

Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
Nomination Hearing to Consider David J. Glawe to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and
Analysis, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and
David Pekoske to be Assistant Secretary (Transportation Security Administration)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
July 11, 2017

Today the Committee will consider two nominations that are integral to ensuring the Department of Homeland Security accomplishes its mission to protect the homeland:

Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security

The Under Secretary is responsible for leading the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and also serves as the Department's Chief Intelligence Officer. In these roles, the Under Secretary is responsible for fusing the Department's streams of intelligence and analysis to develop a common operational understanding of threats to the homeland, and sharing relevant information within DHS and among state, local, and private sector partners. As the Department's Chief Intelligence Officer, the Under Secretary is also responsible for overseeing intelligence across DHS and collaborating with Intelligence Community partners.

Multiple reviews of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis by this Committee, watchdog organizations, and others have raised concerns about the quality and value of its intelligence, the lack of coordination of component intelligence activities, and the low morale and human resources challenges the office faces. The next Under Secretary has an opportunity to strengthen the Department's intelligence program and, therefore, help Secretary Kelly secure the nation.

Assistant Secretary, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security

The DHS Assistant Secretary - also known as the Transportation Security Administrator - is responsible for the safety and security of the country's transportation systems, ensuring the free flow of people and commerce. The Administrator's job is to assess intelligence and threats to the nation's transportation sector, and direct the approximately 53,000 Transportation Security Administration employees in protecting hundreds of millions of travelers every year.

The TSA was created after the September 11th attacks to disrupt future terrorist plots and safeguard the nation's transportation system. The agency oversees aviation security as well as rail, highway, mass transit, and pipeline security with an overall budget of over seven billion dollars. Aviation remains a target for foreign and domestic terrorists. To achieve its mission, the TSA needs to continually improve its screening capabilities and strive to adapt to the terrorist threats of the future. The next Administrator has the opportunity to increase the TSA's screening capabilities, improve workforce morale, and deliver effective and cost efficient security to the travelling public.

David Glawe

Mr. Glawe has extensive experience in national security and law enforcement. He is currently a Special Assistant to the President, having recently served for several years as the Assistant Commissioner and Chief Intelligence Officer in the Customs and Border Protection component of the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to that, Mr. Glawe served as an FBI agent and a federal agent with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. He started his career in public service as a police officer for the Houston Police Department, and later was a police officer for the Aurora, Colorado Police Department. Mr. Glawe has a certificate from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He has also received the National Intelligence Superior Service Medal for his work supporting the Intelligence Community and promoting our national security.

David Pecoske

David Pecoske was serving as Vice Admiral and Chief Operating Officer when he retired in 2010 after 32 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. Prior to becoming Vice Admiral, he was the Commander for the Pacific Area Defense Forces protecting 73 million square miles of territory throughout the Pacific region. Following his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Pecoske moved to the private sector where he was Group President for the National Security Group at A-T Solutions and Vice President for National Programs at Pacific Architecture and Engineering. He has extensive experience in the homeland security field from his time in the Coast Guard and in the private sector covering crisis management, strategy operations, financial and risk management, and counterterrorism. Vice Admiral Pecoske received his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and holds two master's degrees: a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University in Economics, and a Master of Business Administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I'd like to thank the nominees for agreeing to serve in these important positions, and I look forward to hearing their testimony.