RECORD VERSION

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Introduction

Chairman Abercrombie, Congressman Saxton and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces: on behalf of the U. S. Army, thank you for this opportunity to update you on Army Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Programs. It is my privilege to represent the Army's leadership, the military and civilian members of the Army's acquisition workforce, and the Soldiers who rely on us to provide them with world-class weapon systems and equipment so that they can successfully accomplish any mission, anytime, anywhere in the world. Army intelligence, like other warfighting functions, is focused on providing maximum support to forces deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) locations while simultaneously transforming to meet the diverse challenges of tomorrow.

All Army ISR programs follow the DOTML-PF (Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leader Development, Personnel and Facilities) model to ensure the system solutions provided to our soldiers can be operated and sustained across the spectrum of conflict. Our success would not be possible without unwavering congressional support, which allows the Army to enhance our ISR posture not only on today's battlefield but on tomorrow's as well. Thank you for your advice, guidance and strong support.

ISR Overview

Army intelligence is transitioning to a more modular, scaleable, capabilities-based design as part of Army Transformation and in response to emerging threats. Lessons-learned over the past six years from combat in Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters have highlighted the overarching importance of multi-disciplined intelligence and fusion analysis to gain full situational understanding. The Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) base budget request provides the foundation for essential intelligence modernization

efforts, synchronized with Army modular transformation and readiness. The FY08 supplemental funding request pays for additional costs associated with ongoing GWOT combat operations, and will allow us to accelerate the fielding of advanced collection and analysis capabilities in response to wartime needs.

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force recently sent a memorandum to OSD, the Joint Staff, the Services, and Combatant Commands requesting executive agency for medium and high altitude unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The Army Staff is carefully evaluating this request and will provide a response in the near future. Most, if not all ISR assets are considered high demand and low density. Simply put, we do not have enough capability to meet warfighter requirements at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. The Army will support any effort that increases focused and assured ISR support to ground maneuver commanders.

Supporting Analysis

The Army uses two paths to analyze requirements that influence acquisition strategies. The first is the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS). This is a very deliberate process that starts with a capability gap/mission needs analysis and ends with the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) approving or disapproving a requirements document. The second path is the Operational Need Statement (ONS) process. When the warfighter realizes there is a capability gap, an ONS or Joint Urgent ONS (JUONS) is submitted to the Joint or Army Staff for resolution. The Army G-3 coordinates each ONS and, if approved, directs a materiel solution. Each ONS is also submitted to the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) for further analysis to determine if an enduring requirement exists. The process TRADOC uses to do this is Capabilities Development for Rapid Transition (CDRT). These processes have been used in developing our ISR acquisition

strategies. All our ISR programs have an approved requirement, and adhere to a disciplined and responsive process to competitively acquire the most combat effective solution at the best value using the tenets previously listed.

Army Airborne ISR Programs

The Army has several airborne ISR programs, each providing a critical piece of required situational awareness and understanding. The following provides a current snapshot across the manned and unmanned fleet:

a. Readiness rates: The operational mission readiness rates for our manned and unmanned fleets in theater are greater than 85 percent and 90 percent respectively. Some systems, such as the Hunter companies, have not missed a mission in over a year. These rates are achievable because the Army builds, fields, trains, and sustains the fleet as systems.

b. Bandwidth: There are bandwidth and frequency constraints that affect our manned and unmanned systems. The frequencies in the L and C Band are nearly saturated by military applications across the spectrum. When other Nation's and civilian applications in these same frequencies are factored, the remaining bandwidth results in limited availability and throughput. The Army, in accordance with the 2006 Defense Authorization Act and DoD directive, is converting its UAS airborne links to the DoD Common Data Link (CDL). Operating in a different frequency range affords us the potential to increase current capacity at least ten-fold. Also, these data links are digital and encrypted, which enables a wide dissemination of the product.

c. Accident Rates: The UAS accident and mishap rates have steadily declined since the Army went into full rate production on our tactical UAS (Shadow) and the Small UAS (Raven). In fact, the Shadow annual accidents decreased from FY05 to FY06 by 13 percent and the accident rate per 100K flying hours decreased by 82

percent while the flying hours increased by 385 percent. This improvement can be attributed to two things. First, our soldier operators and maintainers have gained tremendous experience and proficiency since the start of the war. Through March 2007, Shadow systems have flown 148,528 hours / 31,418 sorties and Hunter has flown 19,625 hours / 22,762 sorties. Second, the Army has taken several initiatives to reduce mishaps including a more reliable engine for the Shadow, the use of an automatic tactical landing system to eliminate the need for external pilots, and the Raven B with improved avionics and GPS. Our manned accident rate is equally impressive. Between 2001 and 2006 Guardrail Common Sensor (GRCS) and Airborne Reconnaissance Low (ARL) flew a total of 124,490 hours and 34,026 hours, respectively without a Class A (catastrophic) accident. The last ARL accident was July 1999 and the last GRCS accident was November 1998.

d. Success stories: Army UAS operate in every dimension of the Land Warfare battlespace. As tactical, assured support ISR assets, these systems shape and develop the situation for intelligence surveillance of improvised explosive devices (IED) emplacements, overwatch of tactical engagements, cordon and search missions, and even hostage extraction. The Hunter and Shadow systems have repeatedly demonstrated the airborne manned-unmanned teaming essential to integrated and immediate kinetic effects necessary to win the intense and lethal ground combat operations. The Raven system has been used to direct mounted combat teams to break up insurgents blocking the path of Iraqi voters. They have also been used to direct fires (mortars) on insurgent positions. Commanders insist on having GRCS coverage during major operations. Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) provides a large portion of all actionable intelligence in theater. The ARL has been a large contributor to

the success of Special Operations and has participated in every significant operation in the last 12 months.

Unmanned Airborne ISR

The Army's UAS consists of more than aircraft. As systems they provide a combat capability of multiple aircraft, sensor payloads, personnel, communications equipment, vehicles and logistics. All Army UAS systems have approved Joint requirements documents, are competitively procured, and have completed or programmed to conduct independent test and evaluation. Two of the Army's UAS programs, the Shadow and the Raven, were the first in DoD to enter full rate production, in accordance with DoD 5000.2 guidelines. The Army recently fielded the One System Remote Video Terminal (OSRVT) which provides enhanced situational awareness with near real time video and telemetry data from multiple manned and unmanned platforms like, Hunter, Shadow, Predator, Pioneer, IGNAT, and Raven. The USMC also uses the OSRVT which is considered more capable than the Remote Operations Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER).

The operational usage of unmanned systems has dramatically increased since 2001. In fact, across DoD, unmanned systems flew a total of 164,001 hours in FY06 compared to 16,167 hours in FY01. This is nearly a ten-fold increase in UAS support to the warfighter. The Army's contribution to the UAS mission also has increased dramatically. Today, the Army is providing more UAS coverage than any other service. In FY04, the Army executed 32 percent of all UAS flying hours compared to the Air Force's 60 percent and the Navy/Marine's 8 percent. In FY06, the Army executed 47 percent of all UAS flying hours (not including Raven) compared to the Air Force's 39 percent and the Navy/Marine's 14 percent. To illustrate further the Army's increased role, we started Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) with only one Hunter Company and only

two Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) equipped with a Shadow system. Today we have two Hunter systems in OIF and 18 Shadow systems, which translates to every BCT in OIF having an organic Shadow system. In Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) currently has two Shadow systems, as well. Since 2006, the Army has also been pursuing the deployment of more capable Extended Range / Multi-Purpose (ER/MP) systems to tactical commanders. Eight early ER/MP system demonstration variants, called Warrior Alpha, have been funded by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) to perform surveillance and change-detection missions in response to wartime counter-IED requirements in Iraq. Lessons learned are being incorporated into later baseline systems. We plan to deploy an additional four Warrior Alpha aircraft to OEF toward the end of FY 2007.

Small Unmanned Aerial System (SUAS)

The Army started fielding the Small UAS Raven B systems directly to ground maneuver BCTs in July 2006. Raven B is a day/night, adverse weather, multi-sensor collection system with improved connectivity to joint forces. It weighs less than the A version but offers more capabilities, such as a higher quality day camera with a zoom feature and wide-area target acquisition. It provides much-needed real-time battle information that cannot be observed from stand-off airborne sensor systems, ground collection systems or scouts. Thus company commanders now have a far greater ability to shape over-the-hill and close-proximity operations, to track high-value targets and to conduct both shaping and decisive operations with substantially increased lethality. The Raven is a critical tool operated at the lowest levels to shape our current and future battles.

The Raven is currently providing significant support to brigade, battalion and company commanders in the GWOT, logging more than 22,764 hours in OIF and OEF.

The Raven B is in full-rate production and the Basis of Issue Plan is 15 systems for each BCT. Currently, there are more than 300 Raven A/B systems in OIF and OEF combined. This is the same system that the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) chose to support their respective maneuver units. The efficiencies of commonality, training, sustainment, and contracting of having the same Small UAS has been realized. In early FY07, an additional 44 complete Raven systems were procured without any additional cost due to the joint contracting leverage between the Army, USMC, and SOCOM.

Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (TUAS)

The Army's Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (TUAS) program is a major component of the Army's family of unmanned systems. Shadow provides dedicated and responsive surveillance and targeting information at the BCT and battalion levels ranging out to 125 kilometers, giving commanders the ability to observe the enemy at extended distances in real-time and confirm/deny ambiguous reports of enemy activity or presence. Every BCT deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan has a Shadow TUAS platoon, comprised of four air vehicles with day/night payloads and two Ground Control Stations (GCS). Due to the incredible demand for ISR platforms, Shadow units are flying six to eight times above the projected usage rates. The Army is using supplemental funding to accelerate Shadow training and fielding to next-deploying forces, and to address battlefield losses. Programmatically, the system is in the third year of full-rate production with ongoing upgrades, such as engine retrofits, software updates, tactical common data link (TCDL) and laser designation development.

Currently, this system is also operated by others in the DoD including SOCOM, USN, and the USMC in the near future. In November, 2006, the USMC chose the Shadow to replace their aging Pioneer system. They have requested eight systems and

the first two will be delivered this year. Like Raven, the opportunities to maximize efficiency will be explored.

Extended Range/Multi-Purpose (ER/MP)

The Extended Range/Multi-Purpose (ER/MP) Warrior UAS is a multi-sensor, armed UAS, designed to satisfy a JROC solution to identified capability gaps at Division and below. Based in the divisional Combat Aviation Brigade, ER/MP provides assured intelligence collection, reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition (RSTA), armed attack and communications relay capabilities to the ground tactical commanders at Division and below.

The Army's materiel need to fill a capability gap was determined via strict adherence to DoD 5000. Specific key performance parameters, threshold and objective requirements supporting the Operations and Support Concept of the total system, not just the air vehicle, were approved in the Operational Requirements Document (ORD)

Let me address the Army's reasons for not selecting the Predator. The Predator A did not, and today still does not, meet the Army's requirements for a tactical medium-altitude UAS. For instance, the Predator A system lacks an Automated Take-off and Landing System (ATLS), a common One System Ground Control Station (OSGCS) capability, and a TCDL. Also, to achieve the best value at the lowest cost and comply with the Competition in Contracting Act, the Army executed a competitive procurement for the ER/MP capability. General Atomics, the same prime manufacturer of the Predator A, offered a materiel solution to the Army ER/MP request for proposal, and was selected via a full and open competition. Our ER/MP not only provides an ATLS, OSGCS, and TCDL, but the air vehicle has been redesigned and includes a heavy fuel engine, improved fuselage/wings, and two additional hard-points for weapons. The system is currently in the System Development and Demonstration (SDD) phase and

the Army anticipates widespread fielding to begin in FY09 Lastly, on 23 Jan 07, the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff approved the limited procurement of ER/MP air vehicles to meet their requirement for the “Block 20/X” medium-altitude UAS program.

The Army ER/MP is tactically teamed with the following manned systems for rapid, dynamic tasking and intelligence fusion: Apache Block III, Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, Fires Brigade, Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, and Aerial Common Sensor. The ER/MP’s manned-unmanned- teaming reduces risk to ground operations, reduces manning requirements, increases stand-off distances, increases target location accuracy, and improves the situational understanding of the ground tactical commander.

The ER/MP operators and system are completely integrated and synchronized into the full ground maneuver plan, providing assured, dynamic, responsive and simultaneous support to the ground tactical commander’s planning and execution cycle. ER/MP is directly linked to tactical operation centers and the global broadcast system. The control system is Link 16 and WIN-T compliant, TCDL-equipped, and capable of sensor and/or aircraft control hand-off from Division to Squad and laterally across the battlefield through the OSGCS and dissemination system.

We are fully committed to meeting the tactical and Joint Task Force (JTF) commanders’ need for unmanned ISR/RSTA support and have shaped our UAS investment strategy accordingly.

Manned Airborne ISR

The Army’s current fleet of airborne ISR aircraft --- termed Special Electronic Mission Aircraft (SEMA) -- consists of the GRCS and the ARL systems. While they have served us superbly in the past and continue to perform yeoman’s work in OIF,

OEF and Korea, they fall far short of the capability we will require to support our transformed Army and its multi-dimensional doctrine and battlefield structure.

Today, the SEMA fleet, which consists of five Guardrail and ARL battalions, is flying at a high usage rates in support of ongoing military operations worldwide. All battalions are either forward-deployed, most in support of OIF or OEF, or recently returned to home station and preparing to re-deploy again. Let me explain:

- Our Korea-based fleet continues to provide over 80 percent of the Sensitive Reconnaissance Operations (SRO) on the Korean peninsula, while flying an average of 444 sorties a year in support of early warning and force protection missions for U.S. forces there.
- Since September 11, 2001, our three U.S.- and Germany-based Guardrail battalions have deployed to the U.S. Central Command theater a total of eight times, including five separate year-long tours in Iraq. Guardrail is the workhorse of the SEMA fleet, flying an average of 1,900 sorties annually and providing precision signals intelligence (SIGINT) geo-location data on threat communications and radar emitters.
- The ARL battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas, provides a continual operational presence in South America in support of the U.S. Southern Command's coordinated intelligence collection plan, while supporting simultaneous operations in OIF. Portions of this unit are deployed to Colombia year-round, flying an average of 288 sorties per year and supporting numerous counter-drug and other operations.

Guardrail Common Sensor (GRCS)

Currently there are four Guardrail Common Sensor (GRCS) systems that have evolved over the past 35 years to meet the changing threat and resulting increased

deployment requirements. Since the Vietnam War, Guardrail has provided daily support along the “Iron Curtain” in Europe, the DMZ in Korea, in Central and South America for various counter-insurgency and counter-drug operations, in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and in the Balkans during Joint Endeavor. More recently, GRCS has been used in Afghanistan, where it has saved the lives of U.S. and coalition troops during. GRCS also has been constantly deployed since the start of OIF in 2003, providing critical SIGINT targeting to our brave men and women in Iraq.

GRCS supports tactical commanders’ requirements for timely, accurate, critical signals intelligence. Multi-ship and cooperative operations provide wide-area coverage as well as coordinated collection necessary to map rapidly high-density battlefield threats. The multi-ship operation supports precision communications intelligence (COMINT) and electronic intelligence, as well, enhancing the warfighters’ ability to locate and apply kinetic energy on high-priority targets. GRCS’ capability for split-based operation allows for quick deployment of these essential sensor capabilities.

GRCS consists of an airborne subsystem and a ground subsystem. The airborne elements are integrated into the RC-12D/H/K/N/P/Q aircraft. The airborne subsystem consists of SIGINT sensors, including communications and electronic intelligence capabilities, as well as communications equipment that supports direct reporting and connectivity to ground processing stations. The GRCS aircraft are typically flown in two- or three-aircraft missions, and coordinated sensors provide large-area coverage and precision location for targeting. And GRCS does not require on-board SIGINT operators; the airborne sensors are remotely controlled through satellite communications and CDLs to operators located at remote sites. A satellite remote relay supports rapid deployment, minimum footprint forward and remote signal processing

capability. The ground subsystem provides signal processing and connectivity with other DoD tactical and fixed networks (e.g.; NSA NET, JWICS and SIPRNET).

The GRCS is the premier precision geo-location system and supports tactical commander's requirements for timeliness, accuracy, and confidence for critical SIGINT. Multi-ship and cooperative operations provide wide area of coverage which provides actionable intelligence to multiple BCTs simultaneously. Multi-ship operation supports precision COMINT and Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) targeting location capabilities sufficient for putting steel on target and precision location of high priority targets. The GRCS capability for split-based operation allows for rapid deployment of sensor capabilities.

Beginning in 2002, GRCS Guardian Eagle payloads were provided to enhance processing of non-traditional signals and interception of military communication emitters and modern, commercially available hand-held communication devices. This capability supports ongoing deployments to OIF and OEF. Recently, the Army and OSD leadership, led by the Army G-2, elected to modernize GRCS. This decision was driven by current operations' need for an assured, relevant SIGINT capability, in response to a constantly evolving threat, and the cancellation of the Aerial Common Sensor (ACS) SDD contract. The GRCS modernization effort will provide increased commonality across the fleet, as well as significantly better SIGINT performance. The upgrade will include increased throughput, increased frequency coverage and capabilities against emerging threats. A key aspect of this modernization program will be the standardization of aircraft payloads and ground processing, which will enable deployment flexibility to support multiple theaters with tailored operations. The Army projects that increased commonality and the transition to modern, Commercial-of-the Shelf based equipment will significantly reduce operations and maintenance costs for

the remaining life of the system. The Army is confident that a sustained modernization effort will effectively bridge the gap until ACS is fielded, keeping GRCS relevant until 2017 and beyond.

Airborne Reconnaissance Low (ARL)

Airborne Reconnaissance Low (ARL) is a self-deploying, multi-function, day and night, all-weather reconnaissance, intelligence, echelons-above-corps asset. It consists of a modified DeHavilland DHC-7 fixed-wing aircraft equipped with communications intelligence, imagery intelligence (IMINT) and synthetic aperture radar/moving target indicator (SAR/MTI) mission payloads. The payloads are controlled and operated via on-board open-architecture, multi-function workstations. Intelligence collected on the ARL can be analyzed, recorded and disseminated on the aircraft workstations in real time and/or stored on board for post-mission processing. During multi-aircraft missions, data can be shared between cooperating aircraft via ultra high frequency (UHF) air-to-air data links, allowing multi-platform COMINT geo-location operations. The ARL system includes a variety of communications subsystems to support near-real-time dissemination of intelligence and dynamic re-tasking of the aircraft.

ARL has enjoyed many operational successes since its fielding in 1993. It has provided daily support along the DMZ in Korea, participated in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Operation Joint endeavor in Bosnia, as well as Central and South America, supporting various counterinsurgency and counter-drug operations. ARL also has supported operations other than war: Operation SNIPER in Washington, DC, hurricane disaster support and support to the Border Patrol on the Southwest border.

There are currently two ARL configurations. The first is the ARL-COMINT (ARL-C) configuration, with a conventional communications intercept and direction finding (location) payload. Two ARL-Cs currently support SOUTHCOM counter-drug

operations and border patrol. The second is the ARL-Multifunction (ARL-M) configuration, which is equipped with a combination of IMINT, COMINT and SAR/MTI payloads and multi-INT data fusion capabilities. Of the six ARL-Ms, three support U.S. Forces Korea operations, two are deployed to OIF, and one supports SOUTHCOM counter-drug operations and border patrol.

Modernization will standardize and baseline the fleet through: a common architecture for sensor management and workstation Man-Machine Interface (MMI), downlinks and communications, common sensors across the fleet, and cockpit and safety standardization. The ARL-Cs will be converted to ARL-M's (a complete multi-function configuration conversion). These changes also will help reduce the maintenance burden and operational support costs until ARLs can be replaced. Sensors will be modernized, as well, to address emerging threats and requirements (resulting in radar, COMINT, IMINT and possibly MASINT upgrades).

Aerial Common Sensor (ACS)

Aerial Common Sensor (ACS) is the Army's next-generation manned, multi-INT (COMINT, ELINT and SAR/MTI) airborne ISR collection platform, a critical enabler for battlefield information superiority. It will merge and enhance the capabilities of the Army's current airborne reconnaissance assets, consisting of GRCS and ARL, into a single, multi-intelligence system that supports the full spectrum of operations. Strategically self-deployable worldwide, ACS will bring global relevance and tactical responsiveness to the ground component commander and joint task force commander to "see first, understand first, act first and finish decisively," primarily through the Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) architecture. ACS will provide the commander with a rapid-response, multi-discipline capability to self-deploy manned aircraft worldwide and conduct operations immediately upon arriving in theater. ACS

will provide information directly to tactical operations centers at brigade and higher echelons through the Intelligence Broadcast Service in DCGS-A and in other selected nodes on the battlefield. ACS will detect, identify, accurately locate, track and rapidly disseminate time-sensitive survival information on high-payoff targets to Army, joint, allied and designated coalition warfighters for mission planning, force protection, maneuver, targeting and battle damage assessment.

Since the cancellation of the original ACS SDD contract in January 2006, DoD, the Army and the Navy have been working together to develop a program path forward and to ensure that lessons learned from the previous effort are captured. The USD (AT&L) recently completed a Program Support Review of the previous ACS program, identifying what led to contract termination, including recommendations to both services to improve program oversight.

The Army remains strongly committed to the ACS program. In FY07, the Army and Navy completed a Quadrennial Defense Review-directed joint assessment of ACS requirements, called the Joint ISR Study. That assessment revalidated the need for a manned, multi-INT airborne ISR system to meet Army and Navy operational requirements and supported the recapitalization of legacy airborne systems (GRCS, ARL and EP-3) as a bridge to ACS deployment. Over the past several months, the Army and Navy have jointly determined that requirements for the service programs diverge enough to drive pursuit of separate efforts. On March 16, 2007, the Army Vice Chief of Staff approved the development of a blocked requirement for the acquisition strategy. This blocked strategy will allow the ACS capability to be achieved by taking advantage of mature payloads early and integrating them when prudent. Funding in the current President's Budget will support continued requirements development,

technology risk reduction and evaluation, and milestone documentation activities in anticipation of restarting the program.

Until ACS is fielded, the Army will invest in a robust recapitalization and modernization effort of the existing GRCS and ARL fleets to ensure that they remain operational and relevant for the next 15 years. This modernization effort will upgrade both airframe and mission equipment, enabling these current systems to keep pace with an evolving threat and to continue providing the tactical commander with the timely, accurate intelligence collection required to fight and win our nation's wars.

Conclusion

As we look to FY08 and beyond, it is imperative that Army airborne ISR programs be fully resourced to meet current warfighter requirements and future challenges. The Army vitally needs continued congressional advice, guidance and strong support. Successful battlefield operations and Soldier survivability have increased substantially with airborne ISR modernization and quick reaction solutions. Sufficient financial resources are necessary to meet all the missions we are being asked to perform; and will ensure continued support from American industry, which enables us to rapidly develop and field new equipment solutions. Our nation is at war, and likely to be for the foreseeable future. With your support, we will continue to provide our men and women in uniform with the tools they need to win decisively and return home safely. Thank you.