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**(Neb.)-Hagel Sworn In As Secretary Of Defense**

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 02/27/2013 08:51 AM

WASHINGTON (AP) - Chuck Hagel has been sworn in as Secretary of Defense following a bitter nomination fight on Capitol Hill.

He took the oath of office at the Defense Department, which is facing deep budget cuts.

Hagel was expected to address civilian and uniformed employees at the department later in the day Wednesday.

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