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Statement of Mr. Lucas N Polakowski
Senate Armed Forces Committee Hearing

to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs
Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SECURITY REVIEW

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Thank you, Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, and members of the committee, as you consider my nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. I am honored to be considered for this important position and it is a great privilege to appear before you today.

I wish to thank President Trump and Secretary Esper for this opportunity and their confidence in me and support for my nomination. I am very appreciative of my family who have supported me during my long career of past government service, especially my children and my sister, who unfortunately could not be here today.

I am here today desiring to continue to serve our nation and our national defense in the nuclear, chemical, and biological defense areas. After my commissioning at the Citadel, I served the majority of my 36-year Army career defending our nation against the scourge of weapons of mass destruction. I believe my career to date has both prepared me and given me great insight into the ASD (NCB) portfolio and a sound appreciation for the needs of the Warfighter and the Joint Force in both acquiring and sustaining nuclear, chemical, and biological defense capabilities.

During these times I regard modernizing our nuclear deterrent and it's associated National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) infrastructure as critical to our nation's security and preserving our American way of life. My previous senior leader tours at both US Strategic Command and at The Joint Staff developed in me a deep understand of US Strategic Command's nuclear deterrence mission and the Joint Force's roles in preventing, countering, and if needed, defending our Nation against weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

If confirmed, I pledge to focus on modernizing our nuclear TRIAD, building on the partnership the Department of Defense has with NNSA, improving counter WMD programs within the department, interagency, and with our allies, and completing destruction of the remainder of our legacy chemical weapons stockpile on time and within budget. If confirmed, I pledge to work with the Congress in these efforts and to enhance our communication and cooperation.

Thank you again. I look forward to your questions.