

**Ambassador Mull's Remarks at the  
U.S.-Poland Defense Industry Forum  
October 14, 2014**

Good morning, everyone. I am pleased that so many important players in the Polish and American defense industries are together in one room. Thank you, Secretary Mroczek, for graciously hosting this meeting. Additionally, I thank our U.S. government representatives for attending today, including the Deputy Director of the Defense Technology Security Administration, Mr. Mike Laychak; Programs Deputy for Weapons in the Defense Security Cooperation Agency Ms. Michele Hizon; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security and Security Assistance, Mr. Greg Kausner, who is arriving from Washington D.C. and will be joining us shortly.

The past two years have seen an increasingly tighter security relationship with the United States and Poland. The U.S. established the first enduring U.S. military presence in Poland with the Aviation Detachment at Łask airbase almost exactly two years ago, and though it was a humble beginning with only 10 airmen, it was historic. Through the deployments it supported as well as other exercises, more than 3,000 American military personnel came to Poland to exercise in 2013. As the Ukraine crisis heated up earlier this year, we were able to work with our Polish allies to use the model that the Aviation Detachment offered to increase U.S. military deployments here. When Poland sought an additional military presence after Russia's illegal annexation of Ukraine, we had F16s and airmen landing here within days, and in the following weeks, more Americans came, beginning with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Combat team, and in turn, the U.S. armored cavalry came, bringing U.S. active duty army tanks onto Polish territory for the first time in history, and expanded C-130 exercises. We expect this enhanced presence to continue through at least next year. And beyond next year, we are still on track to open the U.S. missile defense base in Redzikowo in 2018, with an additional 200-300 U.S. naval personnel.

We've had more than an increased military presence. The past year has featured an unprecedented senior level of engagement in U.S.-Polish relations, with visits from President Obama, Vice President Biden, and five members of the President's cabinet, including Secretary of State Kerry, Secretary of Defense Hagel and Commerce Secretary Priztker just two weeks ago. Among other things, all of these visitors reaffirmed the United States' unshakeable commitment to defend Poland against all threats; to remove barriers to Poland's defense requirements, as demonstrated in the historically swift approval to sell the JASSM missile to Poland as only the third foreign recipient of this sensitive technology; and to modernize our information sharing arrangements to permit easier collaboration on some of our most important strategic military objectives.

All of us know there is a lot more to security than boots on the ground and high-ranking visits. It's also about strengthening the economic, trade, investment, technology and other commercial ties. The United States has a good story to tell here too, as the leading source of new foreign investment in Poland, according to recent Polish government estimates. But those of us who live and work here know that there is a lot of unrealized potential in this part of the relationship. And so Deputy Prime Minister Siemoniak and I decided to establish the U.S.-Poland Defense Industry Forum, which is meeting today for the first time. Our goal in convening this Forum is to bring together the leading players in America's and Poland's defense industries with representatives of our governments and militaries to rapidly develop the new prospects that our new political and security engagement has made possible.

The United States respects Poland's leadership within the EU on security issues, and we applaud Poland's determination to modernize the Polish Armed Forces in the coming decade. Poland's defense modernization program presents a unique opportunity to expand our nations' strategic partnership and defense industry cooperation.

It is an honor to be here for this inaugural session of the U.S.-Poland Defense Forum. Our countries are ready for deeper economic integration and industrial cooperation. Let's make it happen. Welcome to the Forum!