

**Ambassador Mull's Remarks at the
Raytheon Chairman's Reception at Lazienki Park Palace
October 29, 2014**

Good evening, everyone. Thank you, Dr. Kennedy, for inviting me to speak at your reception. Your visit to Poland comes at a critical time for Europe, and also at a time when the U.S.-Polish security relationship is more important than ever.

Over the past several years, the United States and Poland have taken our security relationship to a new level with a growing U.S. military presence in Poland. In 2012 we established the U.S. Aviation Detachment at Łask Air Base, which helped support over 3,000 U.S. military personnel for training exercises in Poland in 2013. This year, since the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, we've had a steady stream of F-16s, C-130s and hundreds of airmen, soldiers, paratroopers and armored cavalry; an enhanced presence that will continue at least through next year. And beyond next year, we are on track to open the U.S. missile defense base in Poland in 2018, with an additional 200-300 U.S. naval personnel.

Our military engagement has been matched by equally intense political engagement, including recent 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 Pritzker. All of these visitors reaffirmed U.S. support for NATO's United States' unshakeable Article 5 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 important strategic military objectives.

The Polish integrated air and missile defense program, known as WISLA, presents an excellent opportunity to accelerate and deepen our bilateral defense relationship. I am pleased that the government of Poland selected Raytheon's Patriot as one of two finalists in Poland's missile defense system tender.

Raytheon's Patriot has a number of key advantages. First, it is the best Air and Missile Defense system there is. That is why it is the backbone of the U.S. Army's air and missile defense system, and it will remain so until at least 2048. It is also the system of choice for twelve partner nations. So, Patriot brings immediate interoperability with NATO member nations, and multiple opportunities for joint training and deployments. With Patriot, Poland's stature as a leader and major force contributor within NATO would grow.

In choosing the Patriot system, Poland would intensify U.S.-Poland defense industry cooperation, and I know Raytheon has engaged Polish firms in partnership talks.

Some of these relationships have already been formalized, and others will be announced soon.

I am proud that Raytheon, like other American companies, is investing in Poland for the long haul. Such commercial partnerships are a critical part of our strategic security relationship – a relationship that has quickly become fundamental to transatlantic peace and prosperity. Thank you.