

**STATEMENT OF
PAUL A. SCHNEIDER
NOMINEE TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT
AT THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
DECEMBER 6, 2006**

Chairman Collins, Senator Lieberman, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as you consider my nomination by the President to be the next Under Secretary for Management at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

I am deeply honored and humbled that President Bush has nominated me to serve this great country and its people, and I thank Secretary Chertoff for his support throughout this process. If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity and privilege of serving under his direction with the dedicated men and women who are working to secure our homeland and defend our freedoms.

I would like to recognize my wife, Leslie, and several of our family and friends who have joined me here today.

I owe this country a lot. I started at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, as a 21 year-old GS-5 Engineer who was obsessed with building nuclear submarines. As I progressed up through the ranks, I was afforded a number of opportunities to serve in positions of increased responsibility, seeing and doing things that one could have only dreamed of as a kid fresh out of school.

More than 40 years later, on 9/11, I was in the Pentagon. I saw first-hand the devastation to which our enemies commit themselves. As I lay in the grass by the river, as we were told to do because we were advised another airplane was inbound, I saw the fire and smoke rising from the building and two F-16 flying combat air patrol.

Three things came to mind:

1. I was a kid who grew up in the cold war practicing duck and cover drills, I could not believe this was happening in our country;
2. the "battle space" to which those in the military frequently refer was now, not in Europe, not in the Far East or the Middle East, but in U.S. airspace; and
3. I realized that our lives would never really be the same.

I hope that my integrity, competence, continued willingness to serve the public trust, and ability to accomplish significant and challenging objectives demonstrate the skill set and experience needed to meet the significant responsibility required by the Under Secretary for Management's charge.

If confirmed, I commit to working with you and your staff, other governmental departments and agencies, businesses (large and small), and our international partners to make a contribution to securing our homeland for today and tomorrow.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to appear here today.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.