SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF

LIEUTENANT GENERAL STEVEN P. WHITNEY, USSF

DIRECTOR FOR FORCE STRUCTURE, RESOURCES, & ASSESSMENT

JOINT STAFF, J8

BEFORE THE

SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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OPENING

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as the Joint Staff's representative on the important topic of low-cost and developmental munitions. As the Director of the Joint Staff J8, I oversee force structure, resources, and assessments to support the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to enable them to provide their military advice to our civilian leaders.

I have the privilege to lead some of the most talented and brilliant officers in our military, to include Col Adam "Teddy" Boyd, the senior strategist in our Warfighting Analysis Division, who you heard present in detail on this topic in the preceding classified session. Col Boyd and his team enable the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Title 10 Section 153 responsibility of joint capability development by "performing military net assessments of the joint capabilities of the armed forces of the United States and its allies in comparison with the capabilities of potential adversaries." The Joint Staff Warfighting Analysis Division conducts studies through three analytic lenses: (1) Warfighting utility; (2) Affordability; and, (3) Feasibility.

It was under this authority that we undertook a rigorous six-month long analysis in 2025 on low-cost and developmental munitions with the main objective of synthesizing disparate data into strategic insights for senior leader decision making.

LOW-COST & DEVELOPMENTAL MUNITIONS ANALYSIS

The Joint Staff's Developmental Munitions Capability Net Assessment is best examined in a classified setting, but there are three key findings that I can share publicly:

(1) Low-cost and developmental munitions complement the traditional munitions in our arsenal. We call this a high-low mix; and, to be clear, both are needed.

(2) A high-low mix provides an increased set of options to military commanders at the tactical and operational level and to the President at the strategic level. The President requires military options for defense, deterrence, response, escalation control, and, victory, globally.

(3) The Joint Force depends on the industrial base to produce, deliver, and sustain critical munitions, systems, and platforms. These deliverables include both traditional and emerging capabilities, procured at lower cost and in higher volumes – for the defense of U.S. national interests.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today and for the Committee's continued support of our Joint Force. I stand ready with my Service colleagues to answer any questions we can in this forum.