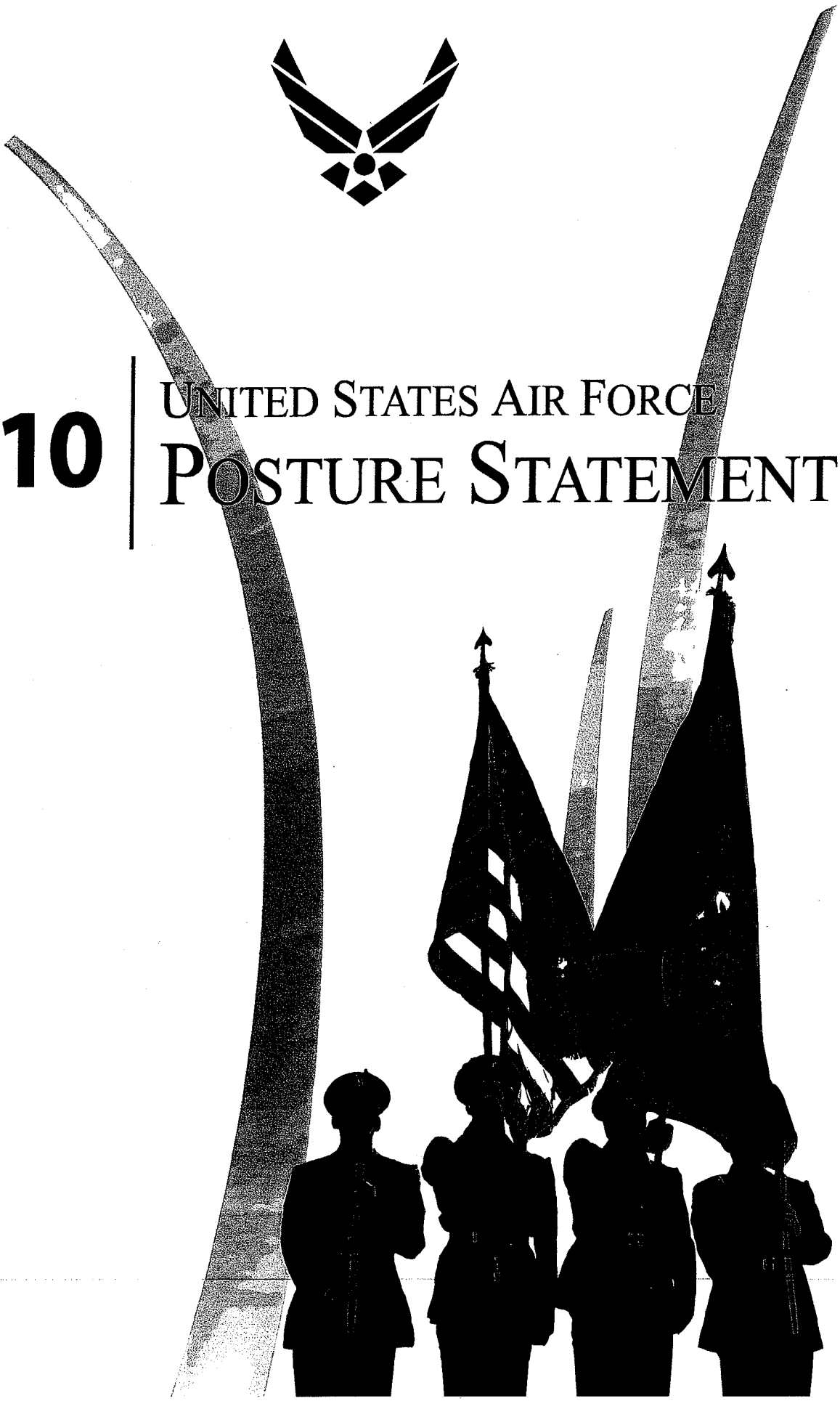
2010

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
POSTURE STATEMENT



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES SENATE

FISCAL YEAR 2011 AIR FORCE POSTURE STATEMENT

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UNITED STATES SENATE

The 2010 Air Force Posture Statement presents our vision of Global Vigilance, Reach and Power as a vital component of the Joint team, defending our National interests, and guided by our core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the United States confronts a dynamic international environment marked by security challenges of unprecedented diversity. Along with our Joint partners, the Air Force will defend and advance the interests of the United States by providing unique capabilities to succeed in current conflicts while preparing to counter future threats to our national security. Over the last year, the Air Force made great strides in strengthening the precision and reliability that is our hallmark.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

This year offers an opportunity to fully integrate our Service posture with a new National Security Strategy, the Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review, and strategic reviews of the Nation's space, nuclear, and ballistic missile defense postures. Balance is the defining principle linking this budget request to our strategic guidance.

In the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, the Secretary of Defense established four U.S. defense objectives to guide our current actions as well as to plan for the future: prevail in today's wars, prevent and deter conflict, prepare to defeat adversaries and succeed in a wide range of contingencies, and preserve and enhance the all-volunteer force. In accordance with this guidance, the Air Force developed the 2011 budget request to enhance our capabilities to meet these objectives, while balancing risk appropriately. As the future security environment will require a range of agile and flexible capabilities, investments for today's conflict will also support our efforts to prepare, prevent, and prevail, and preserve well into the future.

Prevail in Today's Wars: Our investments in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, as well as airlift, command and control, and building partner capacity reinforce the prominence of this priority in our budget request. In addition, nearly 30,000 deployed Airmen daily provide key capabilities in direct support of combat operations.

Prevent and Deter Conflict: The Air Force made significant resource and cultural investments in reinvigorating our portion of the Nation's nuclear deterrence over the past 18 months. We are now institutionalizing these successes to ensure the highest standards across the nuclear enterprise. Our initial investments in a family of long-range strike capabilities mark our commitment to sustaining power projection capabilities for the next several decades.

Prepare to Defeat Adversaries and Succeed in a Wide Range of Contingencies: This priority directly reflects the Air Force emphasis on balancing our commitments to today's conflicts against preparing for mid- and long-term risks. Awarding a contract this year to recapitalize our aging tanker force is our top acquisition priority. Similarly, the F-35 will be the workhorse of the fighter force for decades to come. Our investment in this program is timed with other modernization initiatives and divestment plans to ensure sufficient capabilities are available to deter and defeat potential enemies.

Preserve and Enhance the All-Volunteer Force: Preserving and enhancing our all-volunteer force provides the foundation required for our flexible and agile posture. This budget reflects a commitment to enhancing our force through education and training, while also bolstering the overall quality of life of Airmen and their families.

STRATEGY TO RESOURCES

As we prepared the budget request described by this Posture Statement, we structured our resource choices by balancing the twelve Air Force Core Functions across the near- and long-term. When considered together, the Core Functions encompass the full range of Air Force capabilities, and serve as the framework for this Posture Statement. While this document describes the core functions individually, we recognize their inherent interdependence within not just the Air Force, but also within the Joint force and the whole of government.

AIR FORCE CORE FUNCTIONS

Nuclear Deterrence Operations	*Special Operations*
Air Superiority	*Global Integrated ISR*
Space Superiority	*Command and Control*
Cyberspace Superiority	*Personnel Recovery*
Global Precision Attack	*Building Partnerships*
Rapid Global Mobility	*Agile Combat Support*

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE OPERATIONS

Since its inception, the Air Force has served as a proud and disciplined steward of a large portion of the Nation's nuclear arsenal. We steadfastly maintain and secure nuclear weapons to deter potential adversaries, and to assure our partners that we are a reliable force providing global stability.

The first Air Force priority during the last two years has been to reinvigorate the stewardship, accountability, compliance, and precision within the nuclear enterprise. This mission demands perfection. Last year we reorganized our nuclear forces, consolidating responsibility into a clear chain of command. All nuclear operations are under the command of the Air Force Global Strike Command and all sustainment activities are controlled by the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center. We also added a fourth B-52 squadron to enhance nuclear surety through greater mission focus. We continued these advancements in FY10 by reassigning Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) and nuclear bomber forces to Air Force Global Strike Command as it proceeds toward full operational capability.

The FY11 budget request continues to invest in sustaining the Air Force's ICBM and bomber fleets. We will invest $295M across the FYDP to replace fuzing mechanisms, and to sustain test equipment and environmental control systems for the aging, but capable, Minuteman III ICBM weapon system.

As we begin work to develop a future Long Range Strike capability, we recognize the need to continue investing in our legacy bomber fleets, including nearly $800M for modernization. This

budget request provides the B-52, initially designed in the early 1950s, with an internal precision-guided weapons capability, a new radar, and a modern and effective anti-skid system. This request funds modernization of B-2 analog defensive systems to ensure continued survivability against increasingly capable air defense systems. Additionally, the UH-1N replacement program supporting missile launch complexes is on track and we anticipate IOC by FY15.

AIR SUPERIORITY

Air superiority is a necessary precondition for most U.S. military operations. American ground forces have operated without fear of enemy aircraft since 1953. Although we operate in uncontested airspace in current conflicts, we cannot assume this will be the case in the future. The emergence of modern air defenses challenges the ability of the Air Force to achieve air superiority. Potential adversaries are leveraging readily accessible technologies by modifying existing airframes with improved radars, sensors, jammers, and weapons. In addition, several nations are pursuing fifth-generation aircraft capable of all-aspect, low-observable signatures, and fully integrated avionics and sensors. Adversary nations are also turning to advanced surface-to-air missiles to augment or even substitute for aircraft modernization efforts. The proliferation of these sophisticated and increasingly affordable weapons presents an area denial capability that challenges our legacy fleet. As the range of potential threats evolves, the Air Force will rely on the F-22 Raptor as the workhorse of the air superiority fighter force for the foreseeable future. Complementing our 187 modernized F-22s, we will continue to rely on F-15C/D aircraft to provide an important component of our air superiority capability.

Our FY10 budget included plans to accelerate the retirement of some legacy fighter aircraft to pave the way for a smaller but more capable fighter force. As we work with the Congress to execute this important plan, we continue to aggressively modernize our air superiority fleet, including upgrading fielded F-22s to ensure fleet commonality with current deliveries. Additionally, we began modernizing 176 F-15Cs with the new APG-63(v)3 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar. Along with these modifications, we are continuing the development and procurement of the AIM-9X and AIM-120D air-to-air missiles.

The FY11 budget requests $12.5B in the FYDP to sustain America's air superiority advantage. To continue F-22 modifications, this request includes $1.34B to continue fleet commonality upgrades, improving reliability and maintainability, and adding training enhancements for the fleet. Building on the multi-role nature of our most advanced aircraft, this request also includes $1.19B to add precision attack capabilities such as the Small Diameter Bomb. The Air Force will also continue the development and procurement of air-to-air munitions and defenses for the F-22 such as the AIM-9X, AIM-120D, and electronic warfare capabilities. To sustain our legacy aircraft viability, we included $92M to continue the upgrades and modifications to the new F-15 AESA radar. Recognizing that Electronic Warfare remains an integral part of air superiority, we request $251M in FY11 for upgrades to the EC-130H Compass Call fleet. This request includes the conversion of an additional EC-130H, as well as a combined flight deck and mission crew simulator to increase training capacity.

SPACE SUPERIORITY

America's ability to operate across the spectrum of conflict relies heavily on space capabilities developed and operated by the Air Force. We support the Joint force by developing, integrating, and operating in six key mission areas: missile warning; space situational awareness (SSA); military satellite communications; positioning, navigation and timing; space access; and weather.

To enhance space support to the Joint force, we are increasing communications capability in FY10 through two satellite communications programs, the Wideband Global Satellite (WGS) program to replace the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS), and Advanced Extremely High Frequency system for protected communications. We launched the second and third WGS satellites in FY10; each WGS satellite provides the equivalent capacity of the entire legacy DSCS constellation. Additionally, the second on-orbit Space-Based Infrared System Highly Elliptical Orbit payload was fully certified by United States Strategic Command to perform strategic missile warning. Finally, spacelift remains the backbone for national security space with a record sixty-four consecutive successful missions.

The FY11 budget request for $10.9B will improve our stewardship of space with investment in space and space-related support systems. With these resources, we will field several first-of-their-kind systems – Global Positioning System Block IIF, Space Based Space Surveillance System, and Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite communications system. This request proposes $1.2B for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program, $1.8B for the Space Based Infrared System, and $1.3B for GPS. We also included $135M for Joint Space Operation Center Mission System to improve SSA capabilities, and $94M for the Operationally Responsive Space program to pursue innovative capabilities that can be rapidly developed and fielded in months rather than years. We request $577M to fully fund WGS to meet combatant commander bandwidth requirements. Moreover, we will continue to maintain SSA ground-based systems and explore space-based capabilities to ensure our continued freedom to operate in this domain.

CYBERSPACE SUPERIORITY

Cyber threats ranging from individual hackers to criminal organizations to state-sponsored cyber intrusions can challenge access to, and use of, this domain. Although the freedom to operate in the cyber domain is a precondition for our increasingly networked force, many of our potential adversaries are similarly adopting information-enabled technology, rendering them vulnerable to cyber attack as well. Threats to freedom of access to the cyber domain present both challenges and opportunities.

In FY10 we continued the development and institutionalization of cyberspace capabilities and integration into the Joint cyberspace structure. The newly activated 24th Air Force, the first Numbered Air Force dedicated to cyberspace operations, recently achieved initial operational capability and has been designated the Air Force component for the sub-unified U.S. Cyber Command. We are also focusing on cyber personnel by normalizing the cyber career path and adding technical education courses.

The FY11 budget request reflects a continued commitment to cyber superiority. We request $31M for expanded rapid cyber acquisition capabilities to keep pace with dynamic adversaries and fast-paced advances in technology. In support of the national cyber effort, this budget

request dedicates $104M to support operations and leased space for headquarters staff at the sub-unified U.S. Cyber Command. Additionally, we propose adding $15M and additional manpower over the next five years to increase the investigative and law enforcement aspects of cyberspace defense.

GLOBAL PRECISION ATTACK

Global Precision Attack is the ability to hold any target at risk, across the air, land, and sea domains. Many of our global precision attack forces are meeting the current requirements of ongoing contingency operations by performing precision strike and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) support roles. In the longer term, however, the proliferation of area denial and anti-access capabilities will challenge the ability of current fourth-generation fighters and legacy bombers to penetrate contested airspace.

The Air Force budget request in FY10 recognized these developments and continued improvements to aircraft and weapons capabilities. This year, we will take delivery of 10 F-35s for developmental testing and to train test pilots. We are also modernizing legacy fighter aircraft to maintain sufficient capability and capacity until the F-35 fleet is fully operational, and are continuing to develop programs for preferred air-to-ground weapons. Upon completion of the required reports to the Congress later this year, we will implement the planned reduction of 257 legacy fighters. We have had mixed results in test drops of the Massive Ordnance Penetrator; however, we are closely monitoring the progress of this important capability, and future successes likely will result in a reprogramming request to accelerate its development in FY10. Finally, continued development of the second increment of the Small Diameter Bomb will give the Air Force even greater capability and flexibility.

Our $14.4B Global Precision Attack request for FY11 reflects a balanced approach across the portfolio, prioritizing investment in fifth-generation aircraft while sustaining legacy platforms as a bridge to the F-35.

F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

The multi-role F-35 is a critical element of the Air Force's future precision attack capability. In addition to complementing the F-22's world class air superiority capabilities, the F-35 is designed to penetrate air defenses and deliver a wide range of precision munitions. This modern, fifth-generation aircraft brings the added benefit of increased allied interoperability and cost-sharing across services and partner nations.

Working in close collaboration with DoD, the F-35 program team realized a number of accomplishments over the last year, to include the first flight of the first optimized conventional take-off and landing (CTOL) Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) variant—aircraft AF-1.

Despite these important accomplishments, the program is experiencing program challenges as it transitions from development to production. Last year, DoD conducted multiple, independent reviews to assess the impact of these challenges on the program's cost, schedule, and technical performance. The results were consistent with a previous FY08 DoD independent assessment that projected a cost increase and schedule slip.

The challenges being experienced are not unusual for this phase of a major program. However, we are disappointed by the contractor's failure to deliver flight test aircraft as scheduled during the past year. The result of the late deliveries will be a delay in the flight test program.

Although there appear to be recent improvements, the contractor also has been experiencing assembly inefficiencies that must be corrected to support higher production rates.

In response to the challenges still facing the program and the findings of the independent reviews, we have taken numerous management actions to reduce risk. Most significantly we have determined that it is prudent to adjust the schedule and funding to levels consistent with the most recent independent estimates. These cost and schedule adjustments require that we initiate the process to confirm the program is in breach of the Nunn-McCurdy Act criteria, and details will be reported later this spring.

The F-35 is our largest and most important program and we are dedicated to successfully delivering these aircraft to both the U.S. and to our international partners in this effort. The Air Force FY11 budget includes $5.6 billion for continued development and procurement of 22 CTOL production aircraft.

Long-range Strike

Investments in our B-52 and B-2 fleets sustain nuclear deterrence operations as well as conventional global precision attack capabilities in the near-term, but we are adding R&D funds to accelerate development of enhanced long-range strike capabilities. Building upon insights developed during the QDR, the Secretary of Defense has ordered a follow-on study to determine what combination of Joint persistent surveillance, electronic warfare, and precision-attack capabilities will be best suited to support U.S. power projection operations over the next two to three decades. The study will examine both penetrating platforms and stand-off weapon options. As part of this assessment, the Air Force is reviewing options for fielding survivable, long-range surveillance and strike aircraft as part of a comprehensive, phased plan to modernize the bomber force. Additionally, the Navy and the Air Force are cooperatively assessing alternatives for a new Joint cruise missile. Finally, the Department of Defense also plans to analyze conventional prompt global strike prototypes and will assess the effects that these systems, if deployed, might have on strategic stability.

RAPID GLOBAL MOBILITY

The Air Force is committed to providing unmatched airlift and air refueling capability to the nation. Air Force mobility forces provide an essential deployment and sustainment capability for the Joint force, delivering personnel, equipment, and supplies necessary for missions ranging from conflict to humanitarian relief.

We are releasing the Request for Proposal for a KC-X replacement tanker in early 2010, and will aggressively work toward awarding a contract later this year. Additionally, we completed the successful operational testing of the C-5 Reliability Enhancement and Re-engine Program (RERP) and will induct two more C-5Bs into low-rate initial production. For tactical airlift, we recently concluded a test of our Direct Support airlift concept and continue to work with the Army to rapidly and smartly transfer the C-27J program to the Air Force.

The FY11 budget reflects a balanced approach across the tanker and airlift portfolios, which prioritizes recapitalization of the oldest aircraft while ensuring the continued viability of the legacy fleet. Investments in tanker capability are heavily weighted towards the KC-X program—our top acquisition priority—and represent $11.7B in the FYDP. However, while moving aggressively to recapitalize the tanker fleet, we must also ensure the continued health of legacy

aircraft. This budget request includes $680M in the FYDP for airspace access modifications and sustainment of the KC-10 and KC-135 fleets.

The Air Force Airlift budget request is focused on meeting mobility requirements in the most cost efficient way possible, recapitalizing only the oldest airlift aircraft. To ensure continued access to all airspace, this budget continues to modernize and modify C-5s and C-130Hs through Avionics Modernization Programs, and upgrades C-5B/Cs with RERP. To complete the recapitalization of C-130Es, we request $1.8B over the next five years to procure 24 C-130Js. Additionally, in accordance with the preliminary results of the Mobility Capabilities and Requirements Study 2016, and subject to authorization by the Congress, we intend to retire some of the oldest, least capable C-5As and C-130H1s. We have also requested $38.9M in FY11 to transition from C-17 procurement to sustainment.

Special Operations

Air Force special operations capabilities play a vital role in supporting U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and geographic combatant commanders. As the Department of Defense increasingly develops irregular warfare capabilities, the Air Force is investing in special operations airlift, close air support, foreign internal defense, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

In FY10 we focused on growing and recapitalizing the special operations aircraft inventory. By the end of the fiscal year, three MC-130W Combat Spear aircraft will be modified with the Precision Strike Package to provide additional armed overwatch capability for SOF forces. Additionally, we will deliver the sixteenth of fifty CV-22s.

This FY11 budget proposal includes $6.7B through the FYDP to continue growing and recapitalizing the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). In FY11 we will procure five additional CV-22s and five MC-130Js for $1.1B. This request also includes $1.6B in the FYDP to start recapitalizing our AC-130H aircraft. We will rapidly recapitalize these aging aircraft through the procurement of 16 additional MC-130Js, modified with the proven Precision Strike Package. In FY11 we will also increase AFSOC's manpower by 258 personnel by FY15 to support the addition of 16 fixed-wing mobility and two rotary-wing aircraft.

Global Integrated Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

The Air Force continues to rapidly increase its ISR capability and capacity to support combat operations. Air Force ISR provides timely, fused, and actionable intelligence to the Joint force, from forward deployed locations and globally distributed centers around the globe. The exceptional operational value of Air Force ISR assets has led Joint force commanders in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa to continually increase their requests for these forces. To help meet this demand, the Air Force currently has more than 90 percent of all available ISR assets deployed.

In FY10, we are quantitatively and qualitatively increasing aircraft, sensors, data links, ground stations, and personnel to address emergent requirements. Over the last two years, the Air Force increased the number of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) fielded by 330 percent. We invested in a Wide Area Airborne Surveillance (WAAS) system for new and existing MQ-9s to provide up to 50 video streams per sensor within a few years. By the summer of FY10, a quick reaction

capability version of WAAS known as Gorgon Stare will provide 10 video streams per MQ-9. Any ROVER-equipped ground force will be able to receive any of these feeds. We also added four RQ-4s, and graduated our first class of RPA-only pilots. Early in FY10, we proposed a shift in the nomenclature from "unmanned aircraft systems" (or UAS) to "remotely piloted aircraft" as part of normalizing this capability within the Air Force manpower structure and culture. We will also maintain our current JSTARS-based Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) capability as we begin an Analysis of Alternatives to determine the future of GMTI.

To complement remotely piloted capabilities, we are deploying MC-12W Project Liberty aircraft to the theater as fast as they can be delivered from the factory. This program progressed from "concept to combat" in a record nine months, and has a deployed maintenance availability rate well above 90 percent.

Because analysis transforms data into actionable intelligence, we are shifting approximately 3,600 of the 4,100 manpower billets recaptured from the early retirement of legacy fighters to support RPA operations, and the processing, exploitation, and dissemination of intelligence collected by manned and remotely piloted aircraft. We also doubled the number of ISR liaison officers assigned to deployed ground forces to ensure the seamless integration of ISR collection and exploitation assets.

Our FY11 budget proposal reflects the Joint force emphasis on ISR capacity, and builds on progress made in FY10. The Air Force will reach 50 RPA continuous, combat air patrols (CAPs) in theater by the end of FY11. The budget request increases MC-12W funding to normalize training and basing posture, adds Wide Area Airborne Surveillance capability, and increases the total number of our RPA platforms to enable fielding up to 65 CAPs by the end of FY13. As we request additional RQ-4 Global Hawks for high altitude ISR, we also intend to continue operating the U-2 at least throughout FY13 as a risk mitigation effort. We will sustain our ISR processing, exploitation, and dissemination in the Distributed Common Ground System, providing critical distributed analysis without having to forward deploy more forces.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

Theater-wide command and control (C2) enables efficient and effective exploitation of the air, space, and cyber domain. The Air Force maintains significant C2 capabilities at the theater level. However, the highly decentralized nature of irregular warfare also places increased demands on lower echelons of command. Matching the range and flexibility of air, space, and cyberspace power to effectively meet tactical requirements requires a linked C2 structure at all echelons.

This year, we are expanding our efforts to provide C2 at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. In FY11, the Air Force is requesting $30M across the FYDP to fund equipment and assured communications for U.S. Strategic Command's Distributed Command and Control Node (DC2N), U.S. Northern Command's National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense (NCR-IADS), and U.S. Africa Command's expanding air operations center. Tactically, we are increasing training pipelines for Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs), establishing an Air Liaison Officer career field, fielding advanced video downlink capabilities, and adding airborne radio and datalink gateways to improve the connectivity of air support operations centers and JTACS.

In FY11, the Air Force request also includes modernization and sustainment of both airborne and ground-based C2 systems. For Air Force airborne C2, we request $275M for the E-3 Block 40/45 upgrade program. This upgrade modernizes a 1970s-era computer network, eliminates many components that are no longer manufactured, and adds avionics to comply with Global Air Traffic Management standards. To improve ground-based tactical air control operations, we are increasing manpower in the control and reporting centers and investing $51.5 million with the U.S. Marine Corps for a follow-on ground-based radar capability supporting air and missile defense. This Three-Dimensional Expeditionary Long-Range Radar (3DELRR) will be the future long-range, ground-based sensor for detecting, identifying, tracking, and reporting aircraft and missiles.

PERSONNEL RECOVERY

Personnel recovery (PR) remains an important commitment the Air Force makes to the Joint force. The increased utilization of military and civilian personnel in support of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) has dramatically increased the number of individuals who may find themselves isolated. This has in-turn created an increasing demand for Air Force rescue forces beyond the combat search and rescue mission. Air Force PR forces are fully engaged in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa, accomplishing crucial medical and casualty evacuation missions for U.S. and Coalition military and civilian personnel.

This year, we will continue to surge critical personnel recovery capability to the field, and will start replacing the aging fleet. To bring the fleet back to its original size of 112 HH-60Gs, we will put the first four operational loss replacement aircraft on contract. Additionally, we will deliver the first two HC-130J tanker aircraft, starting the replacement of the 1960s-era HC-130P fleet.

The FY11 budget request continues the replacement of operational losses and modernization of aging equipment. This request funds the last eight HH-60G operational loss replacement aircraft by the end of FY12. Additionally, we begin the process of recapitalizing the remaining fleet with the inclusion of $1.5B to procure 36 HH-60G replacement aircraft in the FYDP. We also continue our recapitalization of the HC-130P/N fleet with HC-130J aircraft. Finally, we request $553M in funding throughout the FYDP for the Guardian Angel program, which will standardize and modernize mission essential equipment for our pararescuemen.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The Air Force continues to seek opportunities to develop partnerships around the world, and to enhance long-term capabilities through security cooperation. In the USCENTCOM AOR, deployed Airmen are working with our Afghan and Iraqi partners to build a new Afghan National Army Air Corps and Iraqi Air Force to strengthen the ability of these nations to uphold the rule of law and defend their territories against violent, non-state actors. We are also working to further partnerships with more established allies with programs like the Joint Strike Fighter. Similarly, the third and final C-17 procured under the 12-nation Strategic Airlift Capability program was delivered in October 2009, helping to address a chronic shortage of strategic airlift among our European Allies.

In FY11, we will expand our capabilities to conduct building partner capacity (BPC) operations with partner air forces. Past experience has shown us that we are more effective trainers when

we operate the same platforms as our partners. To increase our interoperability, the Air Force requests resources to prepare to field the Light Mobility Aircraft (LiMA) in FY12 and the Light Attack/Armed Reconnaissance (LAAR) aircraft in FY13. These aircraft will provide effective and affordable capabilities in the two most critical mission areas for partner air forces: lower-cost airlift and light strike/reconnaissance training. Additionally, we will continue to foster BPC capability in our Contingency Response Groups. This request also includes $51M to continue investing in the Strategic Airlift Capability program. Finally, we programmed $6.4M annually across the FYDP for PACIFIC ANGEL humanitarian assistance missions in support of U.S Pacific Command theater objectives.

AGILE COMBAT SUPPORT

Agile combat support underpins the entire Air Force, from the development and training of Airmen to revitalizing processes in the acquisition enterprise. In terms of core functions, agile combat support reflects the largest portion of the Air Force budget proposal, totaling approximately $42B for personnel and training, installation support, logistics, and acquisition.

Airmen and Families. Over the last year we stabilized end strength. Retention rates have exceeded expectations, but we continue to progress toward our end strength goal of 332,200 active duty Airmen. In addition to stabilizing our end strength, we are also modernizing our training programs and aircraft. To better partner with the Joint and Coalition team, we will provide our Airmen with cultural and regional expertise and appropriate levels of foreign language training. We are also expanding foreign language instruction for officer commissioning programs at the Air Force Academy and in ROTC, encouraging cadets to take foreign language coursework and participate in language immersion and study programs abroad. This expanded training includes enhanced expeditionary skills training to prepare Airmen for deployment. Finally, as part of our effort to modernize training systems, we have established a program office to start the process of replacing the T-38 trainer with an advanced trainer capable of teaching pilots to fly the world's most advanced fighter aircraft.

Recognizing that family support programs must keep pace with the needs of Airmen and their families, we initiated the Year of the Air Force Family in July 2009. We plan to add enough capacity to our child development centers to eliminate the child care space deficit by the end of FY12, provide better support to exceptional family member programs, and add 54 school liaison officers to Airmen and Family Readiness Centers to highlight and secure Air Force family needs with local school administrators.

The Air Force continues to expand its efforts to improve the resiliency of Airmen and their families before and after deployments. This year we expanded deployment-related family education, coupling it with psychological screening and post-deployment health assessments. Additionally, we offer access to chaplains who provide pastoral care, and counselors and mental health providers trained in post-traumatic stress treatment at every base. We plan to further enhance support in 2010 by promoting and encouraging mental health assistance, and by providing at-risk deployers with tailored and targeted resiliency programs. To support this increased effort, we will enhance mental health career field recruiting and retention through special pays and targeted retention bonuses.

Acquisition Excellence. The Air Force continues to make progress within the Acquisition Improvement Plan. In 2009, we hired over 2,000 personnel into the acquisition workforce and continued contractor-to-civilian conversions. The Air Force institutionalized early collaboration with acquisition system stakeholders, senior acquisition leadership certification of requirements, cost estimation improvements, and an improved budgeting process to enhance the probability of program successes. The multi-functional independent review teams conducted over 113 reviews, ensuring acquisition selections are correct and defendable. As part of our recent acquisition reorganization, we created 11 new program executive officer positions to reduce the span of control and increase their focus on program execution. These enhancements demonstrate our commitment to restoring the public's trust in the Air Force's ability to acquire the most technologically advanced weapon systems at a competitive cost. In the near-term, this more rigorous approach to acquisition is likely to identify problems and programmatic disconnects. In the medium- and long-term, it should yield significant improvements in Air Force stewardship of taxpayer resources.

Energy. As part of our institutional effort to consider energy management in all that we do, the Air Force requests $250 million for energy and water conservation projects in FY11. This investment will ensure we meet the President's efficiency goals by 2015. In FY10, the Air Force finalized an energy plan that directs the development and use of reliable alternative energy resources, and reduces the life-cycle costs of acquisition programs. Additionally, the plan recognizes that aviation operations account for over 80 percent of the energy used by the Air Force each year, and directs Airmen and mission planners to continue managing aviation fuel as an increasingly scarce resource.

Military Construction. The Air Force $1.3B MILCON request is austere, but provides funding for new construction aligned with weapon system deliveries. Additionally, the budget request sustains our effort to provide quality housing for Airmen and their families. Finally, the Air Force remains focused on completing its BRAC 2005 program and continuing the legacy BRAC programs as well as the environmental clean-up at legacy BRAC locations.

Strategic Basing. In 2009, the Air Force implemented a Strategic Basing Process to ensure basing decisions are made in a manner that supports new weapon system acquisition and delivery schedules as well as organization activation milestones. The newly established Strategic Basing Executive Steering Group directs these actions to ensure a standard, repeatable, and transparent process in the evaluation of Air Force basing opportunities. We are currently using this process to conduct an enterprise-wide look at F-35 basing options.

Logistics. Air Force requirements for weapon system sustainment funding continue to grow as aircraft age. In the long term, the increasing requirements for sustaining an aging aircraft fleet pose budget challenges and force trade-offs. We protected direct warfighter support, irregular warfare capabilities, and the nuclear enterprise. Since this year's budget includes a simultaneous OCO submission along with a base budget, the Air Force optimized its flying hour program funding to support only the peacetime flying hours we can fly, given the number of deployed Airmen and aircraft supporting Overseas Contingency Operations. Due to the volatile nature of fuel prices, reprogramming may be necessary to cover increased fuel costs. Over the longer term, enactment of the Department of Defense's legislative proposal for the Refined Petroleum Products Marginal Expense Transfer Account would reduce disruptions to operations and investment programs by providing the Department of Defense flexibility to deal with fuel price

fluctuations in the changing economy. The Air Force maintained its commitment to transforming logistics business practices, including total asset visibility and associated information technology, by protecting funds associated with fielding the first increment of the Expeditionary Combat Support System.

READINESS AND RESOURCING

Our efforts over the last year continued to stress both people and platforms. Nearly 40,000 of America's Airmen are deployed to 263 locations across the globe, including 63 locations in the Middle East. In addition to deployed Airmen, nearly 130,000 Airmen support combatant commander requirements from their home station daily. These Airmen operate the Nation's space and missile forces, process and exploit remotely collected ISR, provide national intelligence support, execute air sovereignty alert missions, and contribute in many other ways. To date, the Air Force has flown over 50,000 sorties supporting Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and almost 66,000 sorties supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. During this time the Air Force delivered over 1.73 million passengers and 606,000 tons of cargo, employed almost 1,980 tons of munitions, and transported nearly 70,000 total patients and 13,000 casualties from the CENTCOM AOR. In doing so, Airmen averaged nearly 330 sorties per day.

To support the efforts of Airmen and to recruit and retain the highest quality Air Force members, this FY11 budget request includes $29.3B in military personnel funding, to include a 1.4 percent pay increase. Our active component end strength will grow to 332,200 Airmen as the Reserve Component end strength increases to 71,200, and the Air National Guard end strength remains 106,700 in FY11. Our recruiting and retention is strong, but we request $645M for recruiting and retention bonuses targeted at critical wartime skills, including command and control, public affairs, contracting, pararescue, security forces, civil engineering, explosive ordnance disposal, medical, and special investigations.

SUMMARY

The Air Force's proposed FY11 budget of $119.6B achieves the right balance between providing capabilities for today's commitments and posturing for future challenges. The Air Force built this budget to best achieve the four strategic priorities outlined in the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review: 1) prevail in today's wars; 2) prevent and deter conflict; 3) prepare to defeat adversaries and succeed in a wide range of contingencies; and 4) preserve and enhance the All-Volunteer Force.

Balancing requirements for today and tomorrow determined our recapitalization strategy. We chose to improve our existing capabilities whenever possible, and to pursue new systems when required. This recapitalization approach attempts to keep pace with threat developments and required capabilities, while ensuring stewardship of national resources. In developing this budget request, we also carefully preserved and enhanced our comprehensive approach to taking care of Airmen and Air Force families.