

## DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, OPERATIONS (AF/A3) TESTIMONY

TO

### NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY

(U) The Air Force is the nation's first responder, and air and space superiority is a critical precondition for successful military operations. Therefore, we must be ready to respond to any challenge. Today the Air Force has the fewest Airmen and aircraft since its creation in 1947 and Air Force operations tempo has remained nearly constant over the last 25 years. In the ebb and flow of ground forces in and out of theater since 1990, fewer personnel (boots on the ground) have not correlated to a reduction of required airpower presence to support them.

(U) The Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, in written testimony to Congress, stated: "The United States Air Force has never failed to meet any threat our Nation has faced and establish an environment that was beyond the capabilities of our enemies to resist. Our capabilities of range, speed, and agility give our Nation an indispensable and qualitative advantage that are unparalleled today and we must retain them going into the future. Whether it's opening an aerial port to deliver humanitarian aid, flying a single sortie from middle-America to North Korea and back to send a message, dropping a bomb, or dropping a Brigade Combat Team into the conflict zone— we can reach out and touch anyone, anytime, at any place, in a matter of hours, not days. A ready, strong and agile Air Force is a critical component of the best, most credible military in the world. Air Force capabilities are indispensable to deterrence, controlled escalation, destruction of an adversary's military capability...as well as development, stability, partnership-building, and other softer forms of influence."

(U) “Today’s Air Force provides America a hedge against the challenges of a dangerous and uncertain future, providing viable foreign policy options without requiring a large military commitment on foreign soil.”

(U) “Such a force does not happen by accident; it must be deliberately planned and consistently funded in order to be successful. Continued investments in Air Force capabilities and readiness are essential to ensuring that the Air Force maintains the range, speed, and agility the Nation expects. Regardless of the future security environment, the Air Force must retain – and maintain – its unique ability to provide America with Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power.”

(U) In a Special Message to the Congress on Reorganization of the Defense Establishment, on 3 April 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said: “Separate ground, sea and air warfare is gone forever. If ever again we should be involved in war, we will fight in all elements, with all services, as one single concentrated effort. Peacetime preparatory and organizational activity must conform to this fact.” The contributions and mutual support of all of the Uniformed Services in many operations have proven President Eisenhower’s statements to be prophetic.

(U) The Air Force understands and appreciates the Army’s Core and Enabling Competencies and how those mission areas contribute to the Joint fight. Army Doctrine Reference Publication 3-0 lists them as:

- Shape the security environment
- Project National Power
- Combined Arms Maneuver
- Wide Area Security

- Cyber Operations
- Special Operations

(U) Furthermore, we recognize that the Army is the Department of Defense appointed Executive Agent for over 100 Joint Service Mission Areas such as:

- Mortuary Affairs
- Non-combatant Evacuation and Repatriation
- Joint Task Force Communications Network Management
- Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition
- Chemical and Biological Defense Program
- Postal Services
- DOD Veterinary Functions
- Foreign Language Training and Defense Language Institute

(U) Moreover, the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review identified eleven enduring Armed Forces missions in which the Army plays a substantial role:

- Provide for military defense of the homeland
- Defeat an adversary
- Provide a global stabilizing presence
- Combat terrorism
- Counter weapons of mass destruction
- Deny an adversary's objectives
- Respond to crisis and conduct limited contingency operations
- Conduct military engagement and security cooperation
- Conduct stability and counterinsurgency operations

- Provide support to civil authorities
- Conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster response

(U) In today's fight the most important missions / activities the Army conducts that benefits Air Force forces are the following:

- (U) Air Defense: Under the Joint Force Air Component Commander's responsibility for Area Air Defense and in conjunction with Air Force Counter Air operations, the Army provides ground-based air defense, important to protect bases used by the Air Force, joint forces, and coalition forces, from air and missile attacks. This capability will continue to prove essential in future conflict with a peer or near-peer adversary.
- (U) Wide-Area Security: The Army is responsible for force protection functions over wide areas, primarily against ground forces, both conventional and irregular. The Air Force provides its own base security zone (BSZ) defense; beyond a BSZ, the Army prevents adversary ground forces from becoming threats to joint bases.
- (U) Logistics: The Army directly supports the Air Force with theater sustainment. Understanding the Air Force contributes substantially to logistical operations, the reality is that most intra-theater logistics operations are handled by the Army. For example, the Army provides deployed capability to establish Lines of Communication that are critical to Air Force operations to include overland fuel, route clearance, and vehicle/equipment transport. The Army also possesses the bulk of the intra-theater rotary-wing lift used by the joint force that will become increasingly critical in contested environments.
- (U) Engineering Services: The Army, through the US Army Corps of Engineers, provides engineering, construction, real estate, environmental management and research and development products and services for the Air Force. For example, the Army

manages the majority of the Air Force's \$1 billion dollar annual MILCON Program, provides contract support for Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for AF installations, and manages research and development efforts in support of critical CONUS and deployed engineering technology efforts. The Army provides technical training for AF Pavements/Grounds, Engineering Assistant, and Readiness and Emergency Management career fields at Fort Leonard Wood - throughput includes over 1,000 AF students annually at a cost of \$54 million dollars.

- (U) Dynamic targeting: Army maneuver units, often augmented by AF Air Liaison Officers and Joint Terminal Air Controllers, have served as the principle agent for positively identifying targets which are often attacked by AF forces.

(U) The Army and Air Force start from similar strategic contextual baselines, including recognition of a rapidly changing and complex global security environment influenced by disruptive technologies, geopolitical instability, diverse operating conditions, and vulnerable global commons. To address these challenges and take advantage of opportunities, the Army and Air Force both emphasize joint power, as well as interagency and multinational partnerships, to most effectively wield the US military instrument of power.

(U) Today, continual demand for airpower, coupled with dwindling and uncertain budgets, leave the Air Force with insufficient time and resources to train Total Force Airmen across the full range of Air Force missions. Since passage of the Budget Control Act, the Air Force has been forced to find new ways of utilizing its Reserve Components in order to try and maintain capacity and preserve capability. There is not a single mission set in the Air Force where we are not already integrated across our Active and Guard components. However, we are now at the point where any further reduction in size *equals* a reduction in capability – the two are

inextricably linked. Combatant commanders require Air Force support on a 24/7 basis, and the Air Force does not have excess capacity to trade away. Neither do we have excess capacity to take on Mission Areas held by the Army as Executive Agent or enduring Armed Forces missions in which the Army plays a substantial role.

## **CONCLUSION**

(U) We are focused on capabilities, not platforms – preserving and enhancing the agility and flexibility of the Air Force. Our plan is to reduce risk in high-priority areas by accelerating the modernization of aging fleets, improving our installations around the country, and increasing our Reserve Components' presence in many mission areas.

(U) A ready, strong, and agile Air Force is a critical component of the best, most credible military in the world. Air Force capabilities are indispensable to deterrence, controlled escalation, destruction of an adversary's military capability...as well as development, stability, partnership-building, and other softer forms of influence. Today's "Total Force" Air Force provides viable foreign policy options.

(U) Regardless of the future security environment, the Air Force must retain – and maintain – its unique ability to provide America with *Global Vigilance*, *Global Reach*, and *Global Power*.