

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about an urgent operational need for the Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, tasked with the Global Response Force (GRF) mission. As documented in the division's urgent Operational Needs Statement (ONS) in March 2014, by XVIII Corps and then, FORSCOM Commander, now Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Allyn, there is a lack of resources available for increasing our enhanced tactical mobility capabilities.

Specifically, these requirements were for GRF Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCT) assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to counter increased proliferation of the enemy's area denial and anti-access capabilities by conducting airborne assault. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's unique requirements and its gap in meeting policy directives present a critical and time sensitive requirement that cannot be delayed while the Army considers a broader program of record.

Senior Army Leadership continues to validate this urgent need. It is documented in the 2015 US Army Combat Vehicle Modernization Strategy, and identified in an FY15 assessment by the XVIII Airborne Corps that lack of IBCT ground mobility is one of their highest risks. To quote a key paragraph, on page 8, from the recently published Army TRADOC Combat Vehicle Modernization Strategy;

*"The infantry Brigade Combat Team's (BCT) greatest limitation is its tactical and operational mobility once deployed. This capability shortfall (Or gap) is especially critical in joint forcible entry scenarios that rely upon swiftly seizing key terrain or facilities to establish a lodgment for follow on forces. Because potential adversaries possess A2 (Area Access) and AD (Area Denial) capabilities that prevent direct seizure of air- or seaports, the infantry BCT must maneuver from greater distance, into undefended locations, and then maneuver rapidly to seize entry points for follow on forces. This type of movement requires tactical mobility for infantry squads to move quickly, on or off road, to attack from multiple directions more swiftly than enemies can respond."*

Providing Army Airborne, Air Assault and Light Infantry access to deployable, off-road mobility that has already been fielded in US SOF units today is an easy, affordable, low risk solution. It also serves as a common sense example to the much discussed need for DoD acquisition streamlining.

In order to fill this need, I authored a House letter to your subcommittee asking for your consideration to increase FY17 Operations and Maintenance funding. These monies will field a commercial, off the shelf technology (COTS), for 3 Battalion Task Forces (369 vehicles). Through this funding, we will be able to give critical mobility capabilities to troops with limited options for travelling in rugged, off road combat zones.

Again thank you, Chairman and Ranking Member, for the opportunity to testify.