

**Testimony**  
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**Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International**  
**Operations and Bilateral International Development**  
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Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Kaine, and distinguished members of the subcommittee for inviting me to discuss the FY 2017 State Department Diplomatic Engagement budget request. At a time when the demand for U.S. leadership and engagement has never been greater, the FY 2017 request provides America's diplomats and development professionals with the tools they need to advance the Nation's interests and build a safer and more prosperous world. As a component of the National Security budget, we take our national security role seriously. The FY 2017 budget request for the State Department and USAID together is \$50.1 billion, \$35.2 billion of which is Enduring, and \$14.9 billion of which is Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding. This funding constitutes just one percent of total federal spending

As the Director of the State Department Bureau for Budget and Planning, I am here today to discuss our request for our people; diplomatic and embassy security

programs; public diplomacy efforts; treaty based contributions to United Nations peacekeeping efforts and international organizations, and our global management platform, otherwise known as the Diplomatic Engagement portion of the Department's budget. The Diplomatic Engagement budget is about 32% of the total State/USAID request, with foreign assistance rounding out the remaining 68%. The FY 2017 request for this portion of the budget totals \$16.1 billion, an increase of \$560 million over the FY 2016 level.

We are submitting the Department of State and USAID Fiscal Year 2017 Fact Sheet for the record, so many of the specific numbers related to our request are included in the attached document, and I will speak to a few major priorities here. A large portion of the Department's operating platform consists of security programs and overseas facilities, for which we are requesting \$6.1 billion. This includes \$3.7 billion for Diplomatic Security (DS) operations and other Worldwide Security Protection programs. The request for diplomatic facility construction and maintenance sustains the Department's commitment to implementing the security recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board. This also includes Department's share of the Capital Security Cost Sharing Program, which constructs secure, safe, and functional diplomatic facilities, as well as ongoing lease, repair and maintenance for our overseas real property assets.

The 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) provided a significant OCO increase for the Department for FY 2016 and FY 2017 relative to FY 2015. We have been able to achieve many of our national security objectives using OCO. OCO has been instrumental for the transitions to largely civilian presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Diplomatic Engagement request includes \$1.26 billion for Iraq, which includes embassy and consulate operations, as well as Diplomatic Security funding for Embassy Baghdad's guard camp, contract costs and equipment. In collaboration with DOD, the U.S. Embassy in Iraq continues to support diplomatic engagement critical to Operation Inherent Resolve.

In Afghanistan, our mission continues to focus on engagement and public outreach as the military transitions. The total request for Afghanistan is \$1.2 billion, which includes an increase for Diplomatic Security aviation, contracts & equipment and to complete security upgrades to our facilities in Kabul.

The request includes \$21.5 million for the Global Engagement Center (GEC), which is a high priority for the Department and another example of our strong collaboration with DOD. The Center will continue countering violent extremist

communication by more effectively synchronizing messaging to foreign audiences through empowering governmental and nongovernmental partners in their efforts to undermine disinformation espoused by extremist and terrorist groups, including ISIL and al-Qaeda. We brought Michael Lumpkin over from DOD to fully synchronize all of our efforts across the national security spectrum and with our international partners.

To sustain these efforts over the long term, the FY 2017 President's Budget once again proposes to end sequestration for function 150 and other discretionary spending in FY 2018.

Other priorities in our budget serve to strengthen U.S. relations with the international community. Our request includes \$1.2 billion to support our global engagement goals by building up our public diplomacy and exchange programs. The request also includes funding to meet our commitments for international organizations and peacekeeping, including \$1.4 billion for our annual assessments for the UN and other bodies and \$2.4 billion to address conflict-related crisis through our assessed share of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In addition to our request for direct appropriations, this budget expands consular services to Americans, while providing immigrant and non-immigrant visa services to prospective foreign visitors. The Department's proposed Consular and Border Security Programs account will enable transparency in our efforts to provide protection to U.S. citizens overseas and contributes to national security and economic growth. It is a core element of national security to assist and facilitate the entry of legitimate travelers and promote tourism while denying entry to individuals who threaten the safety and security of our nation and its people.

While not a specific budget tool, we use the QDDR to guide a modern State Department and USAID and empower our professionals to get the job done. This includes targeted efforts to increase the diversity of our workforce by expanding recruitment and fellowship opportunities for America's future foreign policy experts; this is a two thirds increase over existing funding resources.

This is just a brief summary of our overall request. I want to assure you that we are committed to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. With continued Congressional support, we can have a positive impact in promoting our foreign policy priorities at home and abroad. I look forward to answering your questions.