

**Statement of Marvin L. Adams  
Before the United States Senate  
Committee on Armed Services  
March 22, 2022**

Thank you, Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and distinguished members of the Committee. I am honored to be nominated for the role of Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs at the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). This is a critical time, as the organization strives to deliver on important commitments while rebuilding infrastructure, restoring lost capabilities, and developing the expertise and technologies needed to meet future challenges. If confirmed, I will do my best to justify the confidence that President Biden, Secretary Granholm, and Administrator Hruby have placed in me through this nomination.

I thank Ambassador Brooks for his kind introduction. I have learned a great deal from Ambassador Brooks as we have collaborated on various efforts over the years, and I continue to benefit from his mentoring.

My wife, Jenny, is unable to be here in Washington today. She and her friends and family members are watching remotely. I thank them in advance for the love, support, and encouragement that will sustain me if I am confirmed for this role. I especially thank Jenny—my partner and companion for 43 years of the roller-coaster ride from a small high school in rural Mississippi to this seat in front of you—for accepting the sacrifices we must make to serve the country in this new capacity.

I have been engaged in the U.S. nuclear weapons program since starting my career at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in 1986. In my three decades at Texas A&M University, I have spent a substantial fraction of my time working in the service of U.S. national security, with a focus on the nuclear deterrent. As a member of the JASON Advisory Group, for example, I have participated in more than 20 in-depth studies of nuclear-weapons activities, issues, and concerns, including studies sponsored by the Department of Defense as well as NNSA. I was chosen as study leader for most of them. The NNSA, the National Security Laboratories, the National Academies, and other organizations have called on me repeatedly for in-depth reviews and advice on matters related to nuclear weapons.

During the past four decades, much of my research has been funded by the Stockpile Stewardship program, and results from my research have been applied to challenging stewardship problems.

In recent years, I have chaired Los Alamos National Laboratory's Mission Committee, whose purview includes plutonium pit production in addition to all other weapons activities. This role has required knowledge of NNSA's weapons design and assessment efforts; warhead delivery

schedules and mandates; the production complex; management of large capital projects; supply-chain issues; detailed science and engineering challenges of producing specialized components (such as plutonium pits) while meeting stringent requirements for quality, safety, and security; and more.

I have viewed NNSA from the Department of Defense perspective, for example as a member of the STRATCOM Strategic Advisory Group's Stockpile Assessment Team.

These and other activities have led me to understand the broad portfolio of activities and technologies needed to maintain and enhance the safety, reliability, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. I understand what it takes to build and maintain the unique capabilities that Defense Programs must employ to design, assess, transport, surveil, dismantle, and produce nuclear warheads. I understand the importance of delivering on commitments and meeting military requirements.

If I am confirmed, my top priorities will be to maintain the safety, security, and effectiveness of the warheads deployed in today's stockpile and to deliver on commitments for stockpile modernization. The latter priority requires development and deployment of a more agile infrastructure, including plutonium pit-manufacturing capabilities, and construction of essential infrastructure for secondaries, non-nuclear components, and more. While focusing on these priorities, I will also work to develop and nurture the capabilities that will be needed for the challenges our nuclear-weapons enterprise will face in the future.

NNSA cannot meet the challenges facing the U.S. nuclear weapons program alone. I am grateful for the support that Congress, past administrations, and the current administration have provided for rebuilding essential capabilities and infrastructure. NNSA partnership with the Department of Defense is critical given their joint responsibility for our Nation's nuclear deterrent. If confirmed, I commit to working cooperatively with the SASC, other Congressional stakeholders, and the Department of Defense to ensure that the nation's nuclear deterrent continues to be safe, secure, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination. It is an honor to appear before this Committee, and I look forward to your questions.