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UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON ARMED SERVICES**

STATEMENT BY

**BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN D. MUNDT
DIRECTOR OF ARMY AVIATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3/5/7
UNITED STATES ARMY**

**BEFORE THE
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**ON
ARMY ROTORCRAFT PROGRAMS**

MARCH 22, 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.

ARMY AVIATION, AS IS THE TOTAL ARMY, IS DECISIVELY ENGAGED IN PROSECUTING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, PRIMARILY IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. OUR ROTARY WING, FIXED WING, AND UAVS ARE BEING USED BY ARMY AVIATION IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF COMBAT OPERATIONS FROM SQUAD THROUGH JOINT TASK FORCE LEVELS OF WARFARE. WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE STRATEGIC AND HIGH OPERATIONAL LEVELS OF WARFARE ALTHOUGH AS A NATION FIGHTING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, IT'S THE TACTICAL AND LOW OPERATIONAL WARFIGHTING THAT IS THE PRIORITY FOR MANNING, TRAINING, EQUIPPING, AND SUPPORTING OUR COMBAT FORCES.

YOUR ARMY IS ACCOMPLISHING THESE TASKS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY CONVERTING ALL ARMY AVIATION INTO COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADES,

INCORPORATING THE LATEST AVIATION SURVIVABILITY EQUIPMENT, TRAINING HUNDREDS OF NEW ARMY AVIATORS, SUPPORT PERSONNEL, AND UAV OPERATORS EACH YEAR. WE ARE ALSO MODERNIZING OUR ARMY AVIATION FLEET, CONDUCTING EQUIPMENT RESET AND PRESET, REPLENISHING LOST AIRCRAFT STOCKS, AND ENSURING OUR ARMY AVIATION PERSONNEL ARE BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY TRAINED.

THE ARMY ENJOYS THE STRONG AND CONSISTENT SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS. WHILE OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS ON THE ENGAGEMENT, DEPLOYMENT, AND RECONSTITUTION OF OUR FORCES PROSECUTING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, YOUR ARMY MUST COINCIDENTALLY BE ABLE TO RECRUIT SOLDIERS AND MODERNIZE OUR MANNED AND UNMANNED AVIATION CAPABILITIES. WE APPRECIATE CONGRESS' UNDERSTANDING TO ENABLE THESE TWO KEY MISSIONS OF SATISFYING THE IMMEDIATE WARFIGHTING NEEDS AND MODERNIZE AT THE SAME TIME.

COMBAT OPERATIONS

ARMY AVIATION HAS COMPLETED FIVE YEARS OF CONTINUOUS COMBAT OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF 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.

BUT THIS HIGH OPTEMPO DOES NOT COME WITHOUT COST TO THE STRUCTURE AND COMPONENTS OF THE AIRCRAFT SYSTEM. AS SUCH, WE HAVE RESET 1,808 OF 2,102 AIRCRAFT; WITH 109 AIRCRAFT IN WORK AND 185 AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED INTO THE RESET LINE. ADDITIONALLY, OUR DEPOT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM HAS REPAIRED 39 CRASH OR BATTLE DAMAGED AIRCRAFT TO MISSION CAPABLE STATUS. WHENEVER POSSIBLE THE PRESET AND RESET REQUIREMENTS ARE COMBINED TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY. WE CANNOT TELL YOU HOW CRITICAL THIS PROCESS IS TO ARMY AVIATION; AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE RESET THESE AIRCRAFT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. OUR ACTIVE COMPONENT AVIATION UNITS ARE DEPLOYING TO OEF/OIF APPROXIMATELY EVERY 2 YEARS. EVERYDAY A UNIT IS WITHOUT AN AIRCRAFT THAT IS SITTING ON A RESET PRODUCTION LINE IS ANOTHER DAY OUR AVIATORS ARE DISADVANTAGED IN TRAINING FOR THE NEXT ROTATION. WE ARE WORKING HARD TO COORDINATE THE TURN-IN OF AIRCRAFT FOR INDUCTION INTO THE RESET LINE, THE DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT IN THE INVENTORY TO MAXIMIZE TRAINING, AND ENSURE WE ARE READY TO DEPLOY TO ANY CONTINGENCY ASSIGNED. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE RESET OF OUR AIRCRAFT. THE CONTINUED PROCUREMENT OF UH-60 BLACKHAWK, CH-47 CHINOOK, AH-64 APACHE, THE UH-72A LAKOTA LIGHT UTILITY HELICOPTER (LUH),AND OUR NEW UH-70A

ARMED RECONNAISSANCE HELICOPTER (ARH) ALL SERVE TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURES ON THE FLEET DESCRIBED ABOVE.

ADDITIONALLY, DURING THESE 5 YEARS OF COMBAT WE HAVE LOST 125 AIRCRAFT IN COMBAT OPERATIONS OR IN PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT TO COMBAT. THROUGH YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING TO REPLACE 90 OF THESE AIRCRAFT, A TOTAL OF \$2.3 BILLION; 30 OF THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT ARE OH-58D LOSSES AND WILL BE REPLACED WITH FIELDING OF THE ARH. THE OTHER 5 AIRCRAFT ARE THE 2 AH-64, 2 UH-60, AND 1 CH-47 AIRCRAFT LOST IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007.

CONTINUING WITH COMBAT OPERATIONS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE SUCCESS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY EQUIPMENT. THIS SUCCESS IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE OUTSTANDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONGRESS, THE ARMY, AND INDUSTRY. WITH THE GUIDANCE OF SENIOR ARMY LEADERSHIP, THE COMMITMENT OF INDUSTRY, AND THE NECESSARY RESOURCES FROM CONGRESS, WE HAVE EXECUTED A PROGRAM THAT HAS INSTALLED THE BEST AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY EQUIPMENT ON EVERY AIRCRAFT FLYING IN OEF/OIF. WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT ASE IS ABOUT MORE THAN A MISSILE WARNING SYSTEM, IT INCLUDES CRASHWORTHY SEATS, ARMORED CREW SEATS, LASER DETECTORS, SURVIVAL GEAR, AIR WARRIOR, AND MORE.

THE INCORPORATION OF LESSONS LEARNED FROM 5 YEARS OF COMBAT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR SOLDIERS. WE NOW HAVE COMBAT EXPERIENCED SOLDIERS, IN THE ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENTS, ASSIGNED IN ALL FACETS OF AVIATION OPERATIONS: TRAINING, DOCTRINE, SUSTAINMENT, LOGISTICS, OPERATIONS, AND ANALYSIS. THESE SOLDIERS BRING WITH THEM A TREMENDOUS WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND TALENT THAT IS INCORPORATED INTO OUR INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES. OUR CHARTER IS TO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE IN COMBAT; A MISTAKE THAT COULD COME AT THE COST OF HUMAN LIFE. SIMULTANEOUS WITH CONDUCTING COMBAT OPERATIONS WE ARE TRAINING, TRANSFORMING, AND MODERNIZING OUR AVIATION FORCE.

THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF FLIGHT SCHOOL XXI (FSXXI) FOR ALL INITIAL ENTRY ROTARY WING STUDENTS BY THE ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND (TRADOC) AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION WARFIGHTING CENTER (USAAWC) HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS STORY. IN ADDITION TO INCLUDING HELICOPTER OVERWATER SURVIVAL TRAINING AND A THREE WEEK SURVIVAL, EVASION, RESISTANCE, AND ESCAPE (SERE) COURSE, FSXXI HAS A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED EMPHASIS ON FLIGHT TRAINING IN THE GO-TO-WAR AIRCRAFT. THE NEW AVIATOR NOW GRADUATES WITH BETWEEN 50-80 ADDITIONAL HOURS IN THEIR ACTUAL COMBAT AIRCRAFT THAN THEY RECEIVED BEFORE. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, THAT PLUS-UP TRANSLATES TO UP TO 16 ADDITIONAL WEEKS OF DIRECT MENTORSHIP FROM THE SAME INSTRUCTOR PILOT. THE COMBINATION OF

THESE FACTORS HAS EXPONENTIALLY POSITIVE RESULTS. THE PRODUCT IS A HIGHLY TRAINED, CONFIDENT AVIATOR WHO REQUIRES MUCH LESS TRAINING UPON ARRIVAL TO HIS/HER UNIT TO PROGRESS TO READINESS LEVEL ONE (THE HIGHEST READINESS LEVEL). EXECUTING THIS QUALITY TRAINING DURING INITIAL QUALIFICATION AND DEVELOPING A LEVEL OF MASTERY, VERSUS PLACING THE BURDEN ON THE UNIT TO PROGRESS THE AVIATOR FROM AIRCRAFT ORIENTATION TO MASTERY HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT AND COMBAT MULTIPLIER. UNITS ARE NOW ABLE TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON COLLECTIVE TRAINING TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER STATE OF READINESS. THESE ASSERTIONS ARE CONTINUOUSLY VALIDATED BY COMMENTS WE RECEIVE FROM OUR FIELD COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS.

LAST YEAR THE UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION WARFIGHTING CENTER STOOD UP A TACTICS DIVISION AND LESSONS LEARNED BRANCH WITHIN THE DIRECTORATE OF TRAINING AND DOCTRINE (DOTD). THIS WAS DONE TO CREATE A BETTER PATH TO PROVIDE AVIATION SOLDIERS THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE CAPABILITY REQUIRED TO SHARE OBSERVATIONS, INSIGHTS, AND LESSONS (OIL) WHILE INTEGRATING NEW LESSONS LEARNED INTO OUR RUBRIC. THE LESSONS LEARNED CELL'S MISSION IS TO COLLECT, ANALYZE, MANAGE, AND DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE GAINED THROUGH OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCES, EXERCISES, AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES. THEY PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS ON EMERGING ISSUES AND TRENDS IN SUPPORT OF COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS. THIS

PAST YEAR, CONNECTING WITH THE LESSONS LEARNED INTEGRATION (L2I) TEAM VIA SECURE INTERNET HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR. TO GIVE A SENSE OF JUST HOW MUCH INTEREST HAS BEEN GENERATED AROUND LESSONS LEARNED INTEGRATION, THE SECURE WEBSITE AVERAGES AROUND 800 HITS PER WEEK. THIS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT OUR SOLDIERS HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN L2I, AND THIS INTEREST IS INCREASING AS PEOPLE BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES OF THE LESSONS LEARNED BRANCH AND TACTICS DIVISION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO GENERATE AND APPLY CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FASTER AND MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN OUR ENEMIES CAN GENERATE ADAPTIVE DILEMMAS AND CHALLENGES.

ARMY AVIATION SOLDIERS ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF A LONG STRUGGLE OF CONTINUOUS, EVOLVING CONFLICT. IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, OUR SOLDIERS ARE MAKING ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS – PROVIDING FORCE PROTECTION FOR OUR SOLDIERS ON THE GROUND AND CONDUCTING ATTACK OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF GROUND FORCES. TODAY, MANY ARMY COMMANDERS WOULD TELL YOU THEY DO NOT WANT A CONVOY GOING DOWN THE ROAD, OR COMBAT OPERATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED, THAT DOES NOT HAVE ARMY AVIATION FLYING COVER OVERHEAD OR PROVIDING DEVASTATING FIRES.

TRANSFORMATION AND MODERNIZATION

DRIVEN BY THE NECESSITIES OF WAR TO INCREASE FIGHTING CAPABILITY, TO BE PREPARED FOR WORLDWIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, AND TO RELIEVE STRESS ON SOLDIERS; ARMY AVIATION HAS ALMOST COMPLETED ITS TRANSFORMATION FROM A FORCE DESIGNED FOR THE COLD WAR TO ONE REDESIGNED FOR A CHANGED SECURITY ENVIRONMENT. THIS IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED IN CONCERT WITH THE ARMY CAMPAIGN PLAN. THIS PLAN INCLUDES THESE MAJOR THRUSTS: AVIATION UNITS IN THE ARMY FORCE GENERATION (ARFORGEN) ROTATIONS, COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE (CAB) TRANSFORMATION, ENHANCING AVIATION CAPABILITIES THROUGH WEAPON SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION, INTEGRATION WITH MANNED AND UNMANNED AVIATION PLATFORMS, MELDING AIRBORNE INTELLIGENCE AND MANEUVER CAPABILITIES, AND THE TRANSITION FROM THE MODULAR FORCE TO THE FUTURE FORCE.

THE ARFORGEN MODEL IS THE MEANS THE ARMY DETERMINES THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF FORCES TO MEET THEATER NEEDS. THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS DIRECTED THE LEAN SIX SIGMA PROCESS TO INCREASE PRECISION IN ARMY DECISION PLANNING WITH THE ARFORGEN AS ONE OF THE MAJOR THRUSTS. ARMY G3 AVIATION USES THE ARFORGEN MODEL TO MATCH FORCES REQUESTED WITH AVAILABLE UNITS. OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) FORCE ROTATION REQUIREMENTS ARE COMBINED WITH THE ARFORGEN TOWARD BUILDING OUR CAB FORCE PACKAGES.

THE ARMY SENIOR LEADERS, DIVISION AND CORPS COMMANDERS, AND JOINT STAFF SEE THE CABS AS THE MOST VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF ARMY AVIATION MODULARITY. THE CAB TRANSFORMATION ENCOMPASSES OUR DISPERSED AND OFTEN SMALL DENSITY UNITS INTO COHESIVE AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE UNITS. THESE RESULT IN A COMBAT POWER, TRAINING, LEADERSHIP, AND LOGISTICS EFFICIENCY PREVIOUSLY NOT SEEN EXCEPT WITH OUR NUMBERED AVIATION REGIMENTS.

DIVISION AND JOINT TASK FORCE COMMANDERS NOW HAVE IN THE TACTICAL BATTLESPACE COMBINED GROUND MANEUVER, AIR MANEUVER, FIRES AND LOGISTICS ELEMENTS IN THE MODULAR BRIGADE CONSTRUCT. OUR CABS INCLUDE ATTACK, LIFT, UTILITY, AND SUPPORT BATTALIONS AND BEGINNING IN 2009 THE EXTENDED RANGE/MULTI-PURPOSE (WARRIOR) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) COMPANY. AS OF TODAY, WE HAVE COMPLETED THE TRANSFORMATION OF ALL 19 OF OUR AVIATION BRIGADES, ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENTS, TO THE NEW CAB CONSTRUCT; WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UAS COMPANIES. THE ARMY HAS ALSO BEGUN TO PLACE THE BRIGADE AVIATION ELEMENTS WITH THE GROUND MANEUVER BRIGADES TO IMPROVE OUR AIR-GROUND COMBAT SYNCHRONIZATION. DURING FY2007-2008, WE WILL ESTABLISH THEATER AVIATION COMMANDS (TACS) AND EXPAND ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION (ARSOA). THE PLAN WILL ACHIEVE AN INCREASE IN THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF OUR OVERALL CAPABILITY AND IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO EXECUTE AND SUPPORT PROTRACTED CAMPAIGNS.

THE ARMY REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE AVIATION FORCE. THIS AVIATION MODERNIZATION PLAN, INITIATED AT THE TERMINATION OF THE COMANCHE HELICOPTER PROGRAM, IS THE SAME PLAN WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH YOU OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AND RESOURCED THROUGH THE REDISTRIBUTION OF COMANCHE FUNDS. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE FROM LAST YEAR IS THAT WE HAVE INCREASED THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE ARH TO 512 AIRCRAFT AND INCREASED THE AH-64D TO 634 AIRCRAFT. THIS REQUIREMENT INCREASE WAS ACCOMPLISHED TO FULLY MODERNIZE THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WHICH ALLOWS US TO PURE FLEET WITH THE AH-64D AIRCRAFT ACROSS THE TOTAL ARMY.

WE KNOW THIS MODERNIZATION PLAN REQUIRES AGGRESSIVE ACQUISITION METHODS; BUT WE ARE IN A PERIOD IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY THAT REQUIRES RAPID RESPONSE TO ENSURE OUR AVIATION FORCE IS EQUIPPED, TRAINED, AND PREPARED FOR THE FIGHT TODAY, AND TOMORROW. WE ARE RAPIDLY MOVING FORWARD WITH THE ACQUISITION OF OUR AVIATION PROGRAMS. THIS YEAR WE START THE FIELDING OF THE LUH, CH-47F, UH-60M, AND THE WARRIOR BLOCK 0 (ZERO). THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED IN FY 2009 WITH THE ARH AND JCA, AND IN FY2011 WITH THE AH-64D BLOCK III. ALL OF THESE SYSTEMS ARE CRITICAL TO ARMY AVIATION AND OUR MISSIONS AND ROLES IN NATIONAL DEFENSE, HOMELAND SECURITY, DRUG INTERDICTION, AND HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS.

WE ARE CONTINUING THE RECAPITALIZING AND REMANUFACTURING OF OUR MODERN FLEET TO EXTEND SYSTEM LIFE CYCLES, REDUCE O&S COSTS, PROVIDE FOR INCREASED COMMONALITY WITH SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES (SOF) AVIATION AND ENHANCE JOINT INTEROPERABILITY. THE RECAPITALIZATION AND REMANUFACTURING PROGRAM INCLUDES: AH-64A TO D, AH-64D BLOCK I TO BLOCK II AND III, CH-47D TO D, AND THE UH60A TO A.

FOR OUR RESERVE COMPONENTS WE CONTINUE TO AGGRESSIVELY RETIRE AND REPLACE THE ANTIQUATED SYSTEMS (UH-1, OH-58A/C) WITH THE UH-72A AND ARH-70A AIRCRAFT RESULTING IN A CASCADE OF 23 UH-60 AIRCRAFT TO TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT (TO&E) UNITS IN THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

TODAY, THE ARMY HAS OVER 700 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT DEPLOYED IN OIF AND OEF THAT ACCUMULATE ROUGHLY 10,000 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME PER MONTH. THE PAST FIVE YEARS OF WAR HAVE ALSO TAUGHT US THAT ARMY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) WILL PLAY AN INCREASINGLY PROMINENT OPERATIONAL ROLE FOR OUR COMBATANT COMMANDERS. AS SUCH, TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND (TRADOC) AND VARIOUS ARMY STAFFS SPEARHEADED A 13-MONTH LONG STUDY, WHICH CAREFULLY ASSESSED THE ARMY'S UAS CAPABILITIES. THIS UAS MIX ANALYSIS STUDY WAS PRESENTED TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY AND HE MADE A DECISION TO REALIGN ARMY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS. THIS REALIGNMENT CORRESPONDS BETTER WITH FUTURE JOINT-FORCE REQUIREMENTS AS WE STRIVE TO FIND THE RIGHT BALANCES BETWEEN COMPETING PRIORITIES:

THE COSTS OF WAR AND RESET, AND THE NEED TO MODERNIZE THE FORCE. THE REALIGNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE RAVEN AND SHADOW UAS, DEVELOP TWO (CLASS I AND IV) OF THE FOUR CLASSES OF FCS UAS, AND FIELD THE EXTENDED RANGE/MULTI-PURPOSE (ER/MP) UAS (WARRIOR). THE CLASS II AND III FCS UAS WILL REMAIN AS OBJECTIVE REQUIREMENTS.

YES, IT IS A BUSY TIME FOR ARMY AVIATION ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE DOING ALL THIS IN THE MIDDLE OF A WARFIGHT. FOR THREE YEARS WE HAVE CONTINUED ON A STEADY PATH TO TRANSFORM AND MODERNIZE OUR AVIATION FORCE. THE NEXT TWO YEARS ARE CRITICAL TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE PLANS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THESE PROGRAMS AS WE CONTINUE ON OUR AGGRESSIVE ACQUISITION PATH TO PROCURE MODERNIZED AIRCRAFT FOR OUR FIGHTING AVIATION FORCE.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ARMY AVIATION IS ALSO WORKING IN CONCERT WITH OUR SISTER SERVICES TO DEVELOP CONCEPTS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE FUTURE FORCE BY DEVELOPING THE JOINT HEAVY LIFT (JHL) CONCEPT REFINEMENT (CR). THE JHL CR EFFORT WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR. THE PURPOSE OF THE JHL CR IS TO IDENTIFY THE HEAVY LIFT TECHNOLOGICAL “ART OF THE POSSIBLE” AND TO INFORM THE EMERGING JOINT CONCEPTS AND THE JOINT REQUIREMENTS PROCESS. THE GOAL OF JHL CR IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT WILL ENABLE THE DOD TO MAKE AN INFORMED ACQUISITION DECISION ON THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A

JHL AIRCRAFT. THIS CONCEPT REFINEMENT IS JOINT WITH THE ARMY IN THE LEAD AND AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF WHERE ARMY S&T IS WORKING WITH THE ACQUISITION AND REQUIREMENTS COMMUNITY TO MEET THE WARFIGHTER'S NEEDS.

THE ARMY HAS A UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) AS THE LEAD SERVICE FOR ROTORCRAFT S&T INVESTMENT. UNDER PROJECT RELIANCE, THE ARMY ADDRESSES THE ROTORCRAFT S&T REQUIREMENTS OF ALL SERVICES AND THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (SOCOM) IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT SERVICE OR COMMAND UNIQUE. THE DOD AND THE SERVICES RELY ON THE ARMY TO MATURE AND DEMONSTRATE TECHNOLOGIES AND CAPABILITIES FOR THE JOINT ROTORCRAFT FORCE.

THE ARMY AVIATION S&T PROGRAM DEVELOPS, MATURES, AND DEMONSTRATES TECHNOLOGIES FOR BOTH MANNED AND UNMANNED ROTORCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRENT AND FUTURE FORCE. BASED ON THE ARMY AVIATION TRANSFORMATION AND THE AVIATION MODERNIZATION STRATEGY, THIS EFFORT FOCUSES ON TWO FRONTS: 1) DEVELOPING AND MATURING COMPONENTS AND SUBSYSTEMS THAT ENABLE INCREASED SYSTEM SURVIVABILITY, PLATFORM LIFT, MANEUVERABILITY, ENDURANCE, AND OPERATIONAL READINESS; AND 2) CONDUCTING REALISTIC AND ROBUST DEMONSTRATIONS OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR BOTH MANNED AND UNMANNED TEAMING IN COMBAT AND COMBAT SUPPORT OPERATIONS FOR ATTACK, RECONNAISSANCE, AIR ASSAULT, SURVIVABILITY, AND COMMAND AND

CONTROL MISSIONS. IN ADDITION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSETS CONDUCT RAPID ASSESSMENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS TO ENABLE QUICK IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO SOLVE NEAR-TERM PROBLEMS BEING ENCOUNTERED BY OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT.

THE ARMY'S AVIATION S&T PROGRAM INVESTS IN THREE BUDGET AREAS (BA): BASIC RESEARCH; APPLIED RESEARCH; AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. FOR BASIC RESEARCH (BA 6.1), THE ARMY INVESTS IN WORLD-CLASS EXPERTISE IN ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHO PURSUE AND DEVELOP STATE-OF-THE-ART CONCEPTS AND AVIATION TECHNOLOGY. THE AVIATION APPLIED RESEARCH PROGRAM (BA 6.2) PROVIDES THE ENABLING TECHNOLOGY FOR AVIATION DEVELOPMENT. THIS RESEARCH INCLUDES ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES FOR MANNED AND UNMANNED ROTORCRAFT IN PROPULSION, ROTORS, DRIVE TRAIN, STRUCTURES, SURVIVABILITY, CONTROLS AND PROGNOSTICS AND DIAGNOSTICS. THE AVIATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BA 6.3) DEMONSTRATES TECHNOLOGIES UP TO A TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL SUFFICIENT FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION INTO SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION. THESE EFFORTS ARE CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON DEMONSTRATING MANNED-UNMANNED TEAMING, INCREASED SURVIVABILITY, AND ROBUST ROTOR SYSTEMS, AND MATURING TECHNOLOGIES THAT REDUCE THE COSTS OF OPERATIONS AND SUSTAINMENT SUCH AS REDUCED VIBRATION ROTOR SYSTEMS AND EFFICIENT PROPULSION.

ARMY S&T HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED ITS INVESTMENT IN AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. THIS EFFORT EMPHASIZES AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE PASSIVE AND ACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES THAT ADDRESS THE FULL-SPECTRUM OF CURRENT AND FUTURE THREATS WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF A ROTORCRAFT SYSTEM. THE TECHNOLOGIES BEING PURSUED HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE ROTORCRAFT SURVIVABILITY AND WILL PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING THE CURRENT FORCE AS WELL AS THE FUTURE FORCE.

THE RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 DIRECTED DOD TO IDENTIFY FACILITIES MANAGED BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) THAT ARE CRITICAL TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF DEFENSE MISSIONS AND TO THE MAINTENANCE OF U.S. LEADERSHIP IN AERONAUTICS. THIS REPORT WAS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS IN JANUARY 2007. DOD WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH NASA IN ASSURING THE MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES THAT ARE CRITICAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, SUCH AS THE WIND TUNNELS.

THE ARMY'S INVESTMENT IN AVIATION S&T IS GUIDED BY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FUTURE FORCE AND INFLUENCED BY THE NEEDS OF THE CURRENT FORCE. OUR INVESTMENT IN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT WILL GROW IN THE COMING YEARS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THOSE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. TO THIS END, THE ARMY

MUST HAVE A DIVERSE AVIATION S&T PORTFOLIO TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CURRENT AND FUTURE COMBAT NEEDS. THE S&T COMMUNITY SEEKS TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS THAT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED IN THE NEAR-TERM, INVESTIGATES THE FEASIBILITY OF NEW CONCEPTS FOR THE MID-TERM, AND EXPLORES THE IMAGINABLE FOR AN UNCERTAIN FAR-TERM FUTURE. THE ARMY IS CONFIDENT THAT THE CURRENT AVIATION S&T INVESTMENT REPRESENTS A PRUDENT PROGRAM THAT MEETS THE DOD AND ARMY TRANSFORMATIONAL GOALS.

CONCLUSION

IN EXECUTING THESE STRATEGIES, WE ARE MINDFUL OF OUR POSITION AT THE START OF THE LONG STRUGGLE IN WHICH WE ARE NOW DECISIVELY ENGAGED. AFTER A DECADE OF INSUFFICIENT MODERNIZATION INVESTMENTS, MANY OF OUR AVIATION UNITS WERE UNDER-EQUIPPED AND NOT IMMEDIATELY READY FOR DEPLOYMENT, ESPECIALLY IN OUR RESERVE COMPONENTS.

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.

IN THE YOUR INVITATION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY YOU ASKED US TO ADDRESS 3 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. FIRST, THE ARMY IS POSTURED TO EXECUTE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY. SECOND, OUR INVESTMENT PLAN, THAT RESTRUCTURED FUNDING FROM TERMINATION OF THE COMANCHE HELICOPTER PROGRAM, ALLOWS US TO EXECUTE A MODERNIZATION PLAN AND TRANSFORMATION PLAN THAT PREPARES ARMY AVIATION TO MEET THE THREAT OF TODAY AND INTO THE FUTURE. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FUTURE FORCE (2025 AND BEYOND) IS STILL IN CONCEPTUAL VIEW. LASTLY, WE HAVE RESOURCED THE "FIX TO ARMY AVIATION" FROM THE TERMINATION OF THE COMANCHE PROGRAM, CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT, AND ASSISTANCE FROM INDUSTRY. CURRENT RESOURCING OF OUR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS IS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE ARMY AVIATION IS IN THE FIGHT TODAY AND TOMORROW.

I AM READY TO ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.