

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

**PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

SUBJECT: Future Total Force Plan

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July 20, 2005

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED
BY THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the role of the Air Force Reserve and the Air Force Reserve Command in the Air Force Future Total Force.

We are all facing new and unique challenges. The Air Force is re-evaluating its functional and operational constructs. This leads to new opportunities for the Air Force Reserve, as we divest ourselves of older weapon systems and become more integrated in new Air Force missions ... the Air Force of the 21st century.

In order to enable Air Force transformation as a whole, we in the Air Force Reserve, must also change to ensure we remain relevant to the joint fight. To me, Future Total Force is an extension of the way we conduct business today. It optimizes the capabilities of all three components; the active duty, Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard and their respective members: creating a common vision.

In support of the Future Total Force vision, the Air Force Reserve will divest older aircraft that are becoming increasingly less relevant to what's needed over the battlefield. We will also test new organizational constructs to integrate into every facet of Air Force operations. The Reserve Associate program has been a proven force multiplier in the mobility community since 1968. We are expanding our associate program, to other mission areas in order to ensure critical continuity, surge capability, and enable cost savings through a sharing of weapon systems. As a Command, we must transform to maximize the capabilities that cutting edge technology offers us. We are closely reviewing current and emerging mission areas to ensure each component's role is appropriate. Involvement in future missions will not only increase our operational effectiveness, but should reduce reliance on involuntary mobilization, through the reachback capability missions such as Information Operations, space, UAVs and others will provide. The Air Force uses volunteers first for a variety of peacetime, contingency

and war operations. However, some missions like major conflicts cannot be strictly completed thru volunteerism and we need to turn to mobilizations. However, mobilizing during a steady state of operations eventually creates an unbalanced force. Better balance is achieved with Future Total Force.

The Air Force Reserve has been a full partner in the Future Total Force process and is working closely to stand up a number of test initiatives directed by the Chief of Staff last year. One initiative is expanding the Air Force Reserve presence in support of many missions at the Air Warfare Center Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. We are also working with Air Force Special Operations Command to establish an associate Predator unit at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. And, for the first time, we are standing up an associate fighter unit at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. I am closely following the progress of these initiatives and look forward to working with my partners in the active duty and Air National Guard to explore further opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, Future Total Force will further integrate all Air Force components, realizing synergies we are only now beginning to realize. We, in the Air Force Reserve, are prepared to take on these new missions; to be proactive; and accept change. Future Total Force enables the Air Force Reserve to remain an integral part of the Air Force team.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today and look forward to your questions.