DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: TOTAL FORCE READINESS

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VCSAF Congressional Testimony HASC Readiness Subcommittee Hearing "Global Challenges to Air Force Readiness" 26 Jul 11

Purpose: To "highlight the overall state of the Air Force's readiness, highlight any current trends, and identify some top readiness challenges or shortfalls."

Readiness Subcommittee Overview: The Readiness Subcommittee oversees military readiness, training, logistics and maintenance issues and programs, military construction, installations and family housing issues, and the BRAC process. It also oversees civilian personnel, energy security, and environmental issues that affect DOD. The Readiness Subcommittee makes sure that our troops are properly trained and their equipment is properly maintained so they can succeed in their missions, and that they have the facilities and services they deserve when they return home.

Sources:

AF Posture Statement 2011
AF Budget Communication Card
HASC Hearing on DoD Efficiencies, 26 Jan 11
SASC Hearing on Defense Budget Requests, 17 Feb 11
Efficiencies Briefing with Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen, 6 Jan 11
HASC Readiness Subcommittee Hearing, 10 Mar 11 (Lt Gen Carlisle)
SASC Readiness Subcommittee Hearing, 18 May 11 (Lt Gen Reno)
SASC Seapower Subcommittee Hearing, 15 July 11 (Gen Johns)
VCSAF Skull Slides for Readiness Hearing

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1. Introduction

The United States continues to confront a dynamic international environment requiring the military to remain strong and agile enough to face a diverse range of threats. Along with our Joint partners, the Air Force defends and advances the interests of the United States by providing unique capabilities across the full spectrum of operations required to succeed in today's fight and future conflicts. The Air Force remains a mission-focused and highly prepared force, a difficult task given over 20 years of constant combat operations.

2. Daily Ops and Readiness

Our enduring commitment to readiness and the Joint fight is evident in the missions being accomplished by nearly 40,000 American Airmen deployed to 285 locations across the globe. Last year the Air Force conducted more than 45,000 sorties supporting Operation IRAQI FREEDOM/NEW DAWN and almost 120,000 sorties supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, delivered over 1.78 million passengers and 712,000 tons of cargo, and employed almost 2,580 short tons of munitions. Additionally, we have transported almost 92,000 patients from the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR), and our combat search and rescue forces met the "golden hour" goal of transporting seriously wounded warriors to treatment facilities within 60 minutes of injury nearly 98 percent of the time. Our aeromedical evacuation sorties moved critically injured warriors to regional hospitals within hours of injury, contributing to the 98 percent battlefield injury survival rate. As a critical component of our nation's strategic deterrence, we have maintained our nation's 450 ICBMs on continuous strategic alert at a greater than 99% readiness rate, exceeding the U.S. Strategic Command's requirement. Lastly, we achieved a record 80 consecutive successful National Security Space launches since 1999.

This level of activity reflects our commitment to provide Global Vigilance, Reach, and Power in today's Joint fight. However, this high operations tempo (OPTEMPO) has had some detrimental effects on our overall readiness. Since 2003, we have seen a slow but steady decline in reported unit readiness indicators. Maintaining our ability to be ready for the full spectrum of operations at an acceptable level of risk is challenging, especially for the Combat Air Forces (CAF) and some limited-supply/high-demand units.

3. Budget Overview

The Air Force's FY12 budget request for \$119.0B reflects an extraordinary effort to ensure America gets the maximum value out of every dollar. The United States faces diverse and increasingly complex security challenges requiring a range of agile and flexible capabilities. This budget request supports the Air Force's ability to meet these challenges today and emergent threats of tomorrow. To effectively organize, train, and equip a force that can meet national needs in air, space and cyberspace at a time of fiscal challenges, the Air Force is seeking efficiencies to eliminate unneeded expenditures and rebalance spending. Doing so will allow the Air Force to shift resources from overhead and support functions to force structure and future modernization while streamlining operations across the enterprise.

In FY12, the overall end strength remains relatively constant at 332,800 active duty Airmen, reserve component end strength at 71,400, and Air National Guard end strength at 106,700. Our FY12 \$45.3B operations and maintenance (O&M) budget request supports

operations at 80 major installations and funds air, space, and cyber operations, as well as intelligence, logistics, nuclear deterrence, special operations, and search and rescue capabilities.

Efficiency efforts include consolidating four air operations centers into two, eliminating three Numbered Air Forces, reducing fuel and energy consumption, and improving depot and supply-chain business processes to sustain weapons systems. Realization of cost-savings allows the Air Force to reallocate funding to modernize and recapitalize weapons systems, improve capabilities and enhance warfighter operations. Examples include: investing in the Long-Range Strike Family of Systems, including a new penetrating bomber, maximizing production of the MQ-9 Reaper, increasing procurement of the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV), modernizing F-15 radars, and purchasing more Joint Strike Fighter simulators. The efficiency effort allowed the Air Force to improve readiness despite the challenges facing the nation, especially given the fiscal environment.

4. Personnel Readiness

Our dedicated Airmen are the foundation of the Air Force. Recruiting, training, and retaining an all-volunteer force requires significant investment. This investment drives the effectiveness of our highly skilled and technically proficient force. Combatant commander requirements are being supported from both the continental U.S. and overseas bases. Of the almost 40,000 Airmen forward-deployed worldwide, more than 29,000 are continuing on a rotating basis to contribute to operations in the CENTCOM AOR-- including 10,000 airmen in Afghanistan providing close air support to U.S. and coalition ground forces, airlift and air refueling, personnel rescue, air medical evacuation, training to develop our partner air force, and many other missions.

An additional 57,000 total force Airmen are forward stationed overseas providing capabilities in direct support of our combatant commander requirements. And from home stations here in the United States, approximately 219,000 Airmen provide daily support to combatant commanders' worldwide operations, including standing nuclear alert, commanding and controlling our satellites, controlling remotely piloted aircraft (RPA), analyzing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data and much more.

However, today's high operations tempo continues to stress 16 of the 132 enlisted specialties and six of the 125 officer specialties. In these stressed specialties, we offer critical skills retention bonuses, selective reenlistment bonuses, or initial enlistment bonuses to all enlisted and two of these officer career fields. These bonuses allow us to target crucial specialties in order to bolster these career fields' manning and mitigate potential negative OPTEMPO effects on our Airmen and their families.

5. Space & Cyberspace Readiness

The Air Force continues to reliably provide required space capabilities, such as precision navigation and timing, secured satellite communications, missile warning, and space situational awareness capabilities. Space capabilities provide the United States and our allies unprecedented national security advantages in strategic decision-making, military operations, and homeland security.

We plan to achieve greater efficiencies in acquiring space assets by implementing better business practices in satellite and spacelift procurement, establishing more stability in the development process, and utilizing block buys in procurement. Spacelift is a critical component of the national security space enterprise. Despite our success, spacelift is still a complex and

costly undertaking. Three recent launch studies reached the same conclusion that immediate commitment to a fixed annual production rate for launch vehicles is imperative to sustain the industrial base and control costs. To ensure this commitment, the FY12 budget submission requests an additional \$3.5B across the FYDP to reach a procurement rate of five DoD EELV boost cores each year.

The Air Force FY12 budget request includes \$4.6B to sustain and maintain our critical cyberspace capabilities. The Air Force contributes to the Joint force by developing, integrating, and operating cyberspace capabilities in three mission areas: support, defense, and offense. Access to cyberspace is increasingly critical to meet Joint and allied requirements for freedom of maneuver in all domains. Air Force networks face a continuous barrage of assaults from statesponsored actors, terror networks, international criminal organizations, individual hackers, and all level of threats in between.

The 24th Air Force, the Air Force component of U.S. Cyber Command, achieved full operational capability on October 1, 2010. The Air Force is also aligning education and training programs with our operational approach to cyberspace to develop our cyberspace professionals. In December 2010, we graduated our first cadre of cyberspace operators.

In addition, the Air Force increased situational awareness of Air Force networks while securely improving information sharing and transport capabilities. Investments in additional network defenders increase protection of information vital to Joint force operations. In the offensive mission area, formal training programs for both initial and mission qualification provide trained forces to U.S. Cyber Command when tasked. Additionally, as the lead support agency to U.S. Cyber Command, the Air Force is responsible for the construction and installed infrastructure for the new U.S. Cyber Command Integrated Cyber Center at Fort Meade, Maryland.

6. Aircraft Readiness

The dedicated work and professionalism of our Airmen ensures our aircraft inventory is ready despite extensive use in contingency operations and increases in fleet average age. Due to these challenges, modernization and recapitalization of our aircraft remains a very high priority.

The readiness of the Mobility Air Forces remains high while meeting robust and dynamic operational requirements. Our airlift fleet continues to provide strategic airlift as well as theater and direct support airlift missions moving personnel and a wide variety of equipment and supplies. The awarding of the KC-46A contract starts the timeline for recapitalizing our aerial refueling aircraft. The planned acquisition of 179 aircraft will help provide refueling capability for decades to come. We will retire 7 C-5As in FY11 in order to eliminate excess strategic airlift capacity as recommended by the Mobility Capabilities Requirements Study-2016. Modernization and enhancement of the workhorse mobility fleet will continue with the C-5 Reliability Enhancement and Re-engine Program (RERP), the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP), and the C-17 Block 13-17 upgrade program.

The readiness of Combat Air Forces aircraft is adequate despite challenges from accumulating hours on our fleet faster than envisioned when these aircraft were first fielded. During the FY12 program review, the Air Force delivered to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (OSD CAPE) the Service fighter force position of 1200 Primary Mission Aircraft Inventory (PMAI) and 2000 Total Aircraft Inventory (TAI). Delays in the F-35 program and decreased funding for F-22 modernization increase our reliance on the legacy fighter fleet, driving the need to extend their service life and modernize

combat capability. AF actions to extend and modernize the legacy fleet are a bridge to 5th generation capability and are not considered replacement actions. The F-16 Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) is one example of the effort to mitigate the fighter force capacity shortfall. Funding the initial development of a Long Range Strike Family of Systems, which will include a new penetrating bomber and next generation, extended-range standoff missiles, will allow the Air Force to address anticipated threats. To keep our legacy platforms viable well into the future, the Air Force intends to use funds saved through our efficiencies to subsidize modernization, such as our plan to retire six B-1 bombers and use the savings to fund datalink and cockpit upgrades for the B-1 fleet. If we are not allowed to retire these bombers, continuing to maintain them as basic aircraft inventory will reduce our savings over the FYDP by more than \$290M (an 80% reduction in savings).

Lastly, since 2005, the Air Force has heavily invested in remotely piloted aircraft (MQ-1/9, RQ-4) operations, resulting in over 200% more airframes and 300% more manpower. Most other mission area fleets, including fighter, airlift, and aerial refueling aircraft, have remained static or are now smaller in numbers and manpower. Over the past twelve months, the Air Force dramatically increased the capability to collect, process, and disseminate timely multi-intelligence information to the warfighter by delivering an additional 14 MQ-1/9 combat air patrols (CAPs) to U.S. CENTCOM and other Combatant Commanders. Today we are providing 55 CAPs and are currently in a summer surge. As part of the surge we are on track to expand the number of MQ-1/9 CAPs to 59 CAPs by end of FY11. We continue to examine our options for reconstituting from our RPA surge and the planned expansion of our capability in FY12 and FY13.

7. Nuclear Deterrence

Continuing to strengthen our nuclear enterprise remains a top Air Force priority, and we have taken positive steps within the FY12 budget request to continue to strengthen and improve this Core Function.

Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) achieved full operational capability (FOC) on September 30, 2010, moving all Air Force nuclear-capable bombers and Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) under one command. After a recent review, the Air Force has determined that nuclear munitions maintenance units currently assigned to Air Force Material Command should be realigned under AFGSC. This action will establish effective organizational structures that best achieve unity of command, unity of effort and standardized processes and policies, further strengthening the nuclear enterprise and its associated readiness. The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center continues to pursue vital and deliberate sustainment of the nuclear enterprise through efforts such as the Air Force Comprehensive Assessment of Nuclear Sustainment process. As for nuclear force structure, bomber force modernization continued in an effort to maintain a viable force beyond 2030. We have completed the transition to four B-52 operational squadrons with the addition of the 69th Bomb Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. ICBM modernization and sustainment also continued with investments in new test equipment and launch facility environmental control systems.

The Air Force completed a number of assessments to address systemic issues with ICBM infrastructure and operating procedures as well as a report on the age and pedigree of the infrastructure and equipment associated with the ICBM system. Based on these assessments, it is clear that a significant portion of the existing infrastructure will eventually require modernization or complete replacement in the years ahead.

The Air Force budget request of \$5.2B for nuclear deterrence operations demonstrates a commitment to sustaining the ICBM force through 2030 with investment including command and control, cryptographic improvements and ballistic missile fuse sustainment. The budget request also includes other programs such as the tail kit portion of the B61 nuclear weapon life extension program, the future long-range standoff weapon, and the Common Vertical Lift Support Platform that highlight our efforts to strengthen the future of nuclear deterrence. Beyond weapon system sustainment and modernization, the Air Force is focusing on human capital as we carefully balance requirements for our limited, intensively scrutinized, high-demand Airmen in the nuclear enterprise.

The Air Force successfully began implementation of a new verification regime and is planning for the elimination and conversion of launchers under the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. We will work with the OSD and U.S. Strategic Command to identify and assess options for future force structure adjustments consistent with the Treaty provisions.

8. Conclusion

Air Force personnel, weapon systems, equipment, and organizations are prepared for today's operations and tomorrow's uncertain challenges, despite fiscal challenges and high operations tempo. With an uncompromising commitment to our core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do, the Air Force remains ready to provide global vigilance, reach, and power for America.