

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION
UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON ARMED SERVICES**

STATEMENT BY

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN M. CURRAN
DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL – FUTURES
AND DIRECTOR, ARMY CAPABILITIES INTEGRATION CENTER
TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND
UNITED STATES ARMY**

AND

**MAJOR GENERAL (PROMOTABLE) JEFFREY A. SORENSON
DEPUTY FOR ACQUISITION AND SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT
OFFICE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS, AND TECHNOLOGY)**

BEFORE THE

TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

THE JOINT CARGO AIRCRAFT PROGRAM

MARCH 7, 2007

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INTRODUCTION

CHAIRMAN ABERCROMBIE, MR. SAXTON AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS ARMY AVIATION. I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY BEFORE YOU AND APPRECIATE THE TREMENDOUS AND ONGOING SUPPORT THIS COMMITTEE HAS PROVIDED TO ARMY AVIATION AND OUR SOLDIERS STATIONED AROUND THE WORLD.

THE SUCCESSFUL REINVESTMENT OF COMANCHE DOLLARS DIRECTLY INTO ARMY AVIATION OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS HAS PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION FOR ARMY AVIATION TRANSFORMATION AND MODERNIZATION. THE CONGRESS' CONSISTENT AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS REINVESTMENT STRATEGY HAS MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON OUR MODERNIZATION EFFORTS AND HAS ALLOWED ARMY AVIATION TO SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTE THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR. DURING THIS TIME, WE HAVE FLOWN OVER 1.5

MILLION FLIGHT HOURS ON OUR MANNED AND UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS WHILE CONSISTENTLY SUSTAINING OPERATIONAL READINESS RATES IN THEATER AT, OR EXCEEDING, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY STANDARDS. THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE TESTAMENT TO THE DEDICATED SERVICE PROVIDED TO OUR NATION BY THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMY; BOTH SOLDIERS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

THE JCA PROGRAM BEGAN AS AN ARMY ONLY FUTURE CARGO AIRCRAFT PROGRAM IN 1999 WITH THE F-SERIES STUDIES. THE RESULTS OF THESE STUDIES RECOGNIZED A GAP IN OUR ABILITY TO MEET ARMY DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR TIME/SENSITIVE, MISSION CRITICAL CARGO AND PASSENGER DELIVERY TO THE SERVICE. THIS CULMINATED WITH A JROC APPROVED INITIAL CAPABILITIES DOCUMENT IN MARCH, 2005. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A JROC APPROVED CAPABILITIES DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT WHICH VALIDATED THE REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO FILL THE GAP. THE ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES ALSO VALIDATED THE KEY PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS CONTAINED IN THE CDD. THE ADDENDUM TO THE AOA IS CURRENTLY BEING COMPLETED AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO OSD-PAE FOR THEIR SUFFICIENCY REVIEW SUPPORTING THE MS C DECISION.

THE ARMY AND THE AF HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESSED ALL AGREEMENTS IN THE MOA AND THOSE DIRECTIVES GIVEN BY OSD AT&L, REGARDING ,TRAINING AND SUPPORTABILITY, HENCE DEMONSTRATING BOTH SERVICES' ACTION TO GO FORWARD WITH THE

JOINT CARGO AIRCRAFT PROGRAM. THESE DELIVERABLES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO OSD FOR VALIDATION. THEY WILL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED AS PART OF THE MILESTONE C PROCESS.

THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE HAVE DEVELOPED THE JOINT CONCEPT FOR OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND COMMAND AND CONTROL PROCESSES BY WHICH THE JCA WILL BE FLOWN BY THE TWO SERVICES AND ARE GETTING THEM VALIDATED THROUGH THE JROC PROCESS.

THE ARMY WILL EQUIP AND MAN THEIR JCA THROUGH THE DIVESTITURE OF C-23 AND C-12 AIRCRAFT AND USE THEIR EXISTING FORCE STRUCTURE, ALL IN THE RESERVE COMPONENTS. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE INITIAL FOUR ARMY BASING SITES USING EXISTING BASES, WITH A MINIMUM OF FOUR AIRPLANES PER SITE WHICH EQUATES TO A PLATOON.

IN LIGHT OF THE GREAT PROGRESS AND SUCCESSES WE HAVE MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE JOINT PROGRAM, IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE JPO TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATED FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THE JCA ACQUISITION STRATEGY AS APPROVED BY USD(AT&L).

CONCLUSION

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR HAS ONLY CONFIRMED OUR NEED FOR THIS CAPABILITY AS WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO FILL THIS GAP WITH

A MARGINAL SOLUTION USING AN INADEQUATE PLATFORM, THE C-23 SHERPA AND AN INAPPROPRIATE USE OF THE CH-47 CHINOOK.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 WILL BE A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR ARMY AVIATION. THE RESOURCES PROVIDED TO THE ARMY TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS WHILE TRANSFORMING AND MODERNIZING THE AVIATION FORCE WILL DETERMINE ARMY AVIATION'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION AND TO BE POSTURED TO MEET FUTURE COMMITMENTS. TO EXECUTE THESE PLANS, WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT TO PROVIDE FULL, TIMELY, AND SUSTAINED FUNDING SO WE WILL BE READY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES.

I AM READY TO ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.