

**Testimony of Michael T. Evanoff**  
**Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**October 18, 2017**

Senator Isakson, Senator Shaheen, and Members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and am very grateful for the confidence that the President and Secretary Tillerson have placed in me.

First, as a former senior DS Agent for 26 years, I want to thank you for your continued unwavering support for both the Department and Diplomatic Security. I am very proud to be associated with the outstanding men and women who labor tirelessly to protect America's diplomatic facilities, critical information, and, most importantly, American lives. They also conduct extensive, important investigations necessary to keep our country safe.

At any given time, there are thousands of Americans living overseas under the authority of the Chief of Mission or otherwise representing American interests. Those men, women and children deserve no less than the full commitment of the U.S. government to do everything in our power to ensure they can live and operate safely. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, it will be my mission to honor that commitment every day.

I want to thank my wife Kate, my son Luke, and my extended family for their love and support, and for allowing me to rejoin an institution that I love. My thoughts today are also with the memory of my parents, Walter and Lyle, who first showed me the value of law enforcement service through their distinguished careers as police officers right here in the District of Columbia.

Finally, I want to thank the President and Secretary Tillerson for the confidence they have placed in me to lead DS in an increasingly complex and dangerous world. I am humbled and proud by the designation of becoming only the second DS Special Agent in the Bureau's 101-year history to come up through the ranks and be nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary.

I first joined Diplomatic Security 32 years ago, in 1985, in the wake of the Beirut bombings and the subsequent approval of Admiral Bobby Inman's recommendations calling for the creation of a more robust and professional Diplomatic Security Service for the Department of State. The Inman report identified the need for increased funding for stronger overseas embassies and consulates, and led to additional hiring for more Special Agents, Security Engineers, Couriers and other key positions. Thanks in large part to the work of this Senate committee, the report's recommendations were formally authorized by Congress one year later in the form of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986.

In the three decades since my hiring as part of the first 'Inman' tranche of DS Special Agents, I have served in eight overseas postings, four of which were designated as High Threat at the time. Among other things, I established the first DS liaison position with a U.S. military regional command, managed the largest Russian spy case and damage assessment in NATO history, and designed a post-9/11 informant 'walk-in' program at our Islamabad embassy that contributed to the capture of Khalid Sheik Muhammad.

My work with the Department combined with my private sector experience leading international security programs for two Fortune 100 companies has given me a unique perspective on DS's inherent strengths and challenges, as well as future security changes that may be necessary to ensure the continued conduct of American diplomacy in a safe and effective manner.

If confirmed, I will ensure DS does its part to support the implementation of the Department's policy priorities while always remaining cognizant of our obligations to the American taxpayer. With support and continued guidance from members of this Committee and Congress as a whole, one of my top goals will be to enable stronger and more effective collaboration with our colleagues throughout the Department, the military, and the intelligence community. This enhanced collaboration needs to be both strategic and operational, and we need establish key performance indicators to measure the value of our work with our partners in protecting our people and facilities worldwide.

In a world of rapid technological innovation and constantly evolving threats, the appropriate sharing of actionable security information also needs to remain a top priority for DS. If confirmed, I intend to closely monitor our operational and strategic planning objectives with the Department and the intelligence community when it comes to opening and maintaining posts in high threat and potentially hostile environments. There need to be clear goals and objectives if we are to consistently and successfully operate in hostile environments with little or ineffective host government support.

I will also put special focus on the continued overhaul and refinement of security training for Department of State employees. This includes intensive specialized training for all DS agents and the on-going expansion of the Foreign Affairs Counter Threat (FACT) course for all employees working overseas under the authority of the Chief of Mission. It also includes the completion of the Department's Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC) at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Once fully up and running, this state-of-the-art facility will allow DS to provide more efficient and effective hard skills training – such firearms, explosives, antiterrorism driving techniques, and defensive tactics – for roughly 10,000 students annually.

Finally, if confirmed, I also hope to strengthen our organization's morale. Everyone in DS -- whether part of the Foreign Service, the Civil Service, or a contractor -- deserves to be recognized for the vital role they play on a daily basis. There needs to be a broader recognition and appreciation of the fact that we are one team with one mission.

To be considered to lead DS at this moment is the most rewarding professional opportunity of my career. If confirmed, I look forward to undertaking this responsibility and collaborating closely with the members of this Committee in the months and years ahead.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.