

**RECORD VERSION VERSION 2**

**STATEMENT BY**

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VICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES ARMY**

**BEFORE THE**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND  
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**Introduction**

Chairman Sessions, Senator Lieberman, members of the committee –

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the Army's transformation and our plans to meet current worldwide commitments, while we simultaneously transform to a more flexible, capable, joint and expeditionary force.

I thank the members of the committee for their continued outstanding support to the men and women in uniform who make up our great Army. Your concern, resolute action, and deep commitment to America's sons and daughters are widely recognized throughout the ranks of our Service.

We are also grateful for your continued support of the Army's Transformation. The goals of Army Transformation are to provide relevant and ready future forces that are organized, trained, and equipped for full spectrum joint, interagency, and multi-national operations. Our Future Force is the operational force the Army continuously seeks to become – a strategically responsive, networked, capabilities-based, precision, maneuver force that is dominant across the range of military operations envisioned for the future global security environment.

**Current Posture**

With over 320,000 soldiers deployed in 120 countries worldwide, the Army remains actively engaged in support of the nation's operational requirements. Approximately 165,000 of our Soldiers are overseas on 12-month, unaccompanied tours, and the vast majority of these troops are engaged in combat operations in the U.S. Central Command Area of Operations. Currently, the equivalent of eight Army divisions is either deploying to or redeploying from our overseas missions, including Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Southwest Asia, the Stabilization Force and Kosovo Force in the Balkans, and the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai. This constitutes the largest movement of U.S. forces since World

War II. Couple that with the mobilization of more than 150,000 combat-ready National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers, and you can see that this is an unprecedented moment in the Army's history.

The Army is the dominant land campaign force for our Combatant Commanders. Our centerpiece is the American Soldier. Today, these great Soldiers are performing extraordinarily well in tough combat and stability operations around the world. They understand their missions and willingly undertake their roles with pride and determination. They make a difference every day.

### **The One Army Concept**

Side by side, the Active Component, Army National Guard and Army Reserve have proven that they are a combat-capable and ready team. Our Reserve Components have shared a substantial portion of the Army's mission since September 11, 2001. Our successes would not have been possible without our Reserve Component Soldiers.

Currently, we are in the process of deploying three more enhanced Separate Brigades: the 39th Infantry Brigade from the Arkansas National Guard with the 1st Cavalry Division; the 30th Infantry Brigade from the North Carolina National Guard with the 1st Infantry Division; and the 81st Infantry Brigade from the Washington National Guard to CJTF-7, and large numbers of combat support and combat service support soldiers from across the country. These units are well-equipped, well-trained and well-prepared for their missions.

### **The Army's Core Competencies**

As the Army fights the global war on terrorism and remains committed to transforming, we are focused on two core competencies: (1) training and equipping Soldiers and growing leaders; and (2) providing relevant and ready land power to Combatant Commanders as part of the Joint Team. It is clear that the Army must be an agile and capable force with a Joint and Expeditionary Mindset. We must be versatile, strategically deployable, and prepared for decisive operations whenever and wherever required. We must be lethal and fully interoperable with other components and our

allies, as well as flexible, informed, proactive, responsive, and totally integrated into the Joint, interagency, and multi-national context. Our management and support processes must reflect and support these same characteristics.

### **Mitigating Strategic Risk Through Increased Land-Power Capability**

Our Nation and Army are at war. Our extensive commitments have highlighted stresses to our forces. To mitigate risk, our Army has embarked on a series of initiatives. I would like to address several of these initiatives today, because it is important to understand how the Army is transforming itself as we provide trained and ready forces to Combatant Commanders.

First, we are rebalancing capabilities between our Active and Reserve Component forces to improve our strategic flexibility. Second, we are reorganizing our combat formations into modular, brigade-based formations to make them more self-sufficient and to facilitate force packaging. Third, we are initiating a force stabilization program to increase unit readiness, reduce personnel turbulence, and make life more predictable for our Soldiers, units and families.

These efforts will yield an Army that has the right capabilities to respond rapidly and decisively to future challenges.

### **Rebalancing our Army**

Being an Army at war provides focus and insights as we rebalance to meet the challenges of the emerging operational environment. We recognize that we must provide our Nation with full-spectrum, ground combat and support capabilities that can defeat adaptive enemies anywhere in the world.

Our challenge is not necessarily that we have too few soldiers. Instead, it stems from the fact that our formations, designed for the Cold War, must now meet the requirements of the Global War on Terrorism and other operations, which will persist for years to come. To meet the challenges of the future, we are rebalancing more than 100,000 spaces in our Active and Reserve Components – converting them to relieve the burden on the low density/high demand units, e.g., military police.

We accelerated this process after September 11, 2001, to alleviate the stress placed on our most-needed units. In compliance with Secretary of Defense's guidance to minimize involuntary mobilizations within the first 30 days of a contingency, we made further progress in 2003. We expect Army rebalancing measures to continue with the same momentum in 2005 and beyond. Our National Guard and Army Reserve have been, and will continue to be, integral to the planning and decision-making process for this effort.

### **Modularity**

In addition to rebalancing our forces, we are creating a brigade-based, modular Army to enhance responsiveness and to increase our joint and expeditionary capabilities. Webster's defines modularity as "composed of standardized units for easy construction or flexible arrangements." Although this may seem to be an oversimplification of what the Army is doing, it is precisely our concept.

The basic maneuver element in the modular Army will be the Unit of Action, similar to today's brigade. Units of Action will be flexible, self-contained and capable across the entire operational spectrum.

The Army intends to increase the number of Active Component brigades from 33 to 43 by fiscal year 2007; at that time, we will decide whether to continue the process to achieve 48 brigades. During the same time period, Army National Guard Brigades will reorganize into 34 brigade-size units using the same modular design as the Active Component.

The Chief of Staff has approved the initial modular design of the 3rd Infantry Division and its transformation is under way. Following rigorous training, to include rotations through our combat training centers at Fort Polk, Louisiana; and Fort Irwin, California; the Division will be reset for potential deployment anywhere in the world as early as the first quarter of fiscal year 2005.

### **Force Stabilization**

The challenges associated with current operational requirements place significant stress on our existing force structure, both active and reserve. The approval

of a temporary end-strength increase affords us the opportunity to implement permanent initiatives aimed at mitigating that stress to the force.

The force stabilization initiative consists of two complementary policies: unit-focused stability and home basing. Under home basing, Soldiers will remain at their initial installation for six to seven years -- well beyond the current three-year average. Unit-focused stability will allow Soldiers to arrive, train and serve together for roughly 36 months, enhancing unit cohesion, training effectiveness and readiness. During the unit's operational cycle, Soldiers can expect to complete an operational deployment rotation of six to 12 months. Overall, with force stabilization, units will have more reliable training and deployment schedules, and Soldiers and families will get a greater sense of predictability.

## **Future Capabilities**

Our modernization efforts continue and are bearing fruit, as evidenced by the recent fielding and deployment to Iraq of our first Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Our second SBCT will become operational this spring, and the third in 2005. Three more SBCTs will be fielded through 2008.

Further, we constantly seek to achieve the right balance between the current and the future force, even when that entails making tough choices, such as canceling the Comanche program. Though it was a difficult decision, we believe it was unquestionably the right one. By reallocating funds originally intended for Comanche the Army can buy almost 800 new aircraft, upgrade or modernize an additional 1400 aircraft—modernization for almost 70 percent of our fleet—and outfit our aircraft with the survivability equipment they need. In fiscal year 2005 alone, the Army will convert 19 Apaches to the Longbow configuration, upgrade five Black Hawks to the UH-60M configuration, purchase 27 new UH-60Ls; buy four new CH-47Fs; convert 16 existing CH-47s into F and G models; and procure 160 new, higher-power CH-47 engines. In addition, our Army will start a Lightweight Utility Helicopter program, under which we will acquire 10 new, off-the-shelf aircraft in fiscal year 2005. We need your support to use the Comanche resources to fix Army aviation.

Additionally, the Army plans to field a number of systems this decade that will provide a foundation for the transformation of our Current Force capabilities into those needed by our Future Force. Once fielded, these systems will perform as an interdependent system of systems that will significantly enhance joint warfighting capabilities. The following are some of the key transformational systems that our Army will begin to field during the next six years.

## **The Network**

The situational dominance of our Future Force will depend upon a comprehensive, ever-present, and joint-interoperable Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) architecture that will enable the Joint Force Commander to conduct fully interdependent and network-centric warfare. This Network will provide the backbone of our Future Force and the future Joint Force, enabling the maneuver commander to effectively coordinate battlefield effects. Some of the more important systems within the Network include the following:

- Warfighter Information Network – Tactical (WIN-T). WIN-T will be the communications network of our Future Force, optimized for offensive and joint operations, while providing the Combatant Commander the capability to perform multiple missions simultaneously.
- Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS). JTRS is a family of common, software-defined programmable radios that will become our Army's primary tactical radio for mobile communications.
- Distributed Common Ground System – Army (DCGS-A). DCGS-A is a single, integrated, ground-based, ISR processing systems composed of joint, common hardware and software components. It is part of the Department of Defense DCGS family of systems.
- Aerial Common Sensor (ACS). This ISR system and platform will use robust sensor-to-shooter and reach links (such as DCGS-A ground stations) to

provide commanders at every echelon the tailored, multi-sensor intelligence required for joint operations.

### **Future Combat Systems (FCS)**

The core of our Future Force's maneuver Unit of Action is FCS, comprised of 18 manned and unmanned platforms that are centered around the Soldier and integrated within a C4ISR network. FCS will provide our Soldiers greatly enhanced situational awareness, enabling them to see first, understand first, act first, and finish decisively. Our FCS platforms will offer the Joint Force networked, lethal direct fire; indirect fire; air defense; complementary non-lethal fires and effects; and troop transport capability. In May 2003, FCS moved on schedule into the Systems Development and Demonstration phase. Our Army is aggressively managing our FCS development effort and intends to achieve initial operational capability by the end of the decade. FCS is essential to the Army transformation.

The recent termination of the RAH-66 Comanche program was a strategic decision to fix Army aviation now and improve our future capabilities, leveraging both the technology base and the knowledge we gained from the Comanche program. We will use the savings from the Comanche program to modernize aircraft and extend aviation capabilities beyond the 2020 timeframe, acquire almost 800 new aircraft (through 2011) to build modular Active and Reserve Component aviation formations, and transform US Army Reserve and Army National Guard aviation by replacing over 850 aging aircraft and standardizing Active and Reserve component aviation systems. As importantly, we will also accelerate aircrew protection and Aircraft Survivability Equipment fielding initiatives necessary for both ongoing and future operations.

### **ACCELERATED ACQUISITION AND FIELDING**

We have adapted and continue to improve our acquisition and fielding processes. In 2002, as Soldiers reported equipment shortages in Afghanistan and elsewhere, we implemented the Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) to ensure that all of our troops deploy with the latest available equipment. Equipment fielding schedules were

revised to support unit rotation plans, and procurement and fielding cycles were radically compressed.

In coordination with field commanders and our Soldiers, a list of more than 40 mission-essential items, including the Advanced Combat Helmet, close-combat optics, Global Positioning System receivers, Soldier intercoms and hydration systems, was identified for rapid fielding. Laying the foundation for acquisition transformation, RFI already has equipped nine brigade combat teams (BCTs). In fiscal year 2004, RFI will upgrade a minimum of 18 BCTs and eight enhanced Separate Brigades serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, we are accelerating fielding of select future capabilities to our Current Force. These items include thermal weapon sights, enhanced night vision goggles, improved body armor, the Future Combat Rifle, and a new sniper rifle. It is the strong support of Congress that enables our Army to put this improved equipment in the hands of our Soldiers.

Support from Congress has also enabled our Army to institute a Rapid Equipping Force (REF) to work directly with operational commanders and find solutions to operational requirements. These solutions may be off-the-shelf or near-term developmental items that can be made available quickly. For example, the REF established a coordinated effort to supply our forces with immediate solutions to counter improvised explosive device (IED) threats. Currently, IED teams are on location providing expertise and materiel solutions to safeguard our Soldiers. We are acting aggressively to improve the armor protection of our armored and light-skinned vehicles. Other examples of REF products are the Well-Cam and PackBots. The Well-Cam is a camera, attached to an Ethernet cable and a laptop that enables Soldiers in theater to search wells for weapons caches. PackBots are operational robots used to clear caves, buildings, and compounds so Soldiers are not put in harm's way unnecessarily.

RFI and REF provide timely support to our relevant and ready forces and to Combatant Commanders, and facilitate Army Transformation.

## **The Soldier**

The Soldier remains the centerpiece of our combat systems and formations and is indispensable to the Joint Team. Adaptive, confident, and competent Soldiers, infused with the Army's values and warrior culture, fight wars and win the peace. As a warrior, every Soldier must be prepared to engage the enemy in close combat; the modern battlefield has no safe areas. Our Army trains our Soldiers to that standard, without regard to their specialty or unit. Our Soldiers are bright, honest, dedicated and totally committed to the mission. The Soldier – fierce, disciplined, well-trained, well-led, and well-equipped – ultimately represents and enables the capabilities our Army provides to the Joint Force and the Nation.

## **Conclusion**

Our Army's commitment to the future is certain. We will continue to provide our Nation, the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Combatant Commanders a unique set of core competencies and capabilities. We remain dedicated to training and equipping our Soldiers and growing leaders. We will continue to deliver relevant and ready land power to the Combatant Commanders and the Joint Force.

Our Soldiers continue to perform magnificently around the globe. Simultaneously executing the Global War on Terrorism, implementing our modularity and transformation initiatives, and setting the force will be a challenge. However, it is also an opportunity to reshape ourselves for the future that we cannot pass up.

Your support of this budget and for our on-going operations, specifically in Iraq and Afghanistan, is critical if our units are to continue their remarkable performance and to be ready for future contingencies.

We appreciate your dedication to your military and to America's sons and daughters, who are serving selflessly throughout the world to make America safe and free. Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss our Army and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.