

RECORD VERSION

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LTG ROSS N. THOMPSON III**

Chairman Lieberman, Ranking Member Thune, distinguished Members of the Airland Subcommittee. We thank you for the opportunity to discuss Army Modernization and management of the Future Combat Systems (FCS) program in view of the fiscal year (FY) 2010 annual budget and Overseas Contingency Operations supplemental requests.

On behalf of Army Secretary, the Honorable Pete Geren and our Army Chief of Staff, General George Casey, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued, strong support and demonstrated commitment to our Soldiers, Army Civilians, and Family Members.

As all of you know, it has been a busy time for our Nation's military. We are at war; we have been at war for the past seven-plus years, and that has undeniably put a strain on our people and equipment. We have had our share of good and bad experiences; and, we are continually making adjustments and improvements to our tactics, training, and equipment based upon the lessons learned.

Since the very beginning, this war has been in many ways different and more complex than past wars. We are dealing with less clearly defined and highly savvy adversaries in two theaters. In this new strategic environment, the only thing we can know for certain is that the enemy will purposely go where we are not.

Therefore, we must ensure that our Force is prepared and capable to respond to any contingency. As Secretary Gates has said, *"In all, we have to be prepared for the wars we are most likely to fight, not just the*

*wars we've traditionally been best suited to fight or threats we conjure up from potential adversaries who also have limited resources."*

In recent years, in order to remain dominant we have had to simultaneously and swiftly adapt our doctrine and organizational structure to effectively span the breadth of operational environments. It's all part of a changing strategy we refer to in the Army as "*Full Spectrum Operations (FSO)*."

The centerpiece of our efforts has been a shift to a modular construct focused at the brigade level that has greatly enhanced our ability to respond to any situation, quickly and effectively. We've also made corresponding changes to our Table of Organization and Equipment, or TO&E; and, we've expanded our capability by adding Civil Affairs, MPs, Special Forces, and other enablers.

### **Modernization**

The adage that "*we never want to send our Soldiers into a fair fight*" is at the core of the Army Modernization Strategy. Modernization is the key to ensuring our Soldiers maintain a decisive advantage over whatever enemy they face, while improving their survivability. We are pursuing a strategy that rapidly fields equipment to the current force; upgrades equipment for Soldiers going into combat and modernizes select systems; spins-out technologies; and modernizes Brigade Combat Teams. In every aspect of modernization, we leverage lessons learned from Soldiers in the current fight to speed fielding of enhanced capabilities to the force, and concurrently develop capabilities Soldiers need today.

We are transitioning immediately from a **Future Combat Systems (FCS)** Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Strategy to a BCT Modernization Strategy. With respect to the FCS program, the FY2010 President's

Budget calls for us to 1) accelerate fielding of spin-outs to all 73 BCTs starting in FY2011; 2) halt the development and procurement of FCS manned ground vehicles; and 3) halt the development and procurement of the Non-Line-of-Sight-Cannon.

We will move from a modernization strategy focused on fielding 15 FCS BCTs and spin-outs of FCS systems, as mentioned earlier, to a BCT modernization strategy focused on building a versatile mix of networked BCTs and enablers that can leverage mobility, protection, information, precision intelligence and fires to conduct effective FSO across the spectrum of conflict. Such an approach will enable Soldiers to receive key “high-payoff” systems that are quickly integrated into BCTs.

This BCT modernization strategy will continue to integrate valuable technological and network advances developed over the course of this war (e.g., Ground Soldier Ensemble, WIN-T, remote sensors), including those drawn from R&D for the FCS program into our modular formations to enhance their full spectrum capabilities.

To assist us in this regard, the Army recently conducted an after action review of the FCS program’s development and acquisition strategy. The valuable information gathered will assist us in our work to develop a ground combat vehicle concept that incorporates the lessons of the past seven years at war and the technological advances from the FCS program.

An OSD Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) is forthcoming that will provide the detailed guidance for the program going forward. The Army plans to halt the current FCS program after the ADM is signed and

capture the results from the May 2009 System of Systems Preliminary Design Review. We plan to field a new ground combat vehicle in five to seven years.

With regard to existing vehicle upgrades, the Army's combat platform modernization program is focused on standardizing our Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) sets with two variants of the Abrams tank and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System, two of the Army's highest priority combat vehicle recapitalization programs, along with the supporting fire support modernization with the Paladin (PIM). This program will modernize all HBCTs (both Active and Army National Guard), the 3rd ACR, Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS), and the Institutional Training Base.

At present, the Army has nearly completed fielding modularized HBCTs, which gives every brigade a common structure. The short term modernization goal is to populate these brigades with only two variants of the Abrams and the Bradley – the Abrams M1A2SEPV2 (System Enhancement Package) is being paired with its partner the Bradley M2A3 and the Abrams M1A1AIM SA (Abrams Integrated Management Situational Awareness) is being teamed with the Bradley M2A2ODS SA (Operation Desert Storm Situational Awareness). This modernization plan aligns compatible combat platforms with common modular formations.

**Stryker** has planned procurement of 3,616 vehicles with 2,765 having been accepted to date. The Stryker program received a Full Rate Production decision on eight of 10 configuration variants, including the Infantry Carrier Vehicle, Reconnaissance Vehicle, Commander Vehicle, Mortar Carrier Vehicle, Fire Support Vehicle, Anti-tank Guided Missile Vehicle, Engineer Squad Vehicle, and Medical Evacuation Vehicle. The

remaining variants – the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle and the Mobile Gun System – are in Limited Rate Production.

The Secretary of Defense authorized, and the Army has funded, the procurement and fielding of seven Stryker BCTs to fulfill national security requirements. This will equip seven brigade-size units including maintenance floats, a strategic pool of ready-to-fight systems, Institutional Training Base, Test Articles, a Depot Repair Cycle Float Pool managed by the U.S. Army Materiel Command, other operational requirements, Nuclear Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicles to fill non-Stryker BCT armored Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear requirements, and vehicles to support theater operations in Afghanistan.

The **M113 Family of Vehicles** (FOV) program was terminated in June 2007. At present, we have approximately 6,000 vehicles in our inventory that fill several mission roles including fire support, command and control, medical, chemical, mobility/counter mobility, and others. The Army Ground Vehicle Modernization Strategy, coupled with force structure and force mix analysis will determine the long term replacement strategy for the M113 FOVs.

With regard to tactical radio procurement, the **Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS)** is a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative to develop a family of software-programmable tactical radios that provide mobile, interoperable, and networked voice, data and video communications at the tactical edge of the battlefield. For the Army, JTRS will initially provide a tactical radio communications network for Spin Outs as well as Infantry, Heavy, and Stryker BCTs by providing the tactical networking transport capability through scalable and modular networked communications.

It will also provide the current force a mobile, ad hoc networking capability using, new advanced waveforms --- Soldier Radio Waveform and Wideband Networking Waveform.

The majority of the radios in the **Ground Mobile Radio (GMR)** Program and the Handheld, Man-pack and Small Form Fit Program (HMS) will be procured for the Army. GMR will provide the Army a multi-channel (up to four channels) operation, allowing full functionality of each legacy radio it replaces. In addition, GMR will include an integrated global positioning system (GPS) capability based on the Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module-based GPS receiver with a Precise Time and Time Interval output.

HMS will provide a Scalable and modular Software Communications Architecture compliant networked radio frequency communication capability to meet Army Handheld, Man-pack (Mounted & Dismounted) and Embedded Radio requirements. The program will deliver a Handheld (2 Channel) radio, a Man-pack (2 Channel) radio, and various Small Form Fit radios for various ground sensors/unattended vehicles/unmanned air vehicles.

**Warfighter Information Network – Tactical (WIN-T)** is the transformational command and control communications system that provides the backbone wide area tactical network at echelons from theater through company in support of full spectrum operations. Following the program's restructure in 2007, the Army plans to field the latest networking capability to our Soldiers in four increments, as advanced technologies for enhanced communications becomes available. At present, the Army has already fielded Increment 1 to more than 50 percent of the total force

giving our Soldiers a communications network that is largely satellite based, allowing for beyond line-of-sight communications and commercial Internet networking technology.

Increment 2 brings initial networking on-the-move capabilities embedded in various platforms to allow a fully operational and connected communications networking capability for our Soldiers (from brigade down to the company level). Increment 2 features include commercial routers, radios, and antennas that are technologically mature, with waveform technology optimized for high-capacity broadband networking and support that enables high throughput while the unit is on-the-move. Increment 2 is expected to achieve a low rate initial production decision this August, with fielding expected to begin in 2011. Increment 2 is expected to achieve a low rate initial production decision this October, with fielding expected to begin in 2012.

Increment 3 capabilities bring the full on-the-move capabilities that feature a single radio combining the line-of-sight and the satellite waveforms from Increment 2 in a military chassis which includes Global Broadcast Service receive capability. Air-tier development work planned under this increment brings even more robust communications, providing three tiers of communications that result in less reliance on satellite communications. Network Operations will continue to develop in both Increments 2 and 3 to achieve a fully integrated capability for planning, initializing, operating, and managing the entire on-the-move network.

WIN-T Increment 4 represents the last of the developmental program elements and will provide technology insertions to enable enhanced satellite communications protection.

With regard to **Army Aviation**, it has been five years since the Army, with the support of Congress and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, terminated the Comanche helicopter program to allow modernization of the entire Army Aviation fleet. In just those few years, we have seen steady and substantial progress. Today, nine of the 13 systems identified for funding at Comanche termination are in production. By FY2011, we will have started fielding all the aircraft programs, except the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter. That means 69 percent of all these programs are in some form of production today – low, initial, or full rate production, with 54 percent in full rate production.

These programs will contribute directly to overseas contingency operations by priority fielding to units preparing to deploy to combat operations or currently deployed in support of combat operations. We want to emphasize that every one of these programs will be fielded to units next in rotation to the warfight or units now supporting the warfight. Currently operating in combat operations are the CH-47F and UH-60M helicopters, the Sky Warrior Alpha, Sky Warrior Block '0', and Raven Unmanned Aircraft Systems and a pre-production variant of the Micro Air Vehicle spun out of the FCS program. The Light Utility Helicopter has enabled the return of UH-60s to the warfighting fleet and has allowed retirement of UH-1 and OH-58s in both the Active and Reserve Components.

The **UH-60 Black Hawk** is the work horse of Army Aviation. The current UH-60 fleet is comprised of 1,748 aircraft, including 951 UH-60As (produced between 1978 and 1989), 689 UH-60Ls (produced since 1989) and 108 new UH-60Ms. The Black Hawk helicopter is in its 32nd year of production. To date, the Army has employed seven multi-year, multiservice production contracts. The current contract extends from

FY2007 to FY2011 and includes Navy H-60 aircraft, as well as Foreign Military Sales aircraft.

The ongoing UH-60A to UH-60L recapitalization program extends the service life of the Black Hawk program while providing the improved capability and safety margin of the UH-60L. The Army plans to induct 38 aircraft in FY2009 and 228 aircraft between FY2010 and FY2015.

The UH-60M program incorporates a digitized cockpit for improved combat situational awareness, lift, range, and handling characteristics for enhanced maneuverability and safety. These improvements also extend the service life of the aircraft. Additionally, the Army has a Common Engine Program shared by the UH-60 Blackhawk and AH-64 Apache fleets.

The Army and DoD remain committed to the requirement for a manned **Armed Scout Helicopter (ASH)** capability and the need to deliver this capability to our Soldiers in a responsible and timely manner.

As a capability bridging strategy, the Secretary of the Army approved a strategy to maintain the **Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH)** funds within Army aviation and redistribute them into three primary efforts: (1) sustaining and improving the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior; (2) modernizing the Army National Guard (ARNG) AH-64A Apache fleet; and (3) conducting a competition for and procuring the capabilities associated with the future ASH. The Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and the Army Acquisition Executive jointly signed a Memorandum for the Record codifying this strategy.

To support the potential procurement effort, the Army is conducting a bottom up review of the armed reconnaissance capability requirement to

include a thorough assessment of the specific requirements identified for the initial ARH program, as well as initiating a formal 'Analysis of

Alternatives'. The analysis will cover the entire spectrum of options – from the potential use of UAVs to the use of a manned/unmanned aircraft mix to the procurement of a new manned platform.

Due to the time required to complete these assessments, the Army is currently evaluating what additional enhancements and life extension work, if any, will be required to continue to safely sustain the Kiowa Warrior fleet until a replacement is procured.

The U.S. Army Audit Agency completed an official after action review to identify lessons learned from the termination of the ARH program. The results are being evaluated for assimilation into Army acquisition programs and for use in developing an acquisition strategy to meet the manned ARH requirement.

### **Modernization of our Reserve Component**

Similarly, the ARNG has seen an increase in capabilities through modernization. For instance, the UH-1 Huey has long been a work horse of the ARNG. Now, with the increased numbers of Black Hawk and fielding of the new Light Utility Helicopter, the last Huey is expected to leave the ARNG by the end of FY2009. Another example is the famous “deuce and a half,” or 2 ½ ton truck, which has been used for decades by the ARNG for a variety of cargo missions. In 2001, the ARNG had 16,504, or 62 percent, of these vehicles in the Army. We anticipate that the last 2½ ton truck will leave the ARNG by FY2011.

### **Achieving Transparency**

In addition, the Army is diligently working towards transparency. Transparency is the process that provides accountability and traceability of a specific piece of equipment, from budget submission through funding authorization and on to procurement and delivery to Army users. One

would think that this would be a fairly straightforward task; it is not. Today, we have individual financial and acquisition systems built to control and track funding and contracted amounts. Further, we have property accountability systems designed to keep track of property, but are not linked to the funding source. The gaps between these disparate systems are wide and difficult to link. However, we are on a deliberate path to obtain full transparency. Right now, the Army is collecting data manually and through selected systems to gather the needed information. Our first full set of data is expected to be prepared by July 2009. For the long-term, we will adjust automation systems and adapt processes to support transparency reporting. The Army is fully committed to mastering the challenge of achieving full transparency in the equipping process.

## **Closing**

The Army's Modernization program is providing our Soldiers with leading-edge technologies and advanced capabilities to fight the wars we are engaged in today, while simultaneously preparing them for future threats. The BCT modernization strategy we are moving to will incorporate valuable technological and network advances, developed using lessons learned from the experiences of the past seven-plus years of war, into our modular formations. This strategy will significantly enhance the full spectrum capability of our Force.

As we continue this process, we will coordinate with senior DoD officials and Congress to identify both short- and long-term solutions. Your input will continue to be very valuable to us. We know that all of you are equally committed to ensuring that "we never send our Soldiers into a fair fight."

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, we thank you again for your continued and generous support of the outstanding men and women of the United States Army and their families. We look forward to your questions.