

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: Global Strike

**STATEMENT OF: MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY GORENC
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY REQUIREMENTS,
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR AIR AND SPACE
OPERATIONS,
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

29 MARCH 2006

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED
BY THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES SENATE**

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Air Force capabilities with respect to Global Strike. It is important to pay tribute to the Airmen who are currently engaged in operations around the globe projecting the full range of Air, Space and Cyberspace operations as a part of a true Joint and Coalition team, multiplying the effectiveness of our partners by providing sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests. We fly and we fight—whether we are flying A-10s over Afghanistan; F-16s over Iraq; communications satellites in geosynchronous orbit; piloting Unmanned Aerial Systems patrolling Baghdad; or maintaining vigilance over our Nation’s homeland in an Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft. All Airmen, no matter what their specialty, contribute to this mission. Today there are approximately 30,000 Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Airmen deployed around the world, many in harm’s way. These brave men and woman are performing what we would say are traditional Air Force missions, such as providing Close Air Support for ground operations and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance from air and space-based systems, or non-traditional duties, like Convoy Operations, Provincial Reconstitution Teams, Military Transition Teams, Detainee Operations, Protective Service details, and the list goes on. Your Air Force today is deployed to over 100 forward operating locations touching all seven continents. Our commitment to the Combatant Commanders extends well beyond Airmen in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. We have nearly 210,000 Airmen actively supporting Combatant Commander operations worldwide. These include nuclear alert operations, satellite operations, global airlift, worldwide tanker operations, and Homeland Defense

obligations of approximately 40-50 fighter aircraft, AWACS, and a dozen tankers on duty protecting our skies. Beyond that, we have another 195,000 Airmen available for “Surge Operations,” which are over and above planned deployments, the majority of these Airmen are Guard and Reserve forces.

Maintaining our Nuclear Deterrent

The DoD’s new strategy of employing a capability-based vs. threat-based approach to planning led to the ongoing transformation of the existing triad of U.S. strategic nuclear forces. The old Triad, consisting of intercontinental ballistic missiles, sea-launched ballistic missiles, and bomber aircraft armed with cruise missiles and gravity weapons; is transitioning to become part of a New Triad composed of a diverse portfolio of capabilities. Elements of this New Triad will include nuclear and non-nuclear strike capabilities, active and passive defenses, and robust research and development programs and industrial infrastructure for developing, building, and maintaining offensive and defensive weapon systems, all tied together with advanced Command, Control, Computers, Communications Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) capabilities. Maintaining and modernizing our traditional nuclear strategic forces, at lower numbers is a key component in an effective New Triad.

The Minuteman III ICBM, the backbone of our deterrent force, maintains its entire force on continuous alert. Elements of the Minuteman system were originally designed in the late 1950s and deployed operationally in October 1962; the Minuteman III was deployed beginning in 1975. Modernization programs have been crucial to this system, originally designed to last just ten years. Service life extension programs, nine in all and

well underway, ensure the ICBM force is reliable, survivable, safe and secure through 2020 when the follow-on system, the Land-Based Strategic Deterrent or LBSD, becomes operational. Enhancements to LBSD will include improved accuracy, range, and security with a reduced cost of ownership.

The Quadrennial Defense Review directed the Minuteman force be reduced from 500 to 450 beginning in FY2007. This reduction will maintain an effective, balanced nuclear force for worldwide deterrence. The Air Force is currently evaluating which 50 ICBMs will be deactivated. We estimate the cost of deactivation will be approximately 19 and a half million dollars. Post deactivation, around FY2010, the Air Force estimates an approximate recurring savings of three and a half million dollars. This figure does not include any manpower savings for the missile operators, maintainers, depot support and training personnel associated with the deactivation of a missile squadron, because these positions will be distributed elsewhere within the Air Force as part of rebalancing the Total Force.

The continuing advancements in conventional weapons capability, specifically increased precision and stand-off weapon ranges, will also allow us to reduce the Total Aircraft Inventory of B-52s from 76 to 56. The savings from these reductions will be utilized to fund the remaining bomber modernization effort, known as Phase One of the Long-Range Strike effort.

Long Range Strike

Our forces must be simultaneously responsive to multiple Combatant Commanders and be able to strike any point on the planet. To further refine our Rapid

Strike capabilities, the Air Force is transitioning to a Long-Range Strike strategy focusing on effects instead of platforms. We view long-range strike as the capability to achieve desired effects rapidly and persistently on any target set in any operational environment. The Air Force has a three-phased approach to meet the nation's long-range strike requirements. Today, we provide deep strike capabilities through a variety of platforms and weapons. In Phase One, we will continue to modernize the legacy bomber fleet to upgrade, strengthen and increase their combat effectiveness. Phase Two, what we call the Next Generation Long-Range Strike effort, leverages near-term technologies to start development of a long-range strike capability that augments the current fleet around 2018. In this phase, we will develop and field a Regional Strike capability or set of capabilities, with an emphasis on survivability and lethality improvements. Phase Three encompasses the development of advanced technologies today that will allow us to enable advances needed for the envisioned capabilities in 2035. These future capabilities must combine speed, stealth and payload to strike hardened, deeply buried, or mobile targets, deep in enemy territory, in an anti-access environment, in adverse weather and with survivable persistence.

Prompt Global Strike

The New Triad requires the future force to provide a tailored and balanced deterrence capability that includes a wider range of conventional prompt, precise global strike systems more agile than current systems. This includes the ability to strike within hours, not days, any high value target, regardless of anti-access threats or denial of forward-based assets. To this end, United States Strategic Command and the Air Force

have partnered to close the identified gaps with respect to this need. The effort is called Prompt Global Strike or PGS, and it can be accomplished in a variety of ways, through kinetic systems capable of placing conventional payloads precisely on target within minutes of release, to non-kinetic means, such as computer network attack. The initial capabilities document defining PGS was written in May 2005. On 16 February 2006 the Air Force Requirements for Operational Capability Council approved the PGS document. An Analysis of Alternatives will begin Spring 2006.

Cyberspace

Assured, rapid delivery of information to the right warfighters is the foundation for all Air Force operations. Cyberspace is a logical extension of our core competencies, enabling fast-moving effects across the spectrum of war nearly eliminating time and distance as obstacles. We must maintain our pre-eminence in cyberspace to ensure success in any future conflict. Preparing for the future, the Air Force is currently exploring innovative organizational constructs to ensure unity in the procurement, operation, sustainment and defense of information systems. This and other concepts are being explored by a Cyberspace Task Force.

Conclusion

Your Air Force of today and of the future will strengthen the entire Joint and Coalition team. Dominance of air, space and cyberspace paves the way to overall success. In keeping with the current emphasis on innovation and transformation, the future Air Force will be a more capable yet leaner force. As the keepers of our nation's

readiness, Congress is in a position to help reach these essential goals and for that we thank you for your unwavering support. For America to hold its military advantage, the Air Force must continue to improve its capabilities to keep pace with the realities of the future battlespace. The United States Air Force is proud to support the Joint Team and we look forward to addressing Air Force Global Strike issues with your committee.