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THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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SUBCOMMITTEE

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BEFORE THE

SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE

OF THE

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON

UNMANNED CARRIER LAUNCHED AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE
AND STRIKE PROGRAM

JULY 16, 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member McIntyre, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, we thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the Department of the Navy's (DoN) Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (UCLASS) program. The UCLASS program will be an important addition to the Department of Defense's broad portfolio of programs that serve the near-term ISR needs of the nation and the joint warfighters. UCLASS, therefore, must be viewed as one of many assets that provide various capabilities including ISR, persistence flexible mission payloads (sensors and weapons) and enhanced survivability, to name a few.

The United States is a maritime nation with global responsibilities. Our Navy and Marine Corps' persistent presence and multi-mission capability represent U.S. power projection across the global commons. Navy and Marine Corps forces move at will across the world's oceans, seas and littorals, and they extend the effects of the sea-base deep inland. Naval Aviation provides our nation's leaders with "offshore options" where needed, when needed. We enable global reach and access, regardless of changing circumstances, and will continue to be the nation's preeminent option for employing deterrence through global presence, sea control, mission flexibility and when necessary, armed interdiction. The Navy and Marine Corps provide an agile strike and amphibious power projection force in readiness, and such agility requires that the aviation arm of our naval strike and expeditionary forces remain capable in the future threat environment. UCLASS will enhance our Naval and Joint Force capabilities by providing the carrier air wing with organic persistent Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Targeting (ISR&T) and precision strike capability.

Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (UCLASS) System

The UCLASS system is the next step in the Navy's evolutionary integration of unmanned air systems into the carrier strike group operational environment. It will provide a persistent, aircraft carrier-based, ISR&T and precision strike capability with inherent provisions for growth in mission capability, keeping UCLASS relevant long into the future.

The DoN is fully committed to UCLASS. Our Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget requests \$403.0 million in RDT&E,N for system development efforts to meet Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) direction to expedite fielding of an early operational capability. The JROC has re-affirmed, as recently as February 2014, the need for rapid fielding of an affordable, adaptable, carrier-based ISR&T platform with future precision strike capability.

Warfighter representatives from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) staff, Commander of Naval Air Forces, and United States Fleet Forces Command collaborated over the last

four years to ensure alignment of all UCLASS requirements. The CNO signed the Capabilities Development Document (CDD) in April 2013. Key Performance Parameters (KPPs) and Key System Attributes (KSAs) have remained stable and unchanged since that time.

UCLASS KPPs and KSAs address affordability, persistence, sensor payload, weapons payload (including future growth capability), survivability (including future growth capability), and aerial refueling (give and receive). UCLASS is required to be fully integrated within the current carrier air-wing and sustainable onboard an aircraft carrier. It will also have the ability to pass command and control information along with sensor data to other aircraft, naval vessels, and ground forces. Sensor data will be transmitted to exploitation nodes afloat and ashore. Interfaces will be provided with existing ship and land-based command and control systems, as well as processing, exploitation, and dissemination systems.

Based on the technology advancement and maturation demonstrated via the UCAS-D program, combined with insight gained through recent UCLASS Preliminary Design Reviews (PDRs) conducted with Northrop-Grumman, Lockheed-Martin, Boeing, and General Atomics, the Navy is confident that a government-industry team has the ability to deliver a UCLASS system that meets Service-approved CDD requirements within planned cost and schedule.

Significant reduction in FY15 UCLASS funding or a program pause for further review of UCLASS requirements will significantly delay source-selection activities, award of a development contract to industry, and will negatively impact delivery of an early operational capability. Any significant delay at this point in the program will also jeopardize continued investment and/or participation by one or more industry partners.

DoD, in concert with Congress, has spent the last four years in assessment of the UCLASS performance requirements, leading to the balanced capability reflected in the recently released draft Request for Proposal. In parallel, the Navy has developed an acquisition strategy that balances affordability and expediency with the ability to cost effectively expand UCLASS capabilities to address future threats.