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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: Aircraft Programs

STATEMENT OF: Statement of Lt Gen Howie Chandler
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Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss Air Force aircraft programs. Within today's fiscal constraints, we must fight the Global War on Terror (GWOT) and protect the homeland while transforming the force and maintaining an acceptable level of risk. The Air Force is committed to balancing the health of today's force with the modernization and recapitalization necessary to provide the capabilities required to meet the challenges of the future. We very much appreciate the support this committee has provided to our Airmen and for ongoing operations around the world.

The Air Force has three priorities: winning the global war on terror as part of the joint team; developing and caring for our Airmen; and maintaining, modernizing, and recapitalizing our systems to meet the Nation's needs. Your Air Force has been at war for 15 consecutive years - from the initial Desert Shield deployments in 1990 to our ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have learned a great deal about our capability portfolios such as Precision Global Strike, Persistent C4ISR, and Rapid Global Mobility. Based on lessons learned, we must adjust force structure and recapitalize the Air Force to continue to be a relevant force for the Nation's National Security Strategy. We are operating the oldest inventory of aircraft in our history, while maintaining the operations tempo dictated by the GWOT, humanitarian crises, and routine requirements. As part of the Air Force transformation roadmap, we need to divest some of our older, less capable, and most costly aircraft to make funding available for newer aircraft with greater capability, increased availability, and lower maintenance requirements/costs.

Aircraft

The Air Force's primary fighter recapitalization program is the F-22A Raptor. The F-22A is a 5th generation fighter aircraft that delivers Joint Air Dominance to counter persistent and emerging national security challenges. This transformational combat aircraft utilizes advanced stealth technology, cruises at supersonic speeds, is highly maneuverable, and provides an unprecedented level of situational awareness information from its onboard sensors. Given its vast improvements in every aspect of aerial combat, the F-22A is an insurance policy for Joint Air Dominance in anti-access environments well into the future. F-22A missions include the destruction of enemy air defenses, precision strike, maritime interdiction, counterair, cruise missile defense, and a persistent surveillance capability not replicated by any other combat aircraft. The F-22A is flying today and continues to meet key performance parameters and spiral modernization will further enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground target engagement capability.

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 07 President's Budget (PB), funding was added to the Future Year Defense Plan (FYDP) for a total of 183 aircraft. To reduce unit cost, the PB requests multi-year procurement authority from Congress to procure the next 60 aircraft (Lots 7-9) and requests Economic Order Quantity funding to achieve the projected Lot 8 and 9 savings. In addition to procuring more F-22A, the multi-year procurement strategy will extend the production to FY12 and allow the Department of Defense to keep this fifth generation fighter line open as a hedge against delays to the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program. Complementing the capabilities of the F-22A Raptor is the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), also a 5th generation fighter. The JSF will recapitalize combat

capabilities currently provided by the F-16 and A-10. Optimized for all-weather strike, JSF will provide precision engagement and rapid global strike capabilities. The JSF program will develop and produce a family of stealthy, multi-role, strike fighter aircraft meeting the operational needs of the Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Allies.

The FY07 PB recommends termination of the JSF F-136 engine development program to provide cost savings through FY11. The Department of Defense concluded a single engine supplier provides the best balance of risk and cost based upon recent experience with engine development for the F-22A and F/A-18 E/F. The Pratt and Whitney F-135 engine continues to meet JSF performance requirements.

The JSF and F-22A will compliment each other and assure joint air dominance in the future threat environment. The F-22A will literally “kick the door down” in anti-access situations enabling the JSF to establish and maintain persistent strike effects that holding the adversary at risk. When compared with the JSF, the F-22A is designed with a greater thrust-to-weight ratio and a doubled payload of beyond-visual-range missiles to maximize survivability and lethality in anti-access environments.

The B-52 Stand-off Jammer Program was designed to enhance survivability of low-observable and conventional aircraft survivability against modern integrated air defenses. This program was terminated because it was deemed too expensive in the current fiscally constrained environment. Termination of the B-52 Stand-off Jammer Program provides significant cost avoidance across the FYDP. The Air Force instead will study and invest in other airborne electronic attack system-of-system components such as Miniature Air-Launched Decoys (MALD), and standoff weapons to mitigate risk. The Air Force is also engaged in the Deputy Secretary of Defense directed Joint Staff

and Office of the Secretary of Defense Program Analysis and Evaluation Report on Airborne Electronic Attack due by Fall 2006.

Your Air Force today offers an unparalleled set of combat capabilities giving this Nation the ability to respond swiftly, decisively, and with agility across the spectrum of warfare. As we look forward to the future, we must continue focusing our investments toward modernization, recapitalization, and, where it makes sense, retirement of our aging aircraft and weapon systems. Continued investment in persistent C4ISR, rapid global mobility, and precision global strike capabilities enable us to respond to asymmetric, irregular, and emerging threats. Recognizing that no Service, or even the DoD, can achieve success by itself, the Air Force will focus on increasing the integration and effectiveness of the Joint Force and interagency team. As previously stated, we will win the Global War on Terror as part of the joint team, care for and develop our Airmen, and modernize and recapitalize our systems to meet the needs of the Nation. We appreciate your continued support providing our Airmen with the best tools possible. I look forward to your questions.