## DIRECTOR, FORCE STRUCTURE, RESOURCES, AND ASSESSMENT VICE ADMIRAL RONALD A. BOXALL PREPARED REMARKS BEFORE THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE JUNE 24, 2021

Chairman Yarmuth, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm honored to represent the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Guardians of the United States Joint Force--the most capable in the world.

We are in an era of increased strategic competition. The strategic landscape is rapidly changing, and we are witnessing a fundamental shift in the character of war. In particular, China is increasing its military capability at an aggressive rate. We must ensure that we retain our competitive and technological edge against this pacing threat.

The FY22 budget develops, procures, and modernizes space, cyber, air, naval, and ground forces that will project greater power, at longer ranges, and with higher speed than ever before. Furthermore, this budget enhances our nuclear, missile defense, and long range fires systems, laying the foundation for a Joint Force capable of dominating in future multi-domain conflict.

The FY22 budget prioritizes nuclear modernization that will ensure a safe, secure, and effective future nuclear deterrent. Strategic deterrence is foundational to every mission the U.S. and our Allies and Partners

execute. A strong nuclear deterrent enables U.S. diplomacy, reassures allies, deters adversaries, and leads to peaceful resolution of international disputes. However, key systems within the U.S. Nuclear Triad are beyond their original design lives. The FY22 budget invests over \$27B to recapitalize Cold War-era strategic deterrent systems.

Adversary investment in ballistic, cruise, and hypersonic missile technologies elevates the threat of strategic attack on the U.S. homeland. The FY22 budget invests over \$20B to enhance our missile defeat and defense capabilities. It also continues development of a Next Generation Interceptor to defend the nation from missile attack. Additionally, this budget strengthens regional missile defense by fielding improved Patriot missiles, developing a new Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense interceptor, and deploying four U.S. Army SHOrt Range Air Defense battalions.

Just as China and Russia are fielding long range and hypersonic weapons with the capability to threaten our Allies, Partners, and U.S. forces, this budget equips the Joint Force to counter these threats with a \$6.6 billion investment that transforms our multi-domain, long-range fires capabilities. The FY22 budget will field new hypersonic weapons on air, land, and sea platforms and also procure and modernize subsonic, offensive missiles. Our investments in new and modernized long range fires will deliver a diverse portfolio capable of holding adversaries at risk at operationally relevant ranges, with speed. China and Russia are challenging U.S. advantage in space by fielding weapons to deny or destroy our space capabilities. Lasers, electronic warfare, grappling systems, and direct action projectiles are a few technologies our adversaries have fielded or are developing to blind, jam, or destroy U.S. space systems. The FY22 budget invests \$20.6B to modernize U.S. space capabilities that will enhance joint warfighting operations, while improving the resilience of these systems.

As in space, U.S. prosperity and military success depend on defending our cyber networks, while deterring our adversaries and non-state actors with offensive cyber capability. The recent wave of ransomware events involving critical American infrastructure demonstrates the need for a robust, modern, and ready cyber force. The FY22 budget invests over \$10 billion in programs designed to defend the homeland, compete with adversaries, and prepare for future conflict through improved offensive and defensive cyber capabilities.

In the air domain, we are investing \$52 billion to modernize and build capacity in fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft, while devoting over \$1.5 billion to develop next generation air dominance systems. This budget also recapitalizes an aging air mobility fleet.

In the maritime domain, the FY22 budget invests \$34.6 billion to research, develop, and procure warships and submarines with credible combat power to deter China. It also ensures the on-time delivery of the Columbia class nuclear ballistic missile submarine. In the land domain, this budget invests over \$12 billion in next generation combat vehicles to increase Joint Force speed, firepower, and survivability. It also enhances soldier lethality with improved squad weapons, sensors, body armor, and training to enable decision overmatch at the tactical level.

In addition to modernization, this budget will enhance military readiness to ensure our service men and women remain the best trained and the best equipped in the world. The FY22 budget requests \$122 billion for military readiness. From ranges to flying hours, we are looking at readiness differently than in past years. For example, we are improving maintenance data analytics and parts availability, which will enable maintainers to repair ships, aircraft, and brigades in shipyards, hangars, and depots with greater agility.

We will also work with congress to divest legacy platforms that overburden military readiness accounts. Without divestments, we cannot afford to modernize to meet the rapidly evolving threat environment.

Finally, our budget reflects the president's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. As the Joint Force conducts a safe, responsible, and deliberate strategic retrograde from Afghanistan, this reposturing will enable fiscal savings that will be realized toward our modernization efforts outlined above. The FY22 budget is the down payment on investments toward an advanced, agile, and lethal force that can dominate the future operating environment and compete, deter, and win across all warfighting domains and against any adversary.

I look forward to your questions.