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THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF
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BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
OF THE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
FY2009 STRATEGIC SYSTEMS
12 MARCH 2008**

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Chairman Nelson, Senator Sessions, distinguished members of the Strategic Forces subcommittee. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to appear before you to discuss our Navy's deterrent fleet and the on-going efforts to ensure the continued reliability of our submarine strategic forces. The men and women of Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) are committed to maintaining the high reliability of our deployed OHIO Class submarines with their Trident II D5 Missiles and to supporting emerging requirements of our combatant commanders. I am pleased to report to you that the Trident Strategic Weapons Systems continues to exceed the operational requirements established for the system. On 29 November 2007, USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730) conducted the 120th consecutive successful missile launch as part of her Demonstration and Shakedown Operation. This record is unmatched by any previous missile launch system.

Our 14 Trident Submarines, eight of which are deployed in the Pacific and six in the Atlantic fleet, continue to provide an affordable and credible sea base deterrent for our national leadership. Two of our submarines, USS ALABAMA (SSBN 731) and USS ALASKA (SSBN 732), are undergoing Engineering Refueling Overhauls. USS HENRY M JACKSON has completed her overhaul and post availability testing and is preparing for her strategic outload and return to the operational cycle.

D5 Life Extension

The Trident II missile continues Life Extension on schedule and on budget. The Life Extension program procures an additional 108 missiles and redesigns missile and guidance electronics due to obsolescence to meet long term inventory requirements which will ensure that our OHIO Class submarines are fully out loaded throughout their service lives.

The first Life Extended missile will be delivered to the Navy in FY 2011. Testing of all components has gone well. Continued production of rocket motors has proven to be successful in maintaining our capability to field these critical assets.

In Partnership with the United Kingdom, the Navy is evaluating a follow-on platform to replace the current OHIO Class SSBNs. The U.S. lead-ship will occur in FY 2019.

Nuclear Weapons Security

SSP continues to pursue technologies which will provide credible, cost effective security for the nuclear assets entrusted to our watch. Our Marines and Navy Masters at Arms are providing an effective and integrated elite security force at both of our strategic weapons facilities. We will soon begin construction on our Limited Area Production Security Complex at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific, Bangor, WA. When complete, this facility will provide a significantly higher degree of security for our ashore operations.

The first of our Maritime Protection Force Units has been commissioned at Kings Bay Georgia in support of the Transit Protection System (TPS). The recently commissioned United States Coast Guard Cutter SEA DRAGON will comprise a major part of our Transit Protection System, providing a security umbrella for our OHIO Class Submarines as they deploy and return from their deterrent patrols. The United States Coast Guard has been an exemplary partner in this essential mission.

Phase 2 Study in support of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW)

The Strategic Systems Program chaired and coordinated the RRW Phase 2A design definition and cost study until the suspension of work by our national laboratories in accordance with Congressional direction. The first order analysis of mass properties for the entire system are satisfactory, which means a modern warhead approach will fit within the space and weight constraints of our missile. At the stop work point, the directors of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories remain confident that a modern warhead design:

- Can be certified without underground testing
- Will significantly improve safety & security
- Will significantly reduce the use of toxic material
- And can significantly improve manufacturability

It is important this study or one similar be resumed so that the next administration has the information it needs to complete, as mandated by Congress, a timely review of its nuclear

posture. We should be developing the technologies needed for a modern warhead approach now, regardless of specific program application, in order to make these safety and security capabilities sufficiently mature for future application.

SSGN

The flexibility of this new capability was clearly demonstrated in May 2007 when USS FLORIDA launched two Block IV Tomahawks from the same tube. The following day one Block IV and Block III were launched, demonstrating system capabilities of the Attack Weapons System including in-flight updates and retargeting, the first time this had been done from a submerged submarine. All missiles flew their complete profiles flawlessly to target. All four submarines have completed their conversion to SSGN Attack and Special Operating Force Platforms, with USS GEORGIA being returned to service later this month. USS OHIO (SSBN 726) has recently conducted the first operational SSGN deployment in the Pacific and is on her second deployment. USS Florida has completed her initial load out of Tomahawk missiles and is making final preparations for her first deployment.

Prompt Global Strike

SSP will leverage our successes with ongoing programs such as our Reentry Systems Applications and Guidance Applications programs and collaborate with other services as we participate in a new Defense Wide Conventional Prompt Global Strike Initiative to deliver a new conventional strike option to the Combatant Commanders. SSP continues

to investigate technologies which will become viable for use on future Prompt Global Strike weapons systems which could be tailorable and adaptable into several platforms across the Department. Technologies such as thermal protection, navigation guidance and control, and advanced fuzing concepts must be further developed.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this subcommittee, I sincerely appreciate your continued support of Strategic Systems Programs and our Deterrent Fleet. Your efforts will ensure the continued credibility and reliability of our Trident II Weapons System and its remarkable Trident II D5 Missile, maintaining an unmatched record of success by any missile system. The men and women of Strategic Systems Programs are committed to the highest standards of safety, surety, and reliability of this remarkable system. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today.