

Statement of
Charles P. Verdon
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Committee on Armed Services
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Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of the committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today. I am honored by this opportunity to serve my country and thank President Trump and Secretary Perry for placing their trust and confidence in me, putting forward my nomination as Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs within the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, my family is unable to be here today, but watching from California are my wife, Joyce, my son Ryan and his wife Camille. I am grateful to them and the rest of my family for their tireless support over the years and as I prepared for today's hearing.

The DOE and NNSA have the nation's responsibility of ensuring a safe, secure, and effective U.S. nuclear stockpile. To do this the NNSA must maintain confidence in the state of the current stockpile, carry out warhead life extension programs as required, and ensure that the nation has the capabilities (the underpinning science, technologies, and engineering), facilities, and workforce necessary to sustain the U.S. nuclear stockpile, and hence the deterrent for the long-term. In addition NNSA pays a great deal of attention to the safety and security of the weapons and associated materials throughout their life cycle. Robust security protects weapons and weapons material at each of the NNSA sites and through securely transporting materials and weapons between NNSA facilities and NNSA facilities and military locations.

My top priority, if confirmed, is the effective execution of the nuclear weapons activities within the NNSA. Success in carrying out this enduring mission requires working closely with NNSA Administrator Gordon-Hagerty and the close coordination and integration across the NNSA federal workforce, NNSA laboratories and production sites, and the

Department of Defense (DOD). Of particular importance is the on-going stockpile modernization effort. The successful execution of this effort requires the careful balancing, planning, and execution of both NNSA production infrastructure modernization with the stockpile modernization. In addition the continued development of the science, technology, and engineering required to sustain confidence in our nuclear deterrent must also be maintained.

I look forward to executing the vision expressed by Administrator Gordon-Hagerty to ensure a partnership between NNSA, the laboratories and production sites and with the DOD. It will take all of us working together to continue to ensure maintaining a modern and appropriately tailored nuclear deterrent in an ever-changing geopolitical environment.

I believe my work experience provides a unique skillset of more than 30 years of experience and vision to the position. During this time, I have gain experience ranging from an individual technical contributor to the leader of the Nuclear Weapons Program at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. I have first-hand knowledge and experience working with some of NNSA's most talented and dedicated scientists, engineers, technicians, and safety and security professionals and with very dedicated and professional individuals within the DOD. I have devoted my career to the national security mission.

To lead the nuclear weapons activities within NNSA, if confirmed, would be the highest honor. I will work to ensure that our nation stockpile remains safe, secure, and effective, modernization of the stockpile is well planned and being actively executed, and that the capabilities, facilities, and workforce continue to be developed and matured to ensure the long-term viability of our nuclear deterrent.

I thank you again for inviting me to appear before this Committee today. I am prepared to answer any questions you have now and, if confirmed, to address questions that you may have in the future

