

**Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz
Commander, Global Strike Command**

Air Warfare Symposium

19 February 2010

Moderator: Please welcome Lieutenant General Frank Klotz.

LtGen Klotz: Thank you very much, Joe, for that very kind introduction and just to say it's been a great conference here and a pleasure to be with you today and to join so many friends and colleagues at this annual and world renowned Air Force Association Symposium.

As Joe indicated, this afternoon I intend to provide a brief update on the Air Force's newest major command, Air Force Global Strike Command, and then focus in on the long range nuclear capable bomber force that the command assumed responsibility for just 18 days ago on February 1st.

But before I begin, I wanted to apologize for just having a single slide. I noticed that the Commander of Northern Command and the Commander of Air Force Space Command had Hollywood production videos with driving rock music and pounding base to get everyone fired up, and this morning my Academy classmate and lifelong friend Steve Lorenz had an Avatar of himself. We in Air Force Global Strike Command are just humble Airmen. [Laughter]. Simply trying to do our best job. And we have this single slide for you.

Next year, however, if we're invited back, we may have something a little more.

As you know, Global Strike Command was established as part of a broader road map developed by Secretary of the Air Force Mike Donley and our Chief of Staff, General Nurdy Schwartz, to ensure that the Air Force maintains the proper focus on nuclear deterrence and global strike forces. The critical importance of this undertaking was underscored in the recently published 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review report which stated, and I'll quote, "Until such time as the administration's goal of a world free of nuclear weapons is achieved, we will maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal to deter attacks on the United States and on our allies and partners."

Now Global Strike Command is being established in a methodical step by step fashion. The first step was to stand up a provisional command in January of last year at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. under the leadership of then Brigadier General Jim Kowalski who is now a two star and the Vice Commander of Global Strike Command.

The next step took place on the 7th of August when General Schwartz formally activated Global Strike Command in a ceremony at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, the site of the command's permanent headquarters.

The first actual transfer of forces occurred on December 1st when Global Strike Command assumed responsibility for the intercontinental ballistic missile mission from Air Force Space Command. Under the new command arrangements, 20th Air Force which is headquartered at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming and its three missile wings at Francis El Warren and at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana and at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, now all fall under Global Strike Command.

On the same day, Global Strike Command also took charge of the ICBM test mission of the 576th Test Squadron located at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, and the targeting analysis mission of the 625th Strategic Operations Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

Then as I indicated at the outset, just 18 days ago on the 1st of February, the transfer of forces to Global Strike Command was complete as responsibility for 8th Air Force and the long range nuclear capable bomber mission was assumed from Air Combat Command.

8th Air Force is headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base and exercises command over two B-52 wings, one at Barksdale, the other at Minot, as well as the B-2 wing at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

Now since the last AFA symposium here in Orlando there have also been significant changes within these organizations. In August 8th Air Force's assets for cyberspace operations moved to the newly established 24th Air Force headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. Then in October the remaining non-bomber units of 8th Air Force were transferred to 9th and 12th Air Forces.

So the end result is a leaner 8th Air Force focused exclusively on the long range nuclear capable bomber force.

Also in September the Air Force reactivated the 69th Bomb Squadron to become the second operational B-52 squadron at Minot, therefore mirroring Barksdale which already had two operational B-52 squadrons. This move will help balance the workload between nuclear deterrence and conventional missions not only at Minot but across the entire B-52 force.

The new operational squadron will ultimately bring ten additional B-52s and 800 additional operations, maintenance and support personnel to Minot. The new people in jets have already begun to arrive in a phased deployment that will be complete by this spring.

Finally, Air Force Global Strike Command will achieve full operational capability late summer 2010 with about 900 personnel on board at the Headquarters in Barksdale; and nearly 23,000 people in the entire command. Of special note, the command will be a fully integrated total force team composed of active duty, Guard, Reserve, government civilians and contractors.

Now at the AFA Symposium in Los Angeles last fall my remarks focused on the ICBMs' enduring contribution to nuclear deterrence as well as the specific requirements for maintaining a viable and effective ICBM force in the years ahead. I promised then that I'd address the bomber forces within Global Strike Command at AFA Orlando, so today I intend to deliver on that commitment.

As it turns out, this is a particularly auspicious time to do so for a couple of reasons. First, Global Strike Command's recent assumption of 8th Air Force and its three wings is a milestone event in the bomber world. Let me state right up front that Global Strike Command is absolutely committed to providing robust and relentless advocacy for current and future bomber capabilities in the conventional as well as the nuclear realm.

Second, much has been written lately about the future of the bomber, especially with respect to its role within the traditional strategic nuclear triad and with respect to the development of future long range strike capabilities.

For example, in a recent study published by the Air Force Association Mitchell Institute for Air Power Studies, the authors recommend that the nuclear role of the B-52 be phased out as the current air launched cruise missiles are retired and that any planned investments dedicated to maintaining the B-52's nuclear role be diverted to a new conventional bomber.

The actual nature of any new such bomber is likewise a topic of intense discussion with a number of issues on the table. For instance, Secretary of Defense Gates alluded to these in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee on February 2nd, noting the questions were, do we want a stand-off bomber? Do we want an attack bomber? Do we want a manned bomber or an unmanned bomber? Or do we want variations where you could have a platform that could serve both purposes?"

These are all critically important questions that will no doubt inform our national dialogue on defense needs and priorities for some time to come. However, whatever the specific outcomes, there appears to be a strong consensus that the bomber continues to be and will remain an important element in our nation's and in our Air Force's capabilities.

Indeed, the Air Force considers the ability to hold at risk or strike any target, anywhere in the world, as one of its 12 core functions and a key contributor to joint and national priorities.

This is by no means a new concept. For much of its history the Air Force has been closely identified with a bomber and with long range strike. As this audience well knows, a key and fundamental argument that was advanced by air power advocates for creating an independent service was that the bomber had the potential to hasten the defeat of an adversary by directly attacking the industrial base that sustained its armies in the field.

The first major test of this Air Power Doctrine came during the air campaign waged by 8th Air Force against Hitler's Germany in World War II. The results were decidedly mixed. Though the B-17s and B-24s based in England had the range to attack cities within Germany, the bomber did not fulfill the promises of its most ardent proponents. German air and ground defenses, inaccurate munitions, weather, all limited the bomber's combat effectiveness.

The strategic bombing campaign nevertheless significantly contributed to the adversary's defeat by disrupting transportation networks, crippling key industries and diverting half a million troops to defend against the air front. At the same time, the courage and sacrifice of the airmen who fought in that campaign -- and more than 26,000 American airmen perished in the skies over Germany -- became firmly fixed in the American imagination as the very essence of air power. The Hollywood epic, "Twelve O'Clock High", based on Bernie Lay's novel of the

same name, shaped popular perceptions of the Air Force for an entire generation. The movie incidentally, I understand, continues to be required viewing at the Air Force Academy and other Air Force schools.

A more convincing demonstration of the potential and efficacy of strategic bombardment came during the air campaign against Japan by the B-29s of the 20th Air Force. For a variety of reasons -- less effective defenses, changes in American tactics and munitions, the nature of the targets, and ultimately the first use of atomic weapons, the ferocious and unrelenting aerial attacks against the homeland played a more decisive role in that adversary's defeat.

In the Cold War which followed, the bomber became the mainstay of a national security strategy centered on the threat of massive retaliation as a means of deterring aggression or defeating an adversary should that deterrence fail. Under the leadership of General Curtis LeMay and others, the Strategic Air Command fielded a force of increasingly capable bomber and tanker aircraft to mount attacks on the Soviet Union first from overseas bases, then from the continental United States itself. At its peak, SAC possessed over 1,800 bombers in its inventory including as many as 639 B-52s.

Now even with the development and deployment of the Air Force's intercontinental ballistic missiles and the Navy's submarine launched ballistic missiles, the bomber remained a key leg of the strategic nuclear triad. While the ICBM possessed unmatched responsiveness, both in terms of time to launch and time to target, and the submarine possessed unmatched survivability, the bomber likewise possessed significant and complementary capabilities. Its readiness level could be ratcheted up in response to changing world situations or to demonstrate national intent. It could be disbursed to ensure its survivability. If ever launched towards its target it could be recalled should fast-breaking developments so dictate. It could also carry a comparatively large number of weapons with different capabilities.

Now I'm often asked how we will be able to balance the renewed emphasis on the nuclear mission with the conventional mission of our current bomber force. The simple fact is this is not a new challenge. Even though the bombers of the Strategic Air Command became iconic symbols of America's strategic nuclear deterrence, their role was not limited strictly to the nuclear mission even during the most intense periods of the Cold War. For example, SAC's bombers participated in a conventional role

in the Korean War starting on 13 July 1950, B-29s from the 22nd and the 92nd bomb groups hit railroad marshaling yards in Wan San, North Korea. Five SAC bomber groups eventually deployed to the theater.

The B-52 was also employed conventionally during the Vietnam War to conduct massive strikes in support of tactical ground operations and the interdiction of supply and transportation lines. The B-52 ultimately flew more than 126,000 sorties during that war.

During the immediate post Cold War period the nuclear capable bombers were again pressed into conventional action. During Desert Storm B-52s armed with conventional air-launched cruise missiles took off from Barksdale, flew halfway around the world to attack high priority targets during the opening night of the coalition air campaign.

Additional B-52 missions against Iraq were mounted during Operation Desert Strike in September 1996, and Operation Desert Fox in December 1998.

The following year during Allied Force, B-52s and B-1s operating out of RAF Fairford conducted, and B-2s flying round-robin missions from Whiteman, conducted air strikes in the Balkans.

During Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, conventional use of the B-52 and the B-2 was taken to a whole new level. Armed with GPS-aided, Joint Direct Attack Munitions and integrated into the master air attack plan and often under JTAC control, they dropped 2,000 pound bombs from over 35,000 feet to within a few meters of their targets. A truly awesome conventional capability.

Finally, in Operation Iraqi Freedom our nation's bombers delivered the opening salvos of the war, synchronizing standoff weapons and penetrating strikes to achieve devastating effects. The range, payload and versatility of the B-52 and the B-2 gave the Joint Force Commander unique capabilities to strike the adversary's most valued targets. On one night alone, B-52s launched 76 CALCM destroying enemy defenses, and then proceeded into hostile territory to deliver guided munitions on additional key targets while B-2s penetrated enemy air space, striking 96 targets in only five minutes.

As a proud bomber crew would tell you, and justly so, bombers can not only knock down the door, they can then walk through it and strike what's beyond the door -- all in a single mission.

In short, bombers have contributed to every major air campaign since World War II. With the evolution towards ever-increasing capabilities including greater range, more precise and more effective munitions, ability to defeat enemy defenses through standoff, stealth, and other sophisticated tactics, the bomber delivers important and unique capabilities in joint operations.

Now it's true that the creation of Global Strike Command clearly resulted from concerns related to the overall strength of the Air Force nuclear enterprise. There's no denying that fact. But as I said earlier, we take the conventional role of the B-52 and the B-2 very seriously. To that end, we will continue to work very closely with General Fraser and Air Combat Command and the members of the Combat Air Forces to continuously develop and refine weapons and tactics for employing the bombers in conventional operations.

Now ironically, while the variety of missions that the long range bombers have grown and expanded since the end of the Cold War, their numbers have dwindled significantly. Today there are only 76 B-52s and 20 B-2s in the Air Force inventory. No bomber has been produced since 1997 when the last B-2 rolled off the assembly line at Palmdale, California.

As noted in the 2007 AFA Special Report on The Future of Long Range Strike, the author of which is here with us today, from 1917 until 1997 the U.S. always had a bomber or two or three or four, either in production or on the drawing board. For the first time since 1917 the United States is well and truly out of the bomber building business.

So both the B-52 and the B-2 are aging aircraft. As such, the current bomber force faces significant challenges in terms of sustainment of current capabilities and the modernization of existing platforms to exploit their full potential in the current joint fight.

The first B-52H entered the operational inventory in 1961. So you've heard it said that the newest B-52 is older than the pilots who fly them, and in some cases twice their age. Many current and former B-52 air crews including General Fraser, proudly display a beautiful lithograph by Drew Blair entitled, "In Praise of Older Bombers". It shows a B-52 taxiing for takeoff, surrounded by a mist that could just as well be the heat and humidity of a Barksdale summer or the ice fog of a Minot winter. It's a haunting picture that speaks at once to both the

awesome power of this venerable war wagon, and at the same time to its advanced years.

The B-2, the nation's most advanced bomber, is considerably newer, but even it's now over 20 years old.

Now for many of us, 1980 doesn't seem that long ago, but as an example, during the 1980s the fastest personal computer was the Commodore 64. And while the aircraft has been updated, many of the systems on board have not.

Both the B-52 and the B-2, however, still have significant life left in the airframe and they will be a part of the Air Force inventory for many years to come. But as with any aging system, both bombers face chronic problems ranging from vanishing vendors for spare parts, to worn out handling and test equipment. Additionally, the aircraft's original design specifications in some cases limit the integration of modern communications and munitions.

Accordingly, the Air Force Fiscal Year 2011 budget request calls for increased funding to address their sustainment and modernization.

Let me provide you some more specific examples. The B-52H is undergoing several programs in order to maintain its viability through 2040. Current initiatives include incorporating the 1760 data bus into the bomb bay to provide the capability to carry precision weapons internally. This upgrade will provide greater flexibility to the warfighter by practically doubling the smart weapons carriage aboard the B-52.

The Combat Network Communications Technology, or CNCT acquisition program, will support both nuclear and conventional operations by upgrading the B-52 fleet with tactical data link and voice communication capabilities. Efforts are also underway to enhance the aircraft's capability to communicate and secure protected modes as the Air Force's advanced extremely high frequency satellite system comes on line.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense has allocated over \$3 million to conduct an analysis of alternatives to replace the air-launched cruise missile. This effort began last summer when the Air Force identified initial requirements to ensure the B-52 standoff weapons are viable beyond 2020.

Now this is not the entire list, but I think it illustrates the range of B-52 programs underway.

As for the B-2, new active electronically scanned array radar is being fielded and the B-2 is also beginning a modernization effort to improve the defensive management system on the aircraft. This will allow the B-2 to continue operations around the world in more advanced threat environments while decreasing the maintenance required to operate the DMS system.

Funding will also be increased for the Weapon System Support Center Software Integration Laboratory which enables testing of current as well as developmental systems.

New terminals will need to be installed on the aircraft to allow it to communicate with the HGF satellites, a task made more challenging by the bomber's unique LO requirements.

And efforts are underway to address the sustainability of the aft decks and to improve the process for maintaining the aircraft's LO capability.

Now while Global Strike command is focused primarily on the sustainment and modernization of the weapon systems currently under its purview, I'd be remiss if I didn't address the issue of future long range strike system.

The recently released QDR report emphasizes the importance of taking steps to ensure that U.S. forces remain capable of protecting the nation and its allies in the face of a dynamic threat environment. To this end it directs enhancements to U.S. capabilities including, among other things, enhanced long range strike capabilities as one means to countering growing threats to forward deployed forces and bases, and ensuring U.S. power projection capabilities.

In keeping with this direction the Air Force is reviewing options for fielding survivable, long range surveillance and strike capabilities as part of a comprehensive, phased plan to modernize the bomber forces. The Air Force FY2011 budget request includes significant investment towards development of a long range strike platform and support for the requisite industrial base.

To close, given the time constraints, I'd like to recall a statement made in 1908 by Harvard Professor William Pickering, who wrote, and I quote, "Another popular fallacy is to suppose that flying machines could be used to drop dynamite on an enemy in time of war." How wrong he turned out to be. And history has a strange way of making

predictions of even the most educated and thoughtful observers seem foolish with the benefit of hind sight. Even so, let me venture four predictions of my own.

First, because of the need to hold at risk or attack targets deep within an adversary's territory, and deny the adversary any sanctuary, in some cases to mount attacks beyond the range of theater or carrier based aircraft, there will continue to be a need for a bomber or a long range strike system or family of systems.

Second prediction. Systems that go deep can also perform more functions than strike, and probably will.

At a conference in Washington last month our Chief of Staff General Schwartz observed, and I quote, "Future systems must be versatile, particularly in two dimensions -- in terms of their function such as strike or intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and in their ability to flex between various methods of employment such as manned versus unmanned, or penetrating versus standoff.

Third prediction, until such time as a new system or family of systems is developed, the current B-52 and B-2 will remain on active duty. With smaller numbers than ever before, it will be necessary to continue investing in sustainment and modernization to ensure that they meet combatant commander requirements for a versatile and multi-functional platform.

Fourth and final prediction. As long as there is a need for nuclear capable forces to deter attacks against the United States and its allies and partners, the bomber will remain a key and essential part of that force because of its range, payload, flexibility and inherent capability to complement the other systems.

The bomber has been at the heart and soul of the United States Air Force since its inception. Global Strike Command is committed to making sure that this vital component of our national security retains its effectiveness and remains a credible and combat ready force to conduct nuclear deterrence and global strike missions in support of the United States and its allies around the world.

We in Global Strike Command are honored to have 8th Air Force and 20th Air Force as our operational forces. These units have a proud and noble heritage, and today they share the Air Force's commitment to the nuclear deterrence and global strike mission -- a mission that demands excellence by every airman.

I'm absolutely confident that they will continue to make a significant contribution to our national security under Global Strike Command.

So once again, Joe and Mike, thanks to the Air Force Association for hosting an absolutely fabulous symposium and for affording us the opportunity to be with you today. It's been an honor and a privilege to be, again, with so many friends and kindred spirits and I look forward to hearing the remaining presentations today.

Thank you very much.

[Applause].

Moderator: Thank you, General Klotz. We are running a bit short of time and we do appreciate that great summary of where we are and where we're going with our bomber force. But if you could just touch on briefly some of the challenges you faced as you stood up and are expanding the mission of Global Strike Command, our newest command in the Air Force.

General Klotz: Thanks, that's an excellent question. One of the things I did before going down to Barksdale with the standup of our permanent headquarters was to take advantage of the opportunity to talk to both people within government, but also people within industry to ask them what sort of challenges do you face in standing up a new organization. The universal answer seems to be people, personnel. And one of the key things you have to do in standing up a new organization is to make sure you get the right people on board and then into the right jobs.

We've been given great support by the Air Force Personnel System and the Personnel Center, but there are some things that just take a long time to do. Hiring government civilians for instance. We're hiring close to 200 into the headquarters. As many of you know that is a long, laborious process that involves writing the position description, classifying the position, advertising the position, getting the certifications, and then doing the actual hiring process.

But one of the things that I've been very very encouraged about is that there is no shortage of applicants for every job, both military and government and contractor jobs, that have opened up at Barksdale Air Force Base, at our five other bases. I think people who have been in this business before, in the nuclear deterrence and global strike business are excited about the prospect of having a command

that is solely dedicated to those two missions. They're also excited about the prospect of being the first even in the command and the ability, as you create this command essentially from whole cloth. The first time we've done it since 1982 when we stood up Space Command. Creating a command from scratch, there's a great sense of challenge in doing that right, and a recognition that no matter what you do you're going to have an impact and influence on that command for many years to come. That's attracting some of the best and brightest in this business to come share enterprise and this journey with us.

Moderator: Sir, we thank you for being with us today and for your leadership of Global Strike Command.

#