability as the cornerstone to sustain America's influence around the globe will continue. New initiatives like DD(X) and LCS will carry this capability into the future against new threats. Coupled with other new initiatives,

like the Fleet Response Plan, the Navy will continue to increase flexibility and surge capability.

If confirmed, I will work with the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Secretary of Defense and with this Committee to ensure our future combat capability. As part of this effort, I fully support the Navy's and the Marine Corps' move to acquire flexible, multi-mission platforms to meet the demands of the Global War on Terrorism and to ensure that we remain poised to counter future threats.

We are blessed as a nation to have a 227-year legacy where magnificent men and women volunteer to protect and defend America. All Americans are proud and thankful for their service. In turn, America needs to provide them the tools and equipment to accomplish their mission and to provide for them and their families. Along with this support, we also need to evaluate continuously our military and civilian personnel policies. Our terrorist adversary has no large bureaucracy. Accordingly, we need to assure that our overall military capability is flexible, responsive and adaptable.

Business practices are a force enabler. How we operate the Naval enterprise, procure our goods and services, maintain our equipment, and the like, determines the efficiency and effectiveness of the force. By improving effectiveness, efficiencies are gained, thereby freeing funding for further effectiveness. This initiative was launched by the Naval leadership team during my prior tenure and will continue, if confirmed, during my next tour of duty. Admiral Clark and General Hagee are committed with me to improve the effectiveness of everything we do. Transformation of business practices across the Navy and DOD are essential to meet Secretary Rumsfeld's goals, and we are committed with him in this undertaking.

In recent history, technology has provided the decisive edge for our military forces. This emphasis is especially important in the Global War on Terrorism since a new spectrum of threats now face our military and citizen populations. Technology is more readily available to our adversaries. Globalization, the Information Age, lower cost – all accelerate technology dissemination around the globe, to friend and foe alike. This global technology transformation necessitates a focused, responsive technology program within the Department of the Navy to ensure that the Naval Services maintain a technological advantage in all encounters. I am committed to win this battle for continuous technical superiority.

In closing, the enemies to freedom are organized, cunning and determined ... but they are no match for the hardened resolve of nations and individual citizens who know the value of freedom and who will pay any cost to protect it ... and leaders with the will, the vision and the determination to win.

Thank you for considering my nomination to be the 73<sup>rd</sup> Secretary of the Navy. If confirmed, I will serve our Sailors, Marines and Nation to the best of my abilities.