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THE SENATE ARMED SERVICE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

**STATEMENT OF**  
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**BEFORE THE**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES**  
**OF THE**  
**SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2007 GLOBAL STRIKE**  
**MARCH 29, 2006**

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## **Introduction**

Chairman Sessions, Senator Nelson, and distinguished members of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding Navy's role in global strike.

The hierarchy of policy documentation that reflects our national strategy identifies the need for precise global strike. The President's National Security Strategy directs an active approach toward countering transnational terrorist networks, rogue nations and aggressive states that possess or are working to gain weapons of mass destruction or effect (WMD/E). The National Defense Strategy further charges the Department of Defense to secure the United States from direct attack, and to counter, at a safe distance, those who seek to use WMD/E against us. To deter or otherwise prevent such an attack against the United States, its allies or its interests, our National Military Strategy emphasizes the need for rapid and accurate global strike, by both nuclear and conventional means.

## **The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review**

In accordance with the aforementioned strategic policy, the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR 06) further explored the requirement for global strike.

In particular, QDR 06 detailed the need for a Joint Maritime Force capable of "conventional global strikes against time-sensitive targets...to counter political anti-access and irregular warfare challenges." Today's Navy provides this capability via flexible, forward-deployed assets such as Carrier Strike Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups, and Guided Missile Submarines (SSGN). Yet among the key proposals made by QDR 06 was a refinement of our existing maritime capability to include "a wider range of conventional and non-kinetic deterrent options." Specifically, QDR 06 proposed that a number of TRIDENT submarine-launched ballistic missiles be converted for use in conventional global strike.

### **Conventional TRIDENT Modification**

Conventional TRIDENT Modification (CTM) adapts the TRIDENT II (D5) missile system to deliver conventional (non-nuclear) effects at global ranges. The TRIDENT Weapon System and the D5 missile are well suited for this role by virtue of the long range and payload capacity of the D5 missile, and the responsiveness and survivability of the TRIDENT weapon system. Responsive, survivable and persistent, CTM will defeat a diverse set of unpredictable threats without visible presence or risk to U.S. forces, and with little or no warning prior to strike. CTM implements the New Triad envisioned by the Nuclear Posture Review, and is an evolution of deterrence toward conventional weapons. CTM CONOPS are currently under development at USSTRATCOM.

CTM will use existing D5 missiles, MK4 reentry bodies equipped with aerodynamic controls, GPS-aided terminal guidance, and a conventional warhead. Advanced error-correcting reentry vehicles with GPS-aided Inertial Navigation Systems have been flight proven in a previous D5 test program. Total time from decision to weapons-on-target is about 1 hour. CTM technology can be rapidly developed and deployed within 24 months. The total cost of the program, including operations, training, and support is \$503M. The CTM program is fully funded, with \$127 million budgeted in FY-07 and \$376 million budgeted through FY-10. The CTM program will leverage existing D5 investment and infrastructure to minimize risk to operations, training and support funding.

### **Further Navy Investment**

In addition to proposing a conventional global strike option, QDR 06 called for the continued maintenance of our existing nuclear capability. Navy has several initiatives underway toward this end.

## **TRIDENT II D5LE Program**

TRIDENT II (D5) Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile Life Extension (LE) program will redesign and replace aging missile electronics and guidance systems. Under this program, 108 additional missiles will be procured in order to meet long-term inventory requirements associated with the life extension of the OHIO class SSBN from 30 to 45 years. Redesign of missile electronics and guidance components is in progress, and procurement of new D5 LE missiles begins in FY-08. The TRIDENT II (D5) missile has been operational since 1990, providing the backbone of America's strategic deterrence. The low-rate production continuity procurement strategy has been extensively reviewed and approved by DoD and the Congress, and has been in execution for nearly 15 years. This procurement strategy has proven successful, based on the demonstrated performance of the TRIDENT II D5 weapon system. The Navy submitted a report to Congress in December 2002 that detailed the impact of alternative full-funded procurement strategies and recommended continuation of current production. Continued production of critical components represents the best balance of cost and risk to extend the life of the D5 missile.

## **Tomahawk Cruise Missile**

There are currently four variants of the Tomahawk Cruise Missile in inventory-the Block II with a nuclear warhead, the Block III with either a conventional unitary warhead or sub-munitions payload, and the Block IV Tactical Tomahawk Missile (TACTOM) with the conventional unitary warhead. All four Tomahawk variants provide all weather long-range precision strike capability, supporting Sea Strike as an enabler of Carrier and Expeditionary Strike Groups. The Block IV TACTOM provides greater flexibility and responsiveness, at significantly reduced life cycle cost, than previous Tomahawk variants. Significant Block IV upgrades include flex targeting (with up to 15 pre-planned aim points loaded prior to launch), in-flight retargeting, launch platform mission planning, and a 2-way UHF satellite communications data link. The Tomahawk Block IV is currently in full rate production and the Navy is committed to supporting the

Tomahawk Weapon System program. The FY-07 budget request supports continued procurement of this deep-strike weapon due to inventory reductions during OIF/OEF combat operations. Tomahawk Cruise Missiles are currently being procured in a five-year, multi-year contract that saves approximately 12% over annual procurement contacts.

### **SSGN Engineered Refueling Overhauls (EROs) and Conversions**

The SSGN project refuels, overhauls, and converts the four oldest OHIO class SSBNs to SSGNs. These SSGNs will provide a transformational war fighting capability, carrying up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles and supporting deployed special operating forces. The new SSGNs will also have enhanced communication and improved masts and antennas for network centric operations. The SSGN conversions are being executed via a public-private partnership with Naval Shipyards. The first SSGN conversion, the USS OHIO (SSGN-726), was delivered in December of 2005 after three years in production. Future deliveries include the USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728) in April 2006, the USS MICHIGAN (SSGN 727) in December 2006, and the USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) in September 2007.

### **SSBN Engineered Refueling Overhauls (EROs)**

The OHIO class SSBN remains the backbone of USSTRATCOM's nuclear strike capability. Comprised of 14 TRIDENT II D5 configured hulls, the OHIO-class SSBN remains the most survivable nuclear deterrent in the US strategic arsenal. In keeping with the Secretary of Defense's Nuclear Posture Review, the USS ALABAMA (SSBN 731) began its ERO (in conjunction with TRIDENT C4 to D5 conversion). In FY-07, the USS ALASKA (SSBN 732) will begin its ERO at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY). The Navy will continue with SSBN EROs at the rate of 1 per year, alternating between NNSY and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, in order to sustain our strategic deterrent capability well into the future.

## **Innovation**

The Navy received an FY-06 Congressional plus-up of \$7.2 million to demonstrate the feasibility of the Submarine Launched Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (SLIRBM). Navy will use this money to fabricate one launch chamber and one prototype full-scale rocket motor, and to fund a subsequent test firing. Emphasis of this demonstration will be on affordability, defined as the combination of the lowest projected boost motor subsystem development cost, and the lowest possible expected average unit cost for a notional inventory of 100 missiles. This effort will demonstrate several innovative motor designs and manufacturing techniques in pursuit of an affordable SLIRBM system.

## **Summary**

Our national strategic policy identifies the requirement for a broad range of global strike capabilities. Due to its unrivaled access to the global commons, the Navy is uniquely positioned to fulfill this requirement. In response to the need for conventional global strike, our CTM program is based on mature technologies and existing components. It is compliant with all arms control agreements, and can be developed and deployed within 24 months. Furthermore, we are redesigning and replacing aging missile systems and platforms in order to meet the long-term requirements of nuclear deterrence and global strike. In the meantime, Navy will continue to work closely with members of this subcommittee and the Congress to refine our operational concepts and investments in order to deliver the dominant power our nation expects. We look forward to our continued partnership in this endeavor.