

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

FULL COMMITTEE

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: HEARING ON THE STATUS OF U.S. FORCES

**STATEMENT OF: GENERAL JOHN P. JUMPER
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**Written Statement of the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force
House Armed Services Committee – Full Committee – Status of U.S. Forces
17 November 2004**

Mr. Chairman, Representative Skelton, and distinguished members of the committee, the United States Air Force remains the world's premier air and space power. Air and space capabilities offer unmatched opportunities to continue improving our force for the security of the United States. As a service born of innovation, we are steadfast in our focus on developing the concepts of operations, advanced technologies, and integration required to provide the joint force with unprecedented capabilities for the defense of our great nation.

America's Air Force is the world's premier air and space power because of our professional Airmen, our investment in warfighting technology, and our ability to integrate our people and systems together with our warfighting partners to produce decisive effects. These competencies are the foundation upon which we build a defense against unknown threats in a volatile strategic environment. Our competencies ensure our Combatant Commanders have the tools they need to maintain a broad and sustained joint force advantage over any emerging adversaries.

In the strategic environment of this century, the Air Force, along with the other Services, will continue to protect and defend America as we deter aggression, assure our allies of security, and defeat our enemies. As we continue adapting the Air Force, we are dedicated to fulfilling our global commitments as part of the joint warfighting team. With the continuing assistance of the Congress, we will continue shaping our force to strengthen the joint warfighting team in meeting the needs of this century, to fight the Global War on Terrorism, and to defend our nation.

At the beginning of the year, we submitted to you our 2004 Posture Statement, our vision for the year and blueprint for sustaining our air and space dominance well into the future. The closing of this calendar year offers us the opportunity to briefly relate some of our accomplishments.

2004 AT A GLANCE

The United States remains a nation at war, and while the Air Force is fully engaged in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) and IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), we also stand ready to deal with the spectrum of other threats, both long-standing persistent and emerging, against our nation's interests and security. The U.S. Air Force ensures a flexible, responsive, and dominant force by providing a variety of operational capabilities that integrate with joint and coalition forces. The Air Force remains engaged with the other Services, our coalition partners, our allies, interagency teams, and the aerospace industry to continue to improve upon the military capabilities and dominance we enjoy today.

Adjusting our Air and Space Expeditionary Forces (AEF)

Operations in 2003 and 2004 validated the function and structure of our Air and Space Expeditionary Forces (AEFs). Recent operations have demanded more capability from our AEFs than at any time since their inception in 1998. Our AEFs surged to support the Combatant Commanders' warfighting and deterrence missions, employing nearly eight AEFs of combat forces. Early this year we began reestablishing our AEF battle-rhythm while our AEFs remained engaged, presenting the full range of our capabilities to the Combatant Commanders. Yet, continued demands of global operations, additional contingencies in other theaters, and a tasking to support Army operations with 2,000 of our expeditionary combat support forces required us to reassess our planning assumptions, and to adjust our AEFs to an expanding mission set.

Demands on our deployable forces have not diminished, and we do not expect them to decline for some time. Our rotational deployment requirement supporting OEF and OIF averages nearly 20,000 Airmen – about three times the demand prior to September 11, 2001. Additionally, the Air Force Component Commander in the Central Command area of operations asked us to deploy for longer tour lengths to allow greater continuity for expeditionary

commanders in the field. After carefully examining the requirements, we adapted our AEF deployment cycle to the new set of circumstances. Starting in September, we changed our AEF baseline deployment time from 90-days to 120-days and, as a result, changed the AEF rotation cycle from 15 months to 20 months. This gives our forces greater continuity in the field with an additional benefit of more stability at home bases in the face of increased requirements.

We recognize the new demands for air and space power around the world. Our AEFs have demonstrated our ability to package forces by selecting the most appropriate combat ready units from our Total Force, building and presenting expeditionary units, and flowing them to the theaters of operation in a timely manner. We also recognize the challenges longer deployments present to our Reserve Component, challenges that could affect the number of Air Reserve Component (ARC) volunteers. We will manage these matters very carefully and ensure equity and fairness across the Total Force – a Total Force that continues to do an impressive job.

With our AEFs, the Air Force presents right-sized, highly trained expeditionary units to Combatant Commanders for employment across the spectrum of conflict. Today, more than three-fourths of our active duty Airmen are assigned to an AEF and are eligible to deploy. Just over 30,000 Airmen from our Total Force are deployed worldwide today as we continue to use the AEFs to meet our global requirements.

Operations and Contingencies

Since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), the Air Force, with our joint and coalition partners, has been engaged in fighting three major campaigns: Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE) – defending air sovereignty of North America’s cities and infrastructure; Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) – fighting remnants of the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan while fostering democracy and rebuilding communities; and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) – fighting along side our fellow Service members, the Iraqi Army, and our coalition partners to put down the insurgency and rebuild the Iraqi nation.

Homeland Defense: With Operation NOBLE EAGLE, we defend the Homeland with the same Total Force approach used for all our operations. Our principle Homeland Defense

mission is Air Defense/Air Sovereignty of the United States and its territories. Since September 11, 2001, over 38,500 sorties have been flown in defense of the United States, while over 2,800 air patrols have been diverted from primary orbit or scrambled from their alert bases. The new steady-state ground alert provides double the capability provided pre-September 11 and is strategically located at active duty and Air Reserve Component bases in the Continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii. The Air National Guard has primary responsibility for providing alert aircraft at 16 sites. This year, over 2,200 Airmen have stood vigilant in support of United States Continental Region air defense operations.

Afghanistan and Iraq: The Air Force's support of joint and coalition operations in Afghanistan and Iraq has been integral to our continuing success in the GWOT. While the reconstruction of these two countries continues, the threat to our deployed personnel has not abated. To defeat this threat, aid coalition stability, and support operations, the Air Force maintains a presence of over 20,000 Airmen in and around the region. Included with this presence are Airmen from the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves. This continues to be a Total Force effort that has already flown nearly 250,000 total sorties since the beginning of OEF and OIF. On an average day, we fly 150 sorties for OIF and approximately 65 sorties for OEF. Sortie missions include strike; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; close air support; aerial refueling; and intertheater and intratheater airlift. Additionally, Airmen on the ground are leveraging air and space power to protect troops on the ground and they have been involved with many different types of missions, from protecting ground forces from Improvised Explosive Devices to convoy protection operations with the Army. Space operations have also been a crucial to our combat successes. We have hundreds of Airmen – space professionals – providing precise global weather information, precision navigation, communications, theater and global surveillance, and persistent worldwide missile warning. Our space cadre performs daily, monitoring and controlling our satellite fleet in order to provide transparent space capabilities to the Combatant Commander. We have already seen the results of our joint force and coalition efforts as Afghanistan conducted free elections in October, and in Iraq we have seen continued progress toward stability and democracy. While there is still more work to be done in

Afghanistan and Iraq, the Air Force stands ready with the other Services and our coalition partners to continue the work we started.

Contingencies: The Air Force remains engaged in America's war on drugs. For the past 15 years, we have been part of the interagency battle against illegal drug and narcotics trafficking. Today, we have Airmen deployed along the southern United States, in the Caribbean, and Central and South America conducting operations ranging from counterdrug surveillance missions to radar operations to monitor and detect airspace infiltration. Our operations supported over 200 federal law enforcement arrests.

In the Balkans, Airmen are fully committed to the NATO-led operations the United States initiated in the 1990s. We currently have over 400 Airmen working with NATO to achieve a secure environment and bring stability to the region.

The Air Force's continued presence in Asia and the Pacific has contributed to both the GWOT efforts in places like the Philippines, as well as contributed to our more traditional military role demonstrating our country's resolve and ability to protect and defend our allies such as Republic of Korea and Japan.

Contingencies are a part of how the Air Force is affecting the global nature of conflict. Through speed, reach, and persistence we are on all fronts covering the range of missions from humanitarian operations to fighting the multi-faceted war against terrorism.

Shaping the Force

To renew our force, we target our recruitment to ensure a diverse force with the talent and drive to be the best Airmen in the world's greatest Air Force. We remain committed to recruiting those with the skills most critical for our continued success and our recruiting has been very successful in terms of quality and numbers. However, the Air Force, to a degree, has fallen victim to successful recruiting and unusually high retention – Airmen have been staying with us in unprecedented numbers askew to our historical retention rates and modeling projections. Our active duty end strength has been well over the Fiscal Year (FY) 05 congressionally authorized level of 359,700 Airmen. In FY03, our accessions goal was 5,226 officers and 37,000 enlisted; we exceeded our goal in both categories, accessing 6,548 officers and 37,144 enlisted. For

FY04, we had planned to access 5,795 officers and 37,000 enlisted; however, we needed to bring the Air Force back to its authorized end strength number and reduced FY04 enlisted accessions by approximately 3,000 to 34,361 enlistees and reduced officers accessions by approximately 1,000 to 4,937 new officers.

We've taken a hard look at this issue and have already implemented some changes, with the most dramatic being reduction in the number of our enlisted accessions for FY05 by 11,000 and officers by approximately 350. We are still using predominantly voluntary means to lower our end strength such as allowing early separations and retirements, as well as opportunities for Airmen to transfer to the Reserve Component, Army, and Civil Service. The Air Force needs to bring the active duty end strength to the congressionally authorized level and we are doing so without breaking faith with those serving the Global War on Terrorism. We are on the right path to get our end strength level where it must legally be and we will be there by the end of Fiscal Year 2005 to meet the authorized congressional end strength. However, doing so in one year creates an imbalance with enlisted under strength and officers over strength. Our continued force shaping will address this imbalance in the future with further refining of accession targets and retraining efforts to properly align the force to meet future requirements.

Capability – Modernization and Recapitalization

The Air Force's established capabilities-based approach to war planning allows us to focus investments on those effects needed to support the joint Combatant Commanders, and it requires us to think in new ways and consider combinations of systems that create distinctive capabilities. This type of planning focuses on capabilities required to accomplish a variety of missions and to achieve desired effects against any potential threats.

We need to reduce the time required to find, fix, track and target mobile targets and other hostile forces. One system that addresses this operational shortfall is the F/A-22 Raptor. In addition to its contributions to gaining and maintaining air and space dominance, the F/A-22 will allow all weather, stealthy, precision strike 24 hours a day, and will counter existing and emerging threats, such as advanced surface-to-air missiles, cruise missiles, and time sensitive and emerging targets, including mobile targets, that our legacy systems cannot affect. The F/A-22 is completing

Initial Operational Test and Evaluation and is on track for initial operational capability in 2005. Twenty-eight F/A-22s are already flying as test or training aircraft. In May 2005, the Air Force will take delivery of the first F/A-22 to a combat operational wing, the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, where we will base the first operational F/A-22 squadron.

In addition to the F/A-22, we are committed to recapitalization and modernization efforts for systems such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Remotely Piloted Vehicles to extend our legacy forces while bridging to systems required in the future like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Development continues on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a complementary capability to the F/A-22, which will provide a sustainable, persistent multi-mission capability. Since the other Services and many of our allies will also purchase this aircraft, our logistics and maintenance will benefit greatly from the commonality of parts and systems. Acting on lessons learned in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Air Force intends to purchase the Short Take-off and Landing variant for austere airfield operations.

Both the F/A-22 and F-35 combat systems will depend on a combat support capability that can project them anywhere in the world. That combat support capability is global aerial refueling. U.S. air and space power projection capabilities are dependent on our fleet of over 540 global aerial refueling aircraft that support Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and coalition aircraft. Our current fleet of aging tankers continues to meet the challenges of OEF and OIF, and other operations worldwide, but the fleet averages more than 40 years old of age.

Recapitalization will clearly take decades to complete and is vital to the foundation and global reach of our Air Force, the other Services, and coalition partners. The Air Force is committed to an acquisition approach for this program that will recapitalize the fleet in the most affordable manner possible, and within the direction and authorization of the Congress.

Capabilities-driven modernization and recapitalization efforts will continue with our space systems. The joint force is already reliant on space assets and this ensures it is there. We are replacing constellations of satellites and ground systems with next generation capabilities. The Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle has completed six successful launches. Using two families of modular launch vehicles, we will continue to seek responsive, assured access to space for government systems. Modernization of GPS and development of the next-generation GPS III will enhance navigation capability and increase our resistance to jamming. In partnership with

NASA and the Department of Commerce, we are developing the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System, which offers next-generation meteorological capability. Each of these systems supports critical C4ISR capabilities that give the Combatant Commander increased technological and asymmetric advantages.

To provide our Combatant Commanders and national decision-makers with even better situational awareness, we are pursuing Space-Based Radar to complement our portfolio of radar and remote sensing systems. We are engaged with the Intelligence Community to ensure that the new radar system will be able to meet their needs as well as the needs of the warfighters. To flow more space-derived information to our fielded forces, we will employ the Transformational Communications Architecture, of which the Wideband Gapfiller Satellite and the Advanced EHF satellite are the first elements. To truly revolutionize satellite communications, we are studying the internet protocol and high-bandwidth laser technologies associated with the Transformational Satellite, which will dramatically increase connectivity to the warfighter.

THE HORIZON

The Air Force stands ready to deliver decisive air and space power in support of our nation. Whether called to execute a commanding show of force, to enable the joint fight, to deliver humanitarian assistance, or to protect our nation from terrorism, we will deliver the effects required. Our ability to answer the call to duty is the result of our sustained investment in people, technology, and integration.

The readiness that makes the Air Force's air and space power contribution possible is the result of the hard work of the thousands of Airmen, military and civilians, of our Total Force. We are part of the Joint Team – disciplined Airmen, dominant in warfighting, and decisive in conflict. We are America's Air Force.