

## STATEMENT OF STEPHEN P. WELBY TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

Mr. Chairman, Senator Reed, members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you this morning as the nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. I wish to thank the President and Secretary Carter for their support of my nomination. I would also like to thank my wife Kimberly, my son Bradan, and my daughter Claire, who are here today, for their support and encouragement and I'd like to particularly acknowledge my Father, Patrick Welby – whose service as a New York City Fire Officer, until he was injured in the line of duty, taught me the true meaning of a career in public service.

Our military technology advantage is essential to our nation's ability to deter aggression and prevail in conflict. Today, our technical edge is challenged by the globalization of technology and the emergence of foreign military capabilities intended to directly counter our own technical strengths. This increasingly competitive global environment demands more agile approaches to technology development and faster adoption of new, innovative solutions that can offset the growing technical capability of potential threats. The Department must continuously refresh the core technologies that sustain our defense advantage, that mitigate technological surprise, and that support our modernization efforts. The Department must also focus on the effectiveness and efficiency of the research and engineering enterprise, to allow the delivery of advanced capabilities faster in a fiscally constrained environment.

If confirmed, I am committed to focusing the defense research and engineering enterprise with a focus on sustaining the technological superiority of U.S. forces – addressing both the demands of our current conflict and the needs of the evolving strategic environment – by accelerating the delivery of the advanced capabilities that can make a critical difference, from laboratory to battlefield.

I thank you Mr. Chairman and members of this committee for your time and attention, and I look forward to answering your questions.