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THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: Strategic Forces Programs in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for
Fiscal Year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Programs

STATEMENT OF: Maj Gen David Scott, USAF
Director of Operational Capability Requirements

March 17, 2010

Senate Armed Services Committee

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

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Subject: USAF Bomber Fleet

Statement of

Maj Gen David Scott, A5R (Director of Operational Capability Requirements)

Good morning Chairman Levin, Ranking Member McCain, and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee regarding Air Force Strategic Forces and the current conventional operations for B-52, B-1, and B-2. All three of our long range strike platforms remain engaged in today's fight while retaining an ability to meet future challenges. Air Force bombers have been on rotating deployment to SWA since 9/11.

The B-52 amplifies the consistent message of long range US airpower in a theater such as USPACOM where distance drives decisions. Equipped with advanced targeting pods, the B-52s can also provide real-time ISR with full motion video, enhanced situational awareness, a demonstrable over watch presence, and precision joint fires in support of CDRUSPACOM objectives. While our B-52 fleet remains heavily tasked and is currently supporting the deployed operations on a one-to-three dwell, it continues to meet a constant nuclear commitment with the non-deployed forces.

The B-52 brings some unique maritime support capabilities to the Pacific theater, a theater defined by the immensity of the Pacific Ocean. In a broad ocean area surveillance or in an anti-shipping role, the B-52 provides an important force multiplier to the fleet and Joint Forces Air Component Commander. B-52s equipped with advanced targeting pods and armed with joint direct attack munitions (JDAM) provide persistence over the battle field or the fleet which significantly contributes to the effectiveness of the joint force's ability to respond to critical land, sea or air threats.

The B-1 is in the on-going fight in Afghanistan and provides long range persistent airpower in direct support of NATO, US, and Afghan troops. The B-1 provides real-time ISR

with full motion video, enhanced situational awareness, a demonstrable over watch presence, and precision joint fires in support of coalition objectives. B-1s added SNIPER Advanced Targeting Pod (ATP) capability in summer 2009, to provide air crew with positive ID capability and the ability to share video with forces on the ground. The AF developed this capability--in response to a CENTCOM tasking--on an accelerated 18 month timeline. This allows the ability to combine precision targeting, precision weapons, and persistence to the joint commander.

Demonstrating a worldwide deterrence capability with our nuclear forces is vital to protecting both the US and our allies. The B-2 and B-52 are tasked to provide dedicated support to USSTRATCOM. This is done via the Global Deterrence Force; our recent reorganization of the B-52 fleet to add a fourth active duty squadron, the 69th bomb squadron, at Minot which is designed to optimize support for the USSTRATCOM mission. While deployed, the units meet Air Tasking Order mission requirements for both ground alert and scheduled sorties to support USSTRATCOM's objectives.

Air Force bombers are also currently supporting USPACOM's Continuous Bomber Presence to assure allies and support U.S. interests in the Pacific region. AF bombers have been deployed to USPACOM (Andersen AFB) since 2003--currently, the B-2 and B-52 cover this tasking. Each B-52 deployment brings aviators, maintainers and support forces for what is growing from a 120-day to a 179-day period. B-2s rotate in behind every two B-52 rotations.

USPACOM deployed bombers support a variety of exercises, often in conjunction with other Combat Air Force assets. Training missions include local sorties, exercises, and 24-hour global power missions to ranges in Hawaii, Alaska, and Australia. Significant exercises include NORTHERN EDGE in the Alaskan ranges and VALIANT SHIELD in the vicinity of Guam. NORTHERN EDGE is an annual AF exercise where bombers integrate with F-22, F-15, and F-16 fighters as well as E-3 AWACS to conduct simulated composite force integrated strikes against ground and air defenses. VALIANT SHIELD was a joint exercise with the USN where B-2s and F-15Es exercised with naval aviation assets from two Carrier Strike Groups simultaneously, marking the largest mass of US naval forces since the Vietnam War.

The Air Force continues our commitment to future long-range strike capabilities, as part of a comprehensive, phased plan to modernize and sustain our bomber force. We will continue

planned legacy bomber sustainment and modernization to increase the conventional capabilities of the bomber fleet.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I look forward to your questions.