

**Chairman Richard Shelby Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense**

**Closed Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for Defense Innovation and
Research Funding**

June 6, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

The Subcommittee will come to order.

This morning, we meet to review the fiscal year 2019 budget request for Department of Defense innovation and research programs. We welcome our panel: Dr. Michael D. Griffin, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and Dr. Steven H. Walker, Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

In order for our military to maintain its technological advantage over near-peer adversaries, we must focus on investing in advanced technologies. This subcommittee appreciates the Department making technology modernization a top priority in the latest National Defense Strategy.

We look forward to hearing from our panel today on specific modernization priorities such as Hypersonics, Missile Defense, Microelectronics, Directed Energy, Cybersecurity and Machine Learning. We know these and other technologies will be needed to defend our Nation in an increasingly complex and competitive national security environment.

This is the last fiscal year 2019 budget hearing planned for our subcommittee this year. In previous hearings, we have discussed many important advanced technology priorities in open session, but it is also important for us to further examine these priorities in a classified setting. Specifically, we would like to hear your thoughts on the efforts of China and Russia to develop next generation capabilities across the air, land, maritime, space and cyber domains.

Dr. Griffin and Dr. Walker, again, we look forward to hearing from you, but before we proceed to your opening statements, I turn to the Vice Chairman, Senator Durbin, for his opening remarks.

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