

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET REQUEST**

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Chairman Turner, I am pleased to be here today to discuss the role Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) play in today's Army. I welcome the opportunity to testify before you and I appreciate the tremendous and ongoing support this committee has provided to our Army and our soldiers stationed around the world.

UAS have fundamentally changed the way the Army fights. These game-changing aircraft have profoundly increased our soldiers' situational awareness by providing a shared collective picture of the battlefield. This technology has resulted in a shorter period of time from target identification to destruction, increased lethality, greater ability to prevent fratricide, and has enhanced the survivability of our soldiers in combat. They do this cost effectively and at no risk to the lives of our aircrews.

Far from being a unique class of weapon, after 11 years of war they have proven so valuable that they have been woven into the very fabric of both Army Aviation and Maneuver Units. Today, UAS are as common as radios embedded in maneuver formations from platoon to division. The Army's UAS strategy of embedding organic assets within the maneuver formations ensures support to our ground commanders.

In this time of tightening budgets and fiscal uncertainty, UAS continually prove to be an invaluable, yet cost-effective asset to the ground soldier. Lower personnel and maintenance costs associated with operating UAS combined with increased endurance allows the Army to accomplish certain missions that would require far more rotary wing assets and personnel if executed with a manned platform. While the need remains for manned aircraft and will for the foreseeable future, unmanned aircraft allow the Army to achieve its goals while lightening the load on manned systems.

The primary focus of Army UAS continues to be reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA). Additionally, the Army recognizes the importance of assured communications of our ground forces, so all Army UAS the size of Shadow or larger are equipped with Communication Relay Payloads. As the Army continues to mature our battlefield network capabilities, Army UAS will continue to incorporate these capabilities on our platforms, enhancing network conductivities through an aerial component.

While there is no shortage of good ideas on how to leverage the many strengths of UAS, in the near to midterm, the focus remains squarely on RSTA. That said, the

Army continues to monitor how our sister Services are leveraging the potential of UAS, such as the Marine Corps' Vertical Takeoff and Land Cargo Resupply. The Army recognizes that limited Proof of Concept in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) offers unique insight into missions outside of RSTA. As such, the Army is studying these concepts and working to build the business case.

While the Army has embedded UAS in every echelon of maneuver formation, we are still exploring the boundaries of Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T). Examples of this can be found in our linked acquisition of Gray Eagle and the new AH-64E Longbow where the two aircraft are designed to complement each other during missions by sharing video and data seamlessly between them. Another example of pushing the boundaries of MUM-T is the integration of Shadow into the Full Spectrum Armed Reconnaissance Squadron. Traditionally a man-only aviation formation, the Army is for the first time adjusting Aviation formations by replacing some of the manned platforms with unmanned to gain added synergy. The Army is incorporating lessons learned from a deployment last year of this new MUM-T unit structure to inform future acquisition and force structure decisions.

The Army has three UAS programs of record: our 4 lb Raven, 400 lb Shadow, and 3600 lb Gray Eagle. Currently the Raven and Shadow Systems are undergoing modernization programs that maintain their relevance. Both of these platforms can be found in our Brigade and Special Forces Group formations. Gray Eagle, as our newest program of record, is still in the acquisition phase with the first 2 of 15 companies already fielded in support of OEF. This very capable platform is being fielded to the Division, Special Operations, and Military Intelligence Aviation Formations.

All Army UAS Programs of Record are either joint programs or they started as a joint program. Far from duplicative, Army UAS programs and missions are complementary, addressing capability gaps that could not otherwise be effectively closed by a single platform or mission. Just as one helicopter is not appropriate for all missions, neither is a single UAS. What is critical to understand is that all of the Services adhere to established common communication standards and protocols so that collected information can be shared across the breadth of the battlefield. The Army

adheres to these interoperability standards, allowing for the rapid integration of these systems with both ground forces and manned aviation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Army Aviation. We are extremely proud of our soldiers and their accomplishments. While we recognize that the Army does not routinely engage in self-promotion of the contributions of its UAS, this quiet professionalism should not be the measure of their effectiveness. Around the world and with every unit in harm's way, Army UAS are operating effectively in the defense of our Nation.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.