



# Chairman Mike Simpson

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and  
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

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**Budget Hearing the National Nuclear Security Administration  
FY 2017 Budget  
March 1, 2016  
Opening Statement As Prepared**

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I'd like to call this hearing to order. Good afternoon, everyone.

Administrator Klotz, I'd like to welcome you to your second appearance before this Subcommittee to testify on the budget request for the National Nuclear Security Administration, which includes programs that sustain our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, advance U.S. nuclear nonproliferation goals, and support the nuclear Navy.

Admiral Caldwell, I'd like to first thank you for your service to this country and welcome you to your first appearance before this Subcommittee. Since the Director of Naval Reactors serves an eight-year term, we look forward to having you this year and many years to come.

General Davis, I would also like to welcome you and thank you for your service to our country. This is the second time you've testified before this Subcommittee, but the first in your new capacity as the acting Director of Defense Programs. Ms. Harrington, I welcome you back. I believe we may have actually lost count of the number of times you've testified before this Subcommittee. The expertise you bring to the table is incredibly valuable and we thank you for your continued dedication to the nonproliferation programs.

The President's Budget Request for the National Nuclear Security Administration is \$12.9 billion, an increase of \$357 million or 2.9% above last year's level. Since the overall budget caps set by the Bipartisan Budget Control Act are flat compared to last year's level, the increases requested for defense activities for the NNSA will need to compete with other important defense programs across the federal government.

Within the NNSA budget request itself, that same competition for resources is evident. The Administration's nuclear modernization plans continue to exert large pressures on available funds. Weapons Activities is increased by \$357 million and Naval Reactors is increased \$45 million, while Nonproliferation activities are decreased by \$132 million. We hope to hear more from you today on the prioritization in your budget request and how you intend to accomplish the modernization activities that are needed to extend the life of our nuclear deterrent within a constrained budget environment.

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