

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: READINESS OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

STATEMENT OF: GENERAL WILLIAM M. FRASER III
VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

GENERAL WILLIAM M. FRASER III

Gen. William M. Fraser III is Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. As Vice Chief, he presides over the Air Staff and serves as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Requirements Oversight Council and Deputy Advisory Working Group. He assists the Chief of Staff with organizing, training, and equipping of nearly 700,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas.

General Fraser entered the Air Force in 1974 as a distinguished graduate of the Texas A&M University ROTC program. His operational assignments include duty as a T-37, B-52, B-1, and B-2 instructor pilot and evaluator. General Fraser has commanded an operations group and two bomb wings. His staff duties include tours on the Air Staff, Joint Staff, and Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff at Offutt AFB, Neb. He has also served as Chief of the Nuclear Requirements Cell at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Chief of Staff for U.S. Strategic Command, and as the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



General Fraser has extensive wartime, contingency, and humanitarian relief operational experience. During Operation Enduring Freedom he led an intelligence fusion organization that provided direct support to the warfighter.

EDUCATION

- 1974 Bachelor of Science degree in engineering technology, Texas A&M University
- 1977 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1980 Master of Science degree in management information systems, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley
- 1983 Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.
- 1985 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 1987 National Security Management Course, Syracuse University, N.Y.
- 1991 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1995 Executive Development Program, Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
- 1999 Combined Force Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1999 Senior Information Warfare Applications Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2000 National Security Leadership Course, National Security Studies, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, N.Y.
- 2002 Executive Program for Russian and U.S. General Officers, John F. Kennedy School of Government,

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

2002 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2002 Senior Intelligence Fellows Program, Wye River, Md.

2003 Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

2005 Leadership at the Peak, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Colo.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 1974 - October 1975, student, undergraduate pilot training, Williams AFB, Ariz.
2. October 1975 - March 1976, student, instructor pilot training, Randolph AFB, Texas
3. March 1976 - February 1978, T-37 instructor pilot and T-37 check pilot, 96th Flying Training Squadron, Williams AFB, Ariz.
4. March 1978 - March 1980, T-37 instructor pilot and flight examiner, 82nd Flying Training Wing, Williams AFB, Ariz.
5. March 1980 - October 1980, Operational Support Aircraft Program Element Monitor, Air Staff Training Program, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
6. October 1980 - April 1981, Worldwide Military Command, Control and Communications Program Element Monitor, Air Staff Training Program, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
7. May 1981 - October 1981, B-52H student, 4017th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Castle AFB, Calif.
8. October 1981 - March 1983, B-52H aircraft commander, later B-52G aircraft commander and instructor pilot, 46th Bomb Squadron, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
9. March 1983 - December 1984, Chief, B-52G Standardization and Evaluation Branch, 319th Bomb Wing, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
10. January 1985 - June 1985, student, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
11. June 1985 - March 1986, Chief, European Single Integrated Operational Plan Tactics, Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, Offutt AFB, Neb.
12. April 1986 - October 1987, executive officer to the Strategic Air Command Chief of Staff, Headquarters SAC, Offutt AFB, Neb.
13. October 1987 - July 1990, Chief, Nuclear Requirements Cell, SHAPE, Mons, Belgium
14. July 1990 - July 1991, student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
15. July 1991 - July 1993, Deputy Commander, 384th Operations Group, McConnell AFB, Kan.
16. July 1993 - January 1995, Commander, 509th Operations Group, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
17. January 1995 - August 1995, Vice Commander, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.
18. August 1995 - January 1997, special assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, SHAPE, Mons, Belgium
19. February 1997 - May 1998, Commander, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.
20. May 1998 - May 1999, Chief of Staff, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.
21. May 1999 - December 2000, Commander, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, La.
22. December 2000 - December 2002, Deputy Director for National Systems Operations, the Joint Staff; Director, Defense Space Reconnaissance Program; and Deputy Director for Military Support, National Reconnaissance Office, Washington, D.C.
23. January 2003 - October 2004, Director of Operations, Headquarters AETC, Randolph AFB, Texas
24. November 2004 - February 2005, special assistant to the Commander, Air Force Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center, Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration, Langley AFB, Va.
25. February 2005 - May 2006, Vice Commander, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
26. May 2006 - October 2008, Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.
27. October 2008 - present, Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,200

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, T-1, KC-135R, B-1B, B-2, B-52G/H and C-21

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal
National Intelligence Medal of Achievement
Combat Readiness Medal
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Officer training award, undergraduate pilot training
Top graduate, T-37 pilot instructor training
T-37 Instructor Pilot of the Year
Distinguished graduate, B-52 G/H combat crew training
Air Force Public Affairs Directors Special Achievement Award for commander support
Joseph A. Moller Award, Outstanding Wing Commander, ACC
Gold Medal, National Reconnaissance Office

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Nov. 8, 1974
First Lieutenant Nov. 8, 1976
Captain Nov. 8, 1978
Major Oct. 1, 1983
Lieutenant Colonel June 1, 1988
Colonel Jan. 1, 1992
Brigadier General Jan. 1, 2000
Major General Oct. 1, 2003
Lieutenant General Feb. 3, 2005
General Oct. 8, 2008

(Current as of November 2008)

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Chairman Ortiz, Ranking Member Forbes, distinguished Members of the committee, on behalf of the men and women of the United States Air Force, I thank you for the opportunity to discuss our portion of the President's FY10 budget request as it relates to the readiness of America's Air Force.

I am honored to report that over 660,000 Air Force Airmen continue to be "*All In*," doing whatever it takes to fight and win America's wars against determined adversaries. Despite the last eight years of conflict and multiple sustained deployments since 1990, your Air Force stands ready to execute its missions with precision and reliability. However, it is important to note that ongoing operations have strained our force and consumed a portion of our readiness.

We appreciate the House Armed Services Committee's steadfast support of the Air Force as we continue to organize, train, and equip our Total Force, comprised of our Active Duty (AD), Air Force Reserve (AFR), and Air National Guard (ANG) components, to deliver timely air, space and cyber power to Combatant Commanders (COCOMs) around the globe. We also remain grateful for the Committee's unswerving support of our Airmen, their families, and their quality of service.

CURRENT REALITIES AND THEIR IMPACTS ON READINESS

With this budget request, we recognize that the current fiscal realities facing our great Nation will force difficult decisions for the foreseeable future. We also understand our current operations and readiness must come first. Yet we must continue to prepare for tomorrow's challenges in an increasingly chaotic strategic environment. As a military service, these preparations reflect a deliberate balancing of Air Force capabilities to effectively prepare for the spectrum of warfare.

Over 18 years of continuous deployments and the wars of the last eight years have strained our personnel and equipment. At the same time, the spectrum of threats for which we must prepare continues to expand. U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility (AOR) is a perfect example of these operational challenges. In the Pacific we must prepare our forces for the high intensity end of the

spectrum of warfare, characterized by anti-satellite weapons, advanced surface-to-air missile systems, increasingly effective electronic and cyber attacks, and the future potential of adversary low-observable fighter aircraft. Yet simultaneously in the same theater, we also stand ready to execute conventional major combat operations in the middle of the spectrum, while actively engaging in building partnerships and executing humanitarian airlift missions at the lower end of the spectrum.

OVERVIEW OF THE AIR FORCE FY10 BUDGET REQUEST

Our FY10 budget request remains relatively stable between FY09 and FY10 and will fund the day-to-day operating expenses for 331,700 Airmen, 179,000 Civilians, and nearly 5,500 aircraft at 83 major installations around the world. With a focus on careful stewardship, we will responsibly allocate these funds to ensure we provide the Global Reach, Global Power, and Global Vigilance our Nation expects and deserves.

Our FY10 operations and maintenance (O&M) budget request is \$43.4B, a 3% increase from our FY09 appropriation of \$42.1B. Through this request, we will execute critical continuing O&M and focus on migrating budget funding from supplementals into our base budget. This budget request provides for our continuing efforts to reinvigorate our nuclear enterprise, supporting ongoing irregular warfare efforts, aggressively standing-up our emerging cyber mission, and restructuring our Combat Air Forces.

READINESS FOR TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S FIGHT ACROSS THE SPECTRUM

Regardless of the time, place, scale, size, or duration of the request, we continue to answer today's call for unrelenting air, space and cyber power and prepare to answer tomorrow's call at the same. America's Air Force is comprised of men and women who continue to respond to any request for their service with two simple words: "*Send Me*".

DAILY OPERATIONS

Every day, your Air Force is engaged around the globe, including our current unquestioned focus in U.S. Central Command's (CENTCOM) AOR. Right now, of the 37,000 deployed Airmen, over 29,000 are serving in CENTCOM's AOR. Every day, we fly approximately 300 sorties in Iraq and Afghanistan, providing the Joint and Coalition team airlift, aero-medical evacuation, air refueling, command and control (C2), close air support, electronic warfare, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). In 2008 alone, the Air Force flew almost 114,000 sorties in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and conducted 2,075 precision airstrikes in the CENTCOM theater.

We are also engaged around the globe daily in less publicized supporting operations. At any given time, we have about 218,000 members (over 34,000 Guard and Reserve) providing direct support to the COCOMs, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. While not as widely known, these operations are unquestioningly vital to our Nation's defense. Airmen are engaged worldwide in missions ranging from global mobility to strategic bombers and space and missile forces to Air Sovereignty Alert. These lesser-known commitments also include our mission sets of increasing focus: C2, ISR, Special Operations and Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR).

While these are but a few examples of our numerous ongoing global operations, I trust our dedication to the COCOMs may be exemplified by our persistent support of the Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) mission, one we believe to be a moral imperative. This critical mission of quickly airlifting wounded Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from the battlefield during the "golden hour" to medical facilities is typically performed by U.S. Army rotary-wing assets. However, due to the expanded and enduring requirement for MEDEVAC capabilities in CENTCOM's AOR, the Air Force has performed this mission using our HH-60G fleet, typically reserved for CSAR missions. With its expanded capabilities in higher threat and demanding environmental conditions, this capable aircraft and its crews are well-suited to this mission set and they have contributed greatly. Starting in January 2006, Air Force

CSAR helicopters were also deployed solely to perform the MEDEVAC role in Afghanistan due to shortages of available U.S. Army aircraft. In February 2009, we moved to further support the Secretary of Defense's MEDEVAC initiatives by increasing our deployment capability by cancelling training events and tasking all Air Force helicopters in Afghanistan to perform MEDEVAC, including those assigned to CSAR alert.

TRAINING

In addition to our dedicated support to ongoing operations, we continue to increase the complexity and difficulty of our training to ensure our forces are ready for conflicts across the spectrum of operations. As a vital part of these training programs, the FY10 O&M funding request will fully fund our 1.4 million hour flying hour program that provides training for over 1,200 pilots and sustains almost 5,500 aircraft.

We've recently transformed our most realistic and rigorous training programs in cooperation with the other Services and the COCOMs. Seven Title 10 training programs are now accredited as Joint training programs where our forces function as one of many integrated elements of national power. For example, to better prepare our aviators for the challenges they'll face in Iraq and Afghanistan, we recently modified our keystone flying training event, Red Flag. There, we increased the realism of scenarios and increased by 50% the number of sorties flown. We have also increased the realism and intensity of our Space wargames, most recently with Schriever V. This Space wargame included broader national security, allied, and commercial policy implications than ever before in order to prepare us for the increasingly important and complex field of Space warfare. Although these are only two examples of our innovative training programs, we are continuously searching for better ways to prepare our forces for the myriad of challenges they will face.

PERSONNEL READINESS

Our dedicated Airmen are the heart and soul of our Air Force. These committed men and women form the backbone of the finest Air Force in the world. That said, the high operations tempo of the last eight years has strained portions of our force that we are moving aggressively to relieve.

END STRENGTH

End strength is an area of particular concern to senior Air Force leadership as our requested increase is necessary to meet the needs of new and emerging missions and the need to robust existing missions. Our FY10 budget requests an authorized end strength increase to 331,700. The increased manning request will help to: establish an Air Force Global Strike Command; stand up a Cyber Numbered Air Force; operate the MC-12 “Project Liberty” and enhance irregular warfare capabilities; support new and emerging missions for Air Force Special Operations Command; increase our unmanned aerial systems operations (including operators and intelligence analysts) to 50 combat air patrols (CAP); achieve acquisition excellence; increase Defense Health Program positions; and provide manpower for new and emerging missions. Until these end strength requests become reality, our existing personnel will continue to shoulder a large burden.

RECRUITING AND RETENTION

Despite our engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq over the last eight years and what we have asked of our personnel, our recruiting and retention efforts remain strong. To continue engaging current and emerging threats, our recruiting mission reaches past achieving pure quantities by ensuring the right quality and right skills are present in potential candidates. So far in 2009 we have achieved 100% of our year-to-date accession goals and 100% success in filling our requirements for physically demanding and highly-skilled “hard to fill” jobs since 2001. With Congressional assistance and our recruiters’ hard work, we continue to meet all requirements for such vital career fields as Combat Controller, Pararescue, Tactical Air Control Party, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Security Forces, Linguist, and Survival,

Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Instructor. Because these career fields are so important, they are also the only ones for which we are offering FY09 enlistment bonuses. Additionally, we have achieved mission goals in officer recruiting, but continue to struggle with some Health Professional officer programs. Considerable challenges exist for attracting candidates from this lucrative civilian market, but for FY09 we have already filled approximately 45% of available scholarships.

Even more than recruitment, the Air Force depends on retaining its highly skilled and uniquely qualified personnel. We are on track to meet our retention goals, but note several of our stressed specialties continue to experience significant shortfalls. We will continue to rely heavily on bonuses and quality of life initiatives to resolve these shortages. Selective Reenlistment Bonuses (SRB) continue to be our most effective monetary retention tool. We've recently maximized the impact of our SRB program by increasing FY09 bonuses for our Contracting career field and lowering or eliminating bonuses for 24 other career fields. Our officer retention is strong, yet we are moving to target concerns in our Health Professional career fields, including physicians, nurses, dentists and biomedical specialists such as psychologists and social workers.

We know our force is strained by the on-going high operations tempo and we have identified 16 specialties (7 officer and 9 enlisted) that we monitor as "stressed." To help mitigate stress on these career fields, we are constantly reviewing skills retention bonuses, promotions, force shaping exemptions, and process improvements. We also expect continuing high demand for our Contracting, Airfield Operations, Special Investigations, Security Forces and Intelligence career fields that are currently in a 1:1 deploy-to-dwell rotation.

JOINT EXPEDITIONARY TASKINGS

Currently, approximately 12% of our deployed personnel are executing Joint Expeditionary Taskings (JET) that support our sister Services. These taskings were previously called "in lieu of" taskings; however in late 2008, we made the conscious decision to identify these duties under the term "JET." This change reflects our renewed commitment to the Joint team, and reiterates the dedication to

service of our Airmen. The majority of JET deployees have duties in line with their normal career fields; however, roughly one-third of these JET deployments are in support of ad hoc units made up of personnel from several Services or functional areas, including Provincial Reconstruction Teams or Training Teams. For these non-traditional taskings, we have bolstered our training programs to ensure our personnel are ready to execute a wide variety of missions. Sister Service commanders continuously note that Airmen bring new, innovative perspectives and unique problem-solving skills to the fight that make them uniquely suited for a wide array of taskings. Additionally, via these taskings our Airmen are developing new Joint competencies and understanding of Joint doctrine. The top five Air Force specialties sourced for JET duties are: Security Forces (20%), Vehicle Operations (7%), EOD (5%), Intelligence Operations (4%), and Vehicle Maintenance (4%).

QUALITY OF SERVICE

The Air Force continues to deliver combat support and community service programs that are the cornerstone of sustaining our Airmen. We fully recognize that we recruit Airmen, but we retain their families.

Over the past year, we have redefined our traditional “quality of life” concept to a more encompassing “quality of service” concept. This expanded definition recognizes that we must not only take care of an Airman and his or her family, but we must also provide each of them the opportunity to perform meaningful work and contribute to the mission.

In FY09, we refined our operations to increase support for the families of our Wounded Warriors, deployed Airmen, Air National Guardsmen and Air Force Reservists. To support our Wounded Warriors, our Family Liaison Officers have expanded their coverage to include not only the families of our fallen and combat-wounded Airmen, but to the families of all seriously injured Airmen receiving medical treatment away from their home unit. We also tackled issues identified as important to Air Force families including: expanding child care capacity; increasing child care support for families of Guard and Reserve

Airmen; improving financial readiness; and providing opportunities for children of Airmen, whether they are located on installations or in civilian communities throughout the United States.

TOTAL FORCE

As our Air Force moves forward, we continue to capitalize on the tremendous talent the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard contribute to the Total Force, as both strategic and operational teammates. For decades, the Reserve Component's (RC) contributions to prevailing in today's fight while preparing for tomorrow's challenges have been crucial to our success as an institution. Simply stated – the Air Force could not achieve its goals without them.

We continue to modernize our organizations to produce a more capable, affordable Total Force. As we consider today's economic climate, it has never been more critical to build on the success of Total Force Integration (TFI). Through TFI, we aim to increase force-wide efficiencies and maximize combat capability for the Joint warfighter and the Nation's allies. We must continue to leverage TFI to meet our highest priority manpower requirements and to do so we have charged our RC leadership to expand both traditional and active associations.

We are also cognizant of the need to balance RC usage and stress with the need to expand their role in the Air Force mission. We think it's crucial to examine opportunities for the RC to participate further in mission areas associated with fixed locations, particularly those with minimal or no requirements for deployment and missions requiring augmentation for 24/7 surge operations. Our objective is to leverage geographic resources, equipment and workforce to enhance mission opportunities close to home.

AIRCRAFT READINESS

Our aircraft inventory remains viable, ready and relevant to meet the Nation's current and future defense needs; however, we have considerable concerns going forward. Despite incredibly high utilization rates, the last decade has seen stable aircraft availability and mission capable rates that are a

testament to the skill and determination of our maintainers. Yet, continued high demand on these platforms contributes to systemic declining reliability, reflected in significant cost, capability and availability concerns across the fleet. This trend is most evident in the groundings of our F-15, F-16, A-10, C-130, and T-6 fleets in the past two years. As we extend many of our aircraft past their original design lives, we expose ourselves to unpredictable availability and cost risks which can only be avoided through recapitalization or mitigated after the fact. Simply put, issues affecting older aircraft are unpredictable and repairs on older aircraft take longer and cost more.

Our A-10 fleet is a perfect example of the risks associated with our aging aircraft. Almost the entire fleet (350 out of 356 aircraft) has exceeded the original service life of 6,000 hours and the average A-10 has flown 8,919 hours. We have recognized the value of this aircraft in current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and have used it extensively in these theaters to great effect. To extend its useful life, we recently undertook an extensive modification program which extended its service life to 16,000 hours. While the fleet was undergoing this modification, we found wing cracks in many of the aircraft, which grounded them and necessitated increased funding for maintenance.

FLEET SUSTAINMENT AND DEPOT OPERATIONS

As part of an ongoing process, we have taken multiple steps to better understand and mitigate the factors associated with aging aircraft, including integrating our Fleet Viability Board (FVB) into our normal life-cycle sustainment processes. The FVB provides senior Air Force leaders an independent assessment of the sustainment and minimum capability investments required to keep our fleet viable over a 20-25 year planning horizon. This year we are expanding this organization because the FVB's independent assessments have provided valuable insight into the future sustainability of our legacy systems and better information to our enterprise-level planning and programming functions.

A large part of our maintenance capability resides in our depots, which are absolutely vital to our maintenance operations. We are committed to continue investing in our modern industrial base to sustain both our aging legacy fleets and posture us to sustain new weapon systems. To this end, we have

committed an additional \$150M capital investment for our depots from FY04-09 and plan to continue our investments at a minimum rate of 6% of funded workload, per Congressional direction. These investments will ensure our depots are provided with state-of-the-art, environmentally compliant, efficiently configured, and properly equipped facilities to support existing and projected depot maintenance workloads.

Our newest weapon systems have entered service and are providing outstanding capabilities. Yet many are also experiencing sustainment growing pains such as CV-22, RQ-4A, and F-22 aircraft availability and mission capable rates below expected projections. The CV-22 and RQ-4A fleets suffer from parts support issues and both program offices are aggressively working to procure additional spares, improve repair cycles and improve reliability. The F-22 fleet is also in the midst of a reliability improvement program which is expected to dramatically improve the maintainability of its low-observable features. We are also taking the lessons we are learning from these platforms and rolling them into our plans for fielding and sustaining the F-35.

FY10 EMPHASIS AREAS

BUDGET MIGRATION FROM EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTALS TO THE BASE BUDGET

As we built our portion of the FY10 President's Budget Request, the Air Force and the Department of Defense as a whole began to transition from a reliance on contingency funding by moving selected enduring capabilities into our permanent baseline budget. This deliberate action was in line with the Air Force's re-balancing efforts and marks an important first step toward solidifying our baseline funding for on-going irregular warfare and long-term missions.

With the continuing growth in demand for ISR assets, the Air Force re-aligned \$311M within the FY10 baseline to fund the operations and sustainment of this critical mission set, including \$196M for MQ-1 and MQ-9 operations and \$115M for sustainment of the Distributed Common Ground System. Additionally, the Air Force committed more than \$350M in the FY10 budget to institutionalize Air

Advisor Training, to enhance C2 capabilities to support the Joint fight, and to continue recapitalizing the MC-130J fleet. Finally, the Air Force re-aligned “long war” facility requirements, outside the CENTCOM AOR, out of the contingency request into our baseline budget.

These actions are representative of our efforts to shore up baseline funding for some of our newest enduring missions that grew out of DoD’s efforts to fight terrorism. By resourcing these irregular warfare and long-term missions with baseline funding, the Air Force decreases reliance on contingency funding and improves predictability of readiness funding levels. While these FY10 actions represent a proper movement toward improving long-term readiness for these missions, we acknowledge they are only the first step and we continue to rely on your support for Overseas Contingency Operations funding to sustain many of our enduring weapon systems involved in operations overseas.

NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE AND IRREGULAR WARFARE

Our budget request continues to place great importance on our nuclear enterprise by providing additional funding for developing and maintaining nuclear expertise, investing in nuclear resources, and continuing to fix systemic weaknesses in our processes. Specifically, our budget request maintains the B-52 fleet of 76 aircraft while funding the stand-up of the Air Force Global Strike Command. It also establishes a new Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration and increases the end strength assigned to our nuclear enterprise by almost 2,500 personnel.

While this request continues to meet the Combatant Commanders’ needs for strategic forces, the Air Force budget request also shifts resources within the O&M portfolio to support irregular warfare. We are continuing on an accelerated path to achieve the Secretary of Defense goal of 50 ISR CAPs. In FY10 we will have 43 CAPs in place, with the remaining to be fielded in FY11. Additionally, our newly acquired and soon to be fielded MC-12 capability, a platform we are sending directly forward as part of the Joint fight, will also increase ISR support to our troops on the ground. Our Air National Guard Airmen are a key force provider in this mission and will provide 100 percent of the mission qualification training for our MC-12 pilots. These expanded ISR programs will continue to provide unprecedented

levels of battlespace awareness to operational commanders that have proven invaluable in our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CYBER

Cyberspace is now a recognized warfighting domain and cyber-security is increasingly a vital national interest. State and non-state actors continue to exploit asymmetric advantages in this domain and place the Air Force, Department of Defense, and our national key infrastructure at risk. As part of a Joint operational capability, the Air Force will continue to develop and implement plans to improve our cyber operational capabilities through new organizational and training initiatives.

The Air Force is currently moving forward with the planned reorganization of existing cyber operational units by assigning them to Air Force Space Command and placing them under the C2 of a warfighting numbered air force aligned with United States Strategic Command. The Air Force will continue to provide operational cyber capabilities in support of all Combatant Commands and Joint Task Force-Global Network Operations. As the Nation and the Department of Defense develop future Joint C2 constructs, the Air Force will present cyber forces to Joint or unified commands at the proper level to ensure operational success and will also remain focused on daily cyber operations as well as building the future cyber professional career force.

We recognize that much work is required to provide the right number of cyber operators and technicians to defend and operate the Air Force network and to achieve mission assurance across all Air Force operations and Joint military operations. To provide the cyber operators and technicians we need, the Air Force must develop the education and training programs to will grow the cyber expertise necessary to accomplish this increasingly important mission. Air Education and Training Command (AETC) developed an initial cyber skills curriculum and will begin training Air Force cyber personnel beginning in FY09. Additionally, the Air Force Cyberspace Technical Center for Excellence has taken the lead in developing our Professional Education Courses. We are also looking at cyber training courses

offered by our sister Services and the academic and business communities to bolster our cyber knowledge base.

RESTRUCTURING OUR COMBAT AIR FORCES

As we re-balance our O&M portfolio to accommodate the emergence of new missions and expansion of existing missions, one notable change is our plan to restructure our Combat Air Forces. Based on our assessments of the current mid-term strategic environment, we plan to accelerate the retirement of approximately 250 legacy combat aircraft – mainly F-15s, F-16s and a small number of A-10s. We see this as an opportunity to eliminate excessive overmatch in our tactical fighter portfolio and begin to bridge to a 5th Generation-enabled force that increases our flexibility, survivability and lethality. It is important to note that this restructuring of capabilities fully complies with national and Department of Defense guidance, including the Defense Secretary's Guidance for the Development of the Force. Additionally, this restructuring is balanced across U.S. and foreign-based units in our Active and Reserve components.

While this plan creates over \$3.5B in savings across the Future Years Defense Plan, it more importantly frees up over 4,000 Active Duty manpower positions which we will shift to expanding national priority missions. Many of these positions will be used to restore our B-52 force structure and related nuclear positions. Additionally, we are fully manning operators for our expanding ISR mission due to accelerated growth in unmanned aircraft and our MC-12 programs. Finally, we must provide intelligence analysts to process, exploit, and disseminate the immense amounts of information that these new ISR systems will produce. We anticipate these expanded ISR capabilities will continue to provide game-changing effects in our Joint and Coalition operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The funding saved from the reduced aircraft authorizations will also be reinvested to reduce key capability gaps in our Force Application portfolio by allowing the procurement of the latest generation of air-to-air missiles and preferred air-to-ground munitions.

CONCLUSION

Despite the last eight years of conflict and multiple sustained Air Force deployments since 1990, your Air Force stands ready to execute its missions with precision and reliability. Although these ongoing operations have strained our force and consumed a portion of our readiness, we are taking steps to ensure our personnel, equipment, and institutions are prepared for fighting today's wars and for future challenges. Regardless of the task, you can rest assured your Air Force is ready. Through your ongoing support and the incredible resilience of America's Airmen, we'll continue to answer the Nation's call.