

**Chairman CW Bill Young – Opening Statement**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on Defense**  
**Fiscal Year 2012 Defense Acquisition Hearing**  
**Witness: Dr. Ashton Carter, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition,**  
**Technology and Logistics**  
**April 13, 2011**

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This morning the Committee will hold an open hearing on the Defense Department's acquisition programs.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Ashton Carter, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Dr. Carter is more than qualified to speak to the state of many of the major acquisition programs in the Department. We've all recently read about several of the platforms he's acquired, such as the Tomahawk Missile and the EA-18G Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Aircraft performing so well in Libya. Dr. Carter is in the unique position of getting to see all of these platforms before they start performing. When they are still concepts on the drawing board he has to have the vision to essentially predict the future on how they will perform and what the world will look like when the weapons and platforms are fielded. However, he is also involved in a practice that has occurred with increasing frequency in the Department of Defense, the troubling practice of starting and stopping programs. There are many examples of programs that have required a lot of investment, but for which the Department will see little or no return. The VH-71 Presidential Helicopter, the Future Combat System and the Transformational Satellite Communication System are all examples of programs that have been terminated after the Department invested a significant amount of resources. So the Subcommittee is anxious to hear how this behavior may be altered in the future.

Secretary Carter, I thank you for being here this morning. We all look forward to your testimony and to a spirited and informative question and answer session.

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