

Opening Statement of Thomas R. Carper
Nominations of L. Reginald Brothers, Jr. and Hon. Francis X. Taylor
March 5, 2014

As prepared for delivery:

Today we meet to consider two nominations for important positions at the Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Reggie Brothers, to serve as Under Secretary for the Science and Technology Directorate, and Brigadier General Frank Taylor to serve as Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis.

I am pleased to see that President Obama continues to put forth qualified nominees to fill the leadership vacancies in critical components such as these.

The work done by the men and women at the Science and Technology Directorate cuts across all of the components and missions of the Department. They are responsible for harnessing cutting-edge technology and research and development projects that help department personnel and their partners be more effective in carrying out their missions and responsibilities.

Dr. Brothers comes to us from the Department of Defense where he serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research. In that position he is responsible for policy and oversight of the DoD Science and Technology Programs ranging from basic research through the development of advanced technologies. He is also responsible for the long-term strategy for the department's science and technology programs.

In addition to his work at DoD, Dr. Brothers also has significant experience in the private sector and working at laboratories. He clearly has a breadth of hands-on technical experience that he will bring to DHS.

In this budget environment we need to make important decisions on how to spend limited funds and are forced to do more with less. However, we still have to stay ahead of the evolving threats from both man-made and natural sources. I look forward to hearing from Dr. Brothers in how he seeks to do that. His background in managing Science and Technology projects at DoD makes him a great fit for this important role. I hope we can move to get him confirmed quickly.

General Taylor's nomination has been referred to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. However, this committee is afforded the option of holding hearings on the nomination and we are doing that today.

The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis or, "I&A", serves as the hub for homeland security intelligence. I&A was born out of a clear information-sharing need exposed after 9/11. The office connects the US Intelligence Community with the private sector, our state and local partners and DHS's various components.

Over the years, I&A has endured its fair share of criticism for its analytical output, for its mission within the U.S. intelligence community, and for its role in helping our nation's fusion centers do a better job sharing information.

Compounding matters, the office has been without a Senate-confirmed leader for the past 15 months. This is simply too long for such a critical position.

Make no mistake, the interim leader, Principal Deputy Under Secretary John Cohen, has done an exemplary job addressing the challenges that I&A faces.

However, in order to take the next step in its maturation, I&A needs the leadership that only a Senate-confirmed Under Secretary can provide. The Senate can do something about this right now by quickly confirming General Taylor.

General Taylor comes well equipped to handle the task before him. His 35 year career in the federal government includes key positions in counterintelligence, law enforcement and counterterrorism. Moreover, for the past nine years, General Taylor has worked to enhance the security of one of the largest companies in the world.

I am confident that General Taylor is the right man for this job and I will push for a speedy confirmation. General Taylor, should you be confirmed, I look forward to working with you to improve this office and the vital information sharing over the coming months and years.

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