

Statement of the Honorable Michael Turner
Chairman, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces
Fiscal Year 2014 Army Modernization Programs
April 26, 2013

- The Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee meets today in open session to receive testimony on Fiscal Year 2014 Army modernization programs.
- Before we get started on today's hearing, I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Ranking Member and all of the members of the subcommittee for their attendance and participation in the hearings that we have held to date.
- The members have been actively engaged on these important issues facing the Subcommittee as was demonstrated by the multiple rounds of questions we've had during our hearings.
- For example, at one of our hearings we learned about the challenges of reducing the weight burden of critical equipment that our soldiers and marines currently have to carry into combat.
- Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Tsongas raised some concerns about providing body armor specifically designed for women.
- During this hearing we learned that the Army was making positive progress in this area and this is one of the many issues that I believe we will address in our subcommittee mark.
- Turning to the purpose of today's hearing, I know the Army faces a number of significant modernization challenges based on the current budget environment.
- I was recently asked during a visit to a production facility in Arizona, "How does the Army choose between resetting its current equipment and modernizing for the future?"

- The answer of course is that you have to do both. The challenge, based on threats and capability gaps, is how do you prioritize and go forward with a balanced approach.
- I have two short comments about the Abrams tank program and the Ground Combat Vehicle program.
- Regarding Abrams tanks, I know that the Army believes that Foreign Military Sales (F-M-S) alone is enough to keep the tank upgrade line viable until 2018.
- Congress, over the last few years, has taken the position that no funding for the upgrade line was an unacceptable level of risk to assume, and that the Abrams upgrade line should include both F-M-S and a minimum level of US-based work load.
- I hope that you will work with Congress to sustain this unique and critical capability and I look forward to further discussing this issue with you over the course of the next couple of months.
- The Ground Combat Vehicle is one of the Army's top modernization programs. The program, which is just beginning development, will eventually replace the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.
- I think most of us on the subcommittee support the Army's need to modernize.
- Our oversight challenge is to ensure that the Army is executing an acquisition strategy that minimizes the risk to the Government and in turn the taxpayer.
- I understand that the Army's recent plan is to down select to one contractor at the beginning of the engineering, manufacturing and development phase (E-M-D) instead of funding two contractors all the way through E-M-D.
- My concern is that one of the many lessons learned that has been reported by the Government Accountability Office is the issue of programs entering the E-M-D phase too early without enough "knowledge." "Knowledge" is defined by

the combination of technology maturity, a thorough understand of requirements and realistic cost estimates.

- In this case, we need to ensure that the Army has enough “knowledge” before they down select to one contractor in order to minimize the cost, schedule and performance risk to the Government and the taxpayer.
- Before we begin, I would like to turn to my good friend and colleague from California, Ms. Loretta Sanchez, for any comments she may want to make.

[after Mrs. Sanchez’s remarks]

I want to welcome our witnesses:

- Lieutenant General James Barclay (BARK-LEE), Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, G-8, and
- Lieutenant General William Phillips, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology)

Gentlemen, thank you for your service and thank you for being with us today.

We will now proceed with the panel’s testimony and then go into questions.

Without objection, all witness’ prepared statements will be included in the hearing record.

General Phillips, please begin...