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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
AIR AND LAND FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TESTIMONY OF

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(ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT)

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

AIR AND LAND FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE

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Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss F-22A future procurement. As you know, fifth generation fighters like the F-22A and the F-35 are key elements of our Nation's defense and deterrence. Both the F-22 and F-35 represent the latest generation of fighter aircraft. We need both aircraft to maintain the margin of dominance upon which we have come to depend. It is this margin that grants our air and ground forces the freedom to maneuver and to attack. The F-22 and F-35 each possess unique complementary and essential capabilities that together provide the synergistic effects required to maintain the margin of superiority across the full spectrum of conflict.

The F-22A has established a world-class production program. Lot 6 deliveries were completed ahead of schedule, at a rate of about two per month. Additionally, deliveries of Lot 7 Raptors begin this month, the first lot of the three-year multi-year procurement contract we awarded in July 2007. When the plant delivers the last aircraft of Lot 9 in December 2011, we will have completed the current program of record of 183 Raptors.

The Air Force greatly appreciates congressional support and the SECDEF's commitment to keep the F-22A production line viable until March 2009 to allow the next President to decide if additional F-22As are in the Nation's interest. To meet this aim, the Air Force is moving forward with a Lot 10 of F-22A aircraft. Per OSD direction, the program has commenced contract actions for advance procurement of long lead parts and

materials for four (4) aircraft with the option for advance procurement for an additional sixteen (16) Raptors. We believe this strategy meets the goal of “setting the table” until the new administration makes a decision concerning the future of the F-22A program.

Based on the direction in the 10 November 2008 Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM), the program released the aircraft and engine Request for Proposals (RFPs) on 17 Nov and plans to award undefinitized contract actions (UCA) on 26 Nov. The solicitations will be based on a Not-to-Exceed (NTE) for advance procurement for four (4) aircraft followed by a request for firm-fixed-price proposals following the March 2009 Presidential certification. In addition, the solicitations also included requests for NTE options for advanced procurement of sixteen (16) additional aircraft, also with delivery in calendar year 2012.

Full funding for Lot 10 must be included in the fiscal year 2010 budget should the next administration’s certification, required 1 March 2009 by the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act, support continued production.