

House Armed Services Committee – TACAIR and Land Subcommittee

Subject: FY06 Aviation Issues

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**Introduction**

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss with you and your subcommittee today, some of the Air Force's Tactical Weapons Systems. Today we have nearly 30K Air Force people deployed away from home, many directly in harm's way. We will fly nearly 225 sorties in Iraq and Afghanistan in addition to 8 UAV orbits, provide support from over 16 contingency bases, augment Army Forces in guarding detainees and set out on 10 ground convoys and convoy protection elements in support of ground operations. Overall we have nearly 70% of our Air Force on operations from nuclear alert, satellite operations, to operating our global airlift and tanker fleet, as well as manning five Combat Air Patrols as we sit alert at 25 sites here in the United States. Gen Corley and I are proud of the successes and outstanding performance of our Air Force professionals and are happy to discuss issues with you today.

**The Capability We Need to Win in the Future Battlespace**

The world is changing and we can foresee the future threats posed by ballistic and cruise missiles; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons; advanced double-digit surface-to-air missiles; and sophisticated combat aircraft. We should also anticipate computer network attacks and attacks on other critical infrastructure, including space networks. Currently, the Air Force can command the global commons of

air and space, and significantly influence the global commons of sea and cyberspace.

We are diligently aware of that and at work to defend and maintain our advantage.

However, with the systems we brought into operation in the mid-70s we cannot maintain this advantage by attempting to band-aid simple improvements onto yesterday's technology that operates in the systems and air and space vehicles of our current force structure. Recapitalizing our aging systems is our number one challenge.

For America to hold its military advantage, the Air Force must continue to improve its capabilities to keep pace. We'll need the unmatched early-entry capabilities provided by the F/A-22 Raptor's combination of speed, stealth, and integrated avionics – capabilities not met by UAVS or the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which fill complementary roles in Air Force Concepts of Operation (CONOPS).

The F/A-22 will guarantee America's joint air dominance and give the joint force freedom from attack, freedom to maneuver, and freedom to attack. Additionally, the F/A-22 will be a key enabler of responsive, persistent forward operational access for joint forces. The Raptor will use its stealth, supercruise and ISR capabilities to evade and kill anti-access threats and to provide early support to SOF and other maneuver elements deep in enemy territory, in what would otherwise be denied airspace. Plus, the Raptor will give us true through the weather, moving target capability in the same environment.

Complementing the tremendous capabilities of the F/A-22 is the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, an important element of the efforts to modernize the joint warfighter's tactical aircraft. For the Air Force, it will recapitalize today's F-16 and A-10 combat capabilities. Specifically, it will provide affordable and survivable precision engagement and global

persistent attack capabilities. Optimized for all-weather air to ground performance, the F-35 will destroy an enemy's ability to attack or defend. As the A-10 and F-16 aircraft begin to reach the end of their service lives, F-35A Conventional Takeoff and Landing (CTOL) and F-35B Short Takeoff and Vertical Landing (STOVL) variants will become the Air Force's workhorses for CAS as well as other missions. The F-35B STOVL variant offers a capability to operate with advancing U.S. Army, Marine, and Special Operations forces in a non-linear, dynamic battlefield.

Linked and complementary to the future F/A-22 and F-35 force is our long-range strike force. By modernizing our current bombers with network access and maintainability upgrades for the short term and then fielding an interim strike capability in the 2018 timeframe the AF can complement the LO aspects of these fighters with lethal, persistent, survivable and relevant combat power. True synergy will be achieved as the technology matures and the AF fields a transformational long range strike capability in 2035 timeframe. It will take all of these efforts to be effective in the future battlespace.

### **Airlift**

As the Army transforms, the battlespace will become more dispersed - we have to transform with them. The future Army operations concept results in a wider dispersion of ground forces across the battlefield. We need to be able not only to provide responsive precision fires for them, but also the responsive precision maneuver and resupply that they will require.

When we look at Army requirements for Intra Theater Airlift on the future battlefield, we need to consider our current capability, the age of the current fleet, and those capabilities that will be required to support the joint warfighter in the future. As we

transform with the Army we will look closely at what new specific needs emerge in light of the Mobility Capabilities Study that will come out in March and also a joint staff study on intra-theater requirements that should start by April 05. We expect these, as well as internal Army studies, to better define the family of systems that the transformed Army as well as the Marines will need in terms of airlift capability.

Air Refueling. Our tankers are the lynchpin of our joint force's global reach and global power. The fleet is an average of 41 years old; the last man or woman to fly the KC-135 has not yet been born. We eagerly await the outcome of the Analysis of Alternatives and Institute for Defense Analyses/OSD analysis which will determine how and when we can begin a modernization program.

### **Electronic attack**

We provide rapid strike by employing an umbrella of kinetic and non-kinetic strike capabilities to deliver precise, tailored effects. Electronic attack is a key component of this. We believe that along with the Navy EA-18G Growler, a systems of systems with the B-52 stand-off jamming/ Miniature Air-Launched Decoy Jammer (MALD-J) and Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) standoff attack will be the combination that will give the joint force the best leverage.

Our dominance and capability in space underpins the global persistence and reach of our TACAIR portfolio. The Command and Control nets, the Surveillance and communications pipes, the GPS precision is inextricably intertwined with our global and theater responsibilities. We believe the key leverage point for the joint force is net centricity... seamless, machine-to-machine, web-based, IP addressable networks in a common architecture across the joint force. That seamlessness must carry across

space, near space, airborne, terrestrial, and seaborne systems. We need to ensure we can time sensitively target information and deliver decision ready knowledge to the warfighter who will execute on it. That is one of our asymmetric advantages today and we need to leverage it as we move from a purely interoperable force that can operate together, to a truly interdependent force that must operate together.

Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) are the wave of the future and the future is now. We have flown over 111,000 hours with our Predator As, Bs, and Global Hawks. We have our eye on two important decisions: Our decision to stand up a UAV Center of Excellence at Nellis Air Force Base to begin the integration of space, near space, and the family of UAVs the joint force will require. Additionally, we believe that the Department's decision to give the Air Force the JUCAS program put us in the position to continue leading edge progress in integrating advanced UAV capability in to the Joint TACAIR picture.

To achieve new levels of integration and effectiveness, the Air Force will take advantage of the United States' long-held command of the global commons – air, sea, space, and cyberspace. The Air Force intends to extend its current air and space power advantage by continuing to develop the horizontal and vertical integration of systems and commanders across the joint force. With this experience, the Air Force is positioned to leverage its persistent C4ISR, global mobility, and rapid strike to strengthen joint warfighting capabilities and transform the joint force – while minimizing risk and continuing to focus on the Global War On Terrorism.

## **Conclusion**

As we sit here today, we have Air Force aircraft moving in every time zone of the world, in all seven continents. The American flag will fly on the tail of an American air force aircraft in 122 countries this morning... and they are backed by the tens of thousands of maintenance, security, and support people that make that happen. The sun never sets on your Air Force. Gen Corley and I are very proud to be here today to represent this great Air Force and we appreciate your support to give them the best equipment, training, and personnel programs that we can.