

**Ambassador Mull's Remarks at the
Signing Ceremony for Sale of JASSM to Poland
December 11, 2014**

Good morning. I am honored to be here with Deputy Prime Minister Siemoniak, LtGen Majewski, BGen Szczepaniak, and Mr. Joe Garland from Lockheed Martin.

Today marks an important moment in the security partnership between Poland and the United States. The United States is pleased to offer Poland the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) for Poland's F-16 fighter jet fleet. The weapon system will be an important component of Poland's impressive defense modernization program, and demonstrates Poland's leadership role as a security provider for NATO and all of Europe.

Only two other foreign partners, Australia and Finland, were approved for the sale of the JASSM weapons system. The United States Government's decision to allow the sale of this cutting edge technology to Poland is evidence of the trust we place in our Polish allies.

As many of you know, it normally takes years to negotiate such a deal, but we did it for Poland in just seven months. The speed at which the United States completed this sale reflects our capacity to react quickly to global crises, such as Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea earlier this year.

With this purchase, Poland will acquire computer system upgrades for its F-16 fighter jet fleet, in addition to 40 air-to-surface missiles. The JASSM system strengthens Poland's F-16 program by adding a powerful strategic deterrence capability.

Today's signing ceremony happens to be taking place just as the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan is coming to a close. The last rotation of Polish ISAF troops came home this week. I want to take a moment to thank the Polish Armed Forces for the honor they exhibited, and the sacrifices they made, during the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan. For years Polish and American troops fought shoulder to shoulder against terrorists in Afghanistan, and together helped to train and build capacity for the Afghan military. Likewise, Americans and Poles stand together united in our determination to strengthen NATO's eastern flank and protect every inch of NATO soil. We thank the Polish Armed Forces for their partnership and commitment to the cause of freedom, and look forward to working with Poland and other NATO Allies on the Afghan Resolute Support Mission in 2015.

Now, I am pleased to give the floor to Joe Garland, Vice President of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control International, to present a small gift to Deputy Prime Minister Siemoniak.

Thank you.