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THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT

OF

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DIRECTOR, ARMAMENT DIRECTORATE

BEFORE THE

SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON

MUNITIONS COMPETITION

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Introduction

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Distinguished Members of the Committee - thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the extremely important topic of Alternative and Low-cost Munitions.

As the Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Weapons for the United States Air Force, I lead an extraordinary team that develops, produces, and sustains air-delivered conventional munitions for the U.S. Services, allies, and partners.

The portfolio includes air-to-air missiles, long range cruise missiles, glide bombs, penetrator munitions, rifles, pistols, ammunition, bomb racks, hypersonic weapons, and a new class of affordable, low-cost munitions.

Priorities:

1. **Support worldwide operations.** We have teams that arrange for transportation of munitions wherever required across the globe. We have teams that respond to urgent warfighter operational needs. A good example is the fielding of FALCO—a laser-guided rocket-based weapon—that enables U.S. fighter jets to shoot down adversary drones. This system was developed as a low-cost alternative for air-to-air offsetting other more expensive capabilities and protecting our troops and Allies in harm's way.
2. **Make active production lines for munitions to deliver on time, at high quality, and at high capacity.** These production lines are national assets. Over the past 18 months, we have worked very closely with industry and the Department of War on what it takes to increase production rates, improve supply chains, and modernize production lines. The priority includes use of new technology to make our existing legacy weapons more capable, potentially cheaper, and well-integrated into the long range kill chain.
3. **Execute both advanced missile programs and affordable mass munitions programs with excellence.** These programs include hypersonic munitions and an exquisite air-to-air weapon. Important to today's discussion, this priority includes the development and fielding of new low-cost munitions.

These low-cost munitions include the Extended Range Attack Munition—a fighter launched cruise missile and two variants of the Family of Affordable Mass Munitions—with potential for employment from fighter, mobility, and bomber aircraft.

The Extended Range Attack Munition and Family of Affordable Mass Munitions represent a new speed of acquisition. Idea-to-contract occurred in 4 months. Contract award to first flying prototypes of 6 different designs happened in 4 to 7 months. Production for the Extended Range Attack Munition began ~14 months after the first ever contract to start development.

Both programs used streamlined acquisition processes like Commercial Solutions Openings (CSOs).

Both munitions benefit from digital engineering, open systems architecture, and agile software development. This design approach allows for faster iterations to hardware and software configurations in response to rapidly changing conditions on the battlefield. We will be able to introduce competition in industry to get better warheads, seekers, radios, and on.

Most importantly, both Extended Range Attack Munition and Family of Affordable Mass Munitions were designed for production from the very start.

These affordable mass weapons and many others in work within the Department of War are the decisive complement to existing Programs of Record. Through these programs, we will be able to expand production, build-up munitions inventories, and more rapidly replenish munitions stockpiles. We will be able to provide more munition options to Combatant Commanders.

Finally, I want to thank the Senate Armed Services Committee for your leadership and support to the United States military and for holding this hearing on low-cost munitions.

Thank you. I'm looking forward to the conversation today.