

Continuing Resolution Impacts Hearing

January 12, 2022

Department of the Air Force



Presentation

Before the House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

Continuing Resolution Impacts Hearing

Witness Statement of

General Charles Q. Brown, Jr.
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

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BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

GENERAL CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. is the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. As Chief, he serves as the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for the organization, training and equipping of 689,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the general and other service chiefs function as military advisers to the Secretary of Defense, National Security Council and the President.

Gen. Brown was commissioned in 1984 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Texas Tech University. He has served in a variety of positions at the squadron and wing levels, including an assignment to the U.S. Air Force Weapons School as an F-16 Fighting Falcon Instructor. His notable staff tours include Aide-de-Camp to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Director, Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff Executive Action Group; and Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command. He also served as a National Defense Fellow at the Institute for Defense Analyses, Alexandria, Virginia.

Gen. Brown has commanded a fighter squadron, the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, two fighter wings and U.S. Air Forces Central Command. Prior to serving as the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Brown was the commander of Pacific Air Forces, Air Component Commander for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Gen. Brown is a command pilot with more than 2,900 flying hours, including 130 combat hours.



EDUCATION

- 1984 Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, Texas Tech University, Lubbock
- 1991 U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.
- 1992 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1994 Master of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 1997 Distinguished graduate, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2000 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2004 National Defense Fellow, Institute for Defense Analyses, Alexandria, Va.
- 2008 Air Force Senior Leadership Course, Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, N.C.
- 2012 Joint Force Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2014 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2015 Pinnacle Course, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 Leadership at the Peak, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Colo.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 1985 - April 1986, Student, undergraduate Pilot training, 82nd Student Squadron, Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.
2. May 1986 - July 1986, Student, lead-in fighter training, 434th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Holloman AFB, N.M.
3. August 1986 - March 1987, Student, F-16 training, 62nd Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, MacDill AFB, Fla.
4. April 1987 - October 1988, F-16 Pilot, 35th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Kunsan Air Base, South Korea

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5. November 1988 - April 1991, F-16 Instructor Pilot, wing electronic combat officer, and wing standardization and evaluation flight examiner, 307th and 308th Tactical Fighter Squadrons, Homestead AFB, Fla.
6. April 1991 - August 1991, Student, U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. August 1991 - August 1992, F-16 Squadron Weapons Officer and Flight Commander, 307th Fighter Squadron, Homestead AFB, Fla.
8. September 1992 - October 1994, Weapons School Instructor, and standardization and evaluation flight examiner, F-16 Division, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
9. October 1994 - July 1996, Aide-de-Camp to the Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
10. August 1996 - June 1997, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
11. June 1997 - September 1997, Student, Armed Forces Staff College, National Defense University, Norfolk, Va.
12. September 1997 - November 1999, Air Operations Officer, Current Operations Division, Operations Directorate, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
13. November 1999 - June 2003, F-16CJ Instructor Pilot and assistant operations officer, 79th Fighter Squadron; Weapons and Training Flight Commander, 20th Operations Support Squadron; Operations Officer, 55th Fighter Squadron; and Commander, 78th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
14. July 2003 - June 2004, National Defense Fellow, Institute for Defense Analyses, Alexandria, Va.
15. June 2004 - June 2005, Deputy Chief, Program Integration Division, Directorate of Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
16. July 2005 - May 2007, Commandant, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, 57th Wing, Nellis AFB, Nev.
17. May 2007 - May 2008, Commander, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, South Korea
18. June 2008 - May 2009, Director, Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff Executive Action Group, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
19. June 2009 - April 2011, Commander, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano AB, Italy
20. May 2011 - May 2013, Deputy Director, Operations Directorate, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
21. May 2013 - February 2014, Deputy Commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command; Deputy, Combined Force Air Component Commander, U.S. Central Command, Southwest Asia
22. March 2014 - June 2015, Director, Operations, Strategic Deterrence, and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa, Ramstein AB, Germany
23. June 2015 - July 2016, Commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Air Combat Command, Southwest Asia
24. July 2016 - July 2018, Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
25. July 2018 - July 2020, Commander, Pacific Air Forces; Air Component Commander for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; and Executive Director, Pacific Air Combat Operations Staff, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
26. August 2020—present, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1997 - November 1999, Air Operations Officer, Current Operations Division, Operations Directorate, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla., as a major
2. May 2011 - May 2013, Deputy Director, Operations Directorate, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla., as a brigadier general
3. July 2016 - July 2018, Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla., as a lieutenant general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot

Flight hours: more than 2,900, including 130 combat hours

Aircraft flown: F-16A/B/C/D and 15 additional fixed and rotary-wing aircraft

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Distinguished Service Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters

Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

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Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Korea Defense Service Medal
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal
NATO Medal
Republic of Korea Order of National Security Merit (Samil Medal)

PUBLICATIONS

"Developing Doctrine for the Future Joint Force: Creating Synergy and Minimizing Seams," Air University Press, September 2005
"No Longer the Outlier: Updating the Air Component Structure" Air University Press, Spring 2016

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Feb. 28, 1985
First Lieutenant Feb. 28, 1987
Captain Feb. 28, 1989
Major Aug. 1, 1996
Lieutenant Colonel July 1, 1999
Colonel June 1, 2005
Brigadier General Nov. 20, 2009
Major General July 3, 2013
Lieutenant General June 29, 2015
General July 26, 2018

(Current as of August 2020)

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Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Calvert, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the 689,000 Total Force Airmen who comprise your United States Air Force. I am humbled to serve as our Nation's 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff and I have a responsibility to ensure our Airmen and Air Force remain the greatest in the world, both today and tomorrow. In order to maintain the Air Force's competitive edge, our pace of modernization and transition to the future cannot occur at its current pace. This is why I wrote *Accelerate Change or Lose*—because the mix of capabilities that our Air Force has now, that were good enough yesterday, and are good enough today, will fail tomorrow against our pacing challenges. Bottom line, we must change and we must do so faster. Time is of the essence.

Over the last seventeen months, I have made it a priority to collaborate with key stakeholders, to include the Congress, to help the Air Force accelerate change. The Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act made significant strides in transitioning from the force of today to the force of tomorrow. However, the benefit of this important policy will be unrealized absent the dedicated service of this committee and their counterparts to pass an appropriation bill. It is imperative that we continue these initial steps of acceleration if our United States Air Force is going to continue to fly, fight, and win... anytime, anywhere. Unfortunately, a year-long Continuing Resolution would stall much of the progress we are making towards today's readiness and tomorrow's modernization. A year-long Continuing Resolution would have devastating impacts on the Air Force in lost time, readiness, and fiscal opportunity. Specifically, the Air Force could lose up to 3.5 billion dollars in purchasing power if held to Fiscal Year 2021 budget levels. In fact, the consequences are similar to the impacts levied by the Fiscal Year 2013 sequestration, where the Air Force had to stand down squadrons

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and furlough civilian employees. We should note that the Air Force took over half a decade to recover from the negative impacts to readiness caused by the 2013 sequestration. As much as a year-long Continuing Resolution affects our Air Force fiscally, the impact it has to our rate of change is more shattering. All the money in the world cannot buy more time; time is irrecoverable, and when you are working to keep pace against well-resourced and focused competitors, time matters.

Impacts to Personnel and Readiness

Airmen are our most precious resource, and a year-long Continuing Resolution would hinder our Airmen's readiness and resiliency, as well as our ability to retain top talent. If held to Fiscal Year 2021 funding, the Military Personnel account could lose up to one billion dollars. It could also affect as many as 98,000 permanent change of station moves as well as 4,200 work-years for Guard and Reserve. We should note that our Guard and Reserve Airmen have already been highly engaged through augmentation serving their states and Nation over the past two years. Moreover, it could drive a 127 million dollar shortfall in Active, Guard, and Reserve military personnel requirements that would curtail or cancel critical annual training and professional military education courses. It could also eliminate vital Operations and Maintenance funding for resiliency programs such as, 5.2 million dollars intended for sexual assault and sexual harassment programs, and 900,000 dollars to enhance suicide prevention programs. Additionally, it could cut 94 million dollars for education and training programs, 6 million dollars in diversity and inclusion training and scholarships, and 7.7 million dollars for violence and self-harm prevention programs. These are vital Department of the Air Force programs that help both Airmen and Guardians. Furthermore, it could eliminate up to 167 million dollars in vital incentive and retention bonuses, which would erode Airmen's trust across current and future eligible year groups.

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For the Operations and Maintenance appropriation, being held to Fiscal Year 2021 funding levels could create up to a 2.3 billion dollar loss. This is catastrophic to readiness and day-to-day operations of our Air Force. Like the sequestration in 2013, a loss of this magnitude, six months into the fiscal year, would force the Air Force to execute a flying hour program well below what is required to maintain high levels of proficiency and exacerbate declining readiness. Shutting down flying squadrons would again be likely. Within the Weapon System Sustainment portfolio, the Air Force would have to take additional risk in maintaining platforms, adversely impacting depot manpower, capability, capacity, and our ability to respond to the readiness demands of today and tomorrow. In addition, it could force an “emergency-only” situation in Facility Sustainment, and Restoration Modernization increasing the likelihood of failure within the 1,500 Air Force facilities. Finally, it could slow-down and/or freeze the hiring of up to 2,600 civilians across the Air Force with impacts to the Air Force’s increase in civilian end strength, and the standup of new organizations like the Spectrum Warfare Wing and the United States Air Force’s support to United States Space Command.

Impacts to Modernization

A year-long Continuing Resolution would impede our ability to modernize. It could impact 1.1 billion dollars in worldwide military construction projects and 1.3 billion dollars for 78 new starts in fifteen states. Specifically, it could impact 56 construction projects for Active, Guard, and Reserve components that include 13 INDOPACOM projects and 18 new weapon-system bed-down locations for our Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, B-21, KC-46, F-35, F-16, and C-130. Moreover, it could reduce installation resilience and modernizations, further delaying critical facility maintenance which would lead to long-term facility impacts and failures. Further, it will affect vital mission growth at Air Force bases in California, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Arizona, and

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Air National Guard bases across nine states—South Carolina, Florida, Minnesota, New York, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin. Finally, it would reduce Basic Military Training capacity by delaying two new dormitory complexes, impairing our ability to produce quality Airmen and Guardians.

The year-long Continuing Resolution would slow climate resiliency efforts by cutting up to 23 million dollars from the climate assessment, energy upgrades, and electric vehicles. Specifically, it could delay the zero emission vehicle pilot program that includes charging stations and utility upgrades. Furthermore, it could cut funding from energy-as-a-service pilot program delaying better solutions for resilient energy.

Four areas of modernization I want to specifically highlight are the modernization of our nuclear enterprise, advanced weapons, air dominance platforms, and Enterprise Information Technology structure. A yearlong Continuing Resolution would irreversibly delay the modernization of the nuclear enterprise and impact our deterrence posture. It could delay operational capability of Ground Based Strategic Deterrent by reducing funding by 1.1 billion dollars and delays initial operating capability past 2029. It could delay initial operating capability of the Long-Range Standoff Weapon by over a year. It could delay both conventional initial operating capability and nuclear certification of the B-21 Raider bomber by up to one year. These are unacceptable delays to fundamental nuclear capabilities. It could also prevent the procurement of conventional advanced weapons such as twelve Air-launched Rapid Response Weapons and the development of Hypersonic Attack Cruise Missiles. I would like to point out that our pacing challenges have either modernized their nuclear enterprise and/or are fielding hypersonic systems; we are still in the beginning phases of both. Moreover, it could limit the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile – Extend Range program by reducing the funding by 211 million dollars and

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procurement by 125 missiles. It could also reduce Next Generation Air Dominance, our sixth-generation tactical aircraft system, funding by as much as 600 million dollars. This would delay our ability to achieve air superiority in the future. Finally, the year-long Continuing Resolution could eliminate 383 million dollars in needed enterprise information technology structure modernization and capability improvements, which would handicap new initiatives to support cyber and information technology modernizations to deter or defeat the Nation's pacing challenges. It could put the Air Force a year behind in creating its contribution to a resilient Joint All Domain Command and Control infrastructure and increase the Air Force's network vulnerability for 180 installations.

Conclusion

Benjamin Franklin was known to say that time is money, but I would argue that time is more valuable than money in today's geostrategic environment. Although a year-long Continuing Resolution would decrease our funding, the greater loss would be the missed opportunities of time that could have been spent accelerating today's readiness and tomorrow's modernization. We do not have time to spare. Our competitors' rate of change is enabling them to approach parity with many of our warfighting capabilities and concepts. A year-long Continuing Resolution would further erode our advantage and progress supported by the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act impeding the Air Force's acceleration towards the force of tomorrow.