

Prepared Opening Statement of Chairman C.W. Bill Young

House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

United States Army Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

March 16, 2011

This morning the Committee will hold a hearing on the budget of the United States Army for fiscal year 2012. We will discuss personnel matters; current operations and readiness; research and development; and procurement.

We are pleased to welcome our distinguished witnesses, the Honorable John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army; and General George W. Casey, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Army. Mr. Secretary, I believe this your second appearance before the Defense Subcommittee as Secretary of the Army. Welcome back. You are a veteran of this process and certainly you are no stranger to the House of Representatives, having represented the people of New York's 23rd and 24th districts from 1993 until you departed to assume your present duties as Secretary of the Army. During your years in the House of Representatives, you served as ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, and you served on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Your reputation as an expert in the area of military affairs continues to grow, and we are pleased that you are here today to discuss the Army budget request for fiscal year 2012.

General Casey, you are most welcome as well. You are a survivor of many budget hearings. We appreciate your knowledge of military affairs, and the keene insight that you bring to these discussions. The Committee is aware of your extensive command and staff experience, including service as Commander, Multi-National Force – Iraq. Additionally, you are well versed in the process through which Congress fulfills its constitutional responsibility to provide for the defense of our Nation. Your assessment of the status of personnel, equipment and training readiness have in the past been of great assistance to this Committee as we have made the tough decisions on how to best allocate resources so that the Army might accomplish its mission in defense of our Nation. We expect to benefit greatly from the knowledge and experience of both of you gentlemen.

Mr. Secretary and General Casey, we salute you and the men and women, officers and enlisted soldiers, family members, federal civilian employees and contractors who comprise the finest Army in our Nation's history and the finest Army in the world.

The Army has carried a heavy burden over an extended period of time...approaching a decade. Combat tours have been long. Time at home has been short. The Nation sounded the call to duty. Our Soldiers answered the call. Some have answered the call several times.

The frequent deployments have been tough on soldiers and their families. But now our overseas operations are ramping down. Many units have already come home from Iraq. Afghanistan remains a tough fight, and our forces are performing superbly. Conditions permitting, the ramp down in Afghanistan will begin soon.

General Casey, you recently noted some positive indicators:

- The restructuring of the Army into modular brigades is nearing completion;
- The rebalancing of military occupational specialties so as to provide soldiers in the right numbers in the right skills for the force generating system; and finally
- The dwell time between combat tours is improving. Units have more time at home station, time for families and time to catch up on full spectrum training.

However, problems remain. We continue to have soldier suicides, in both the active and reserve components at historically high rates, despite the best attention and involvement by the chain of command.

The Army is drawing down in Iraq, fighting in Afghanistan and concurrently conducting reset to be ready for the next challenge. Army acquisition has had a difficult time in defining requirements and determining the best programs for equipping the Army to face the challenges of the future:

- Future Combat Systems – cancelled.
- FCS residual, or spin out programs, have all been terminated except the small unmanned robot vehicle, and the communications network
- Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter – cancelled.
- The Integrated Management Program for the Paladin Howitzer, known as PIM (*PIM rhymes with HIM*) has been delayed.
- The desired mix of tactical wheeled vehicles, including the various versions of the MRAP, remains uncertain.
- Communications programs such as the Joint Tactical Radio System are proceeding slowly and the tactical benefit remains uncertain.

We have begun the process of reviewing your budget request for fiscal year 2012. We have identified a number of areas where we have questions, and we look forward to hearing your responses to those questions. Now before I ask Mr. Dicks for his comments I will just briefly mention a few areas which may be raised for discussion.

Last year at the Army hearing, we discussed the Early Infantry Brigade Combat Team modernization effort. Despite the termination of the Future Combat System of Systems program, the goal was to strengthen brigade combat teams by fielding several FCS assets, including:

- the Network,
- Tactical and Urban Unattended Sensors,
- the Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle,
- the Non-Line of Sight-Launch System, and
- the Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle.

A year later only the Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle (SUGV) and the Network remain as candidates for production and fielding. The other items have proven to be unreliable, of little marginal benefit, too costly, or redundant.

Army aviation combat and support capabilities have proven to be of tremendous value to Army ground forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army is working to field two additional combat

aviation brigades, bringing the total number to 13. The first new brigade is scheduled to enter the force structure this fiscal year, 2011.

The Committee understands that the Army plans to add a 13th Combat Aviation Brigade in 2015. The Committee may want to discuss the requirements for additional aviation assets as well as the funding that is needed to support the 13th Combat Aviation Brigade and the personnel and equipment resources requested in the budget.

To better balance its mix of light, medium and heavy forces, the Army is in the process of converting two heavy brigade combat teams to Stryker Brigade Combat Teams by fiscal year 2013. The Committee may want to discuss the personnel and equipment needed for this initiative, as well as the proposed funding.

Additionally, the Committee will want an update on the Army's plan for the use of Strykers with Double-V Hulls, the development of a new Ground Combat Vehicle, which would be a replacement for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and the development of a new rifle for the individual soldier.

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