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## GENERAL FRASER OF USTRANSCOM DISCUSSES THE AEROSCRAFT WITH HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

### Cargo Airship Anticipated to Fulfill Future Defense Transport Needs, From Sustaining Operational Logistics to Humanitarian or Contingency Support Roles



LOS ANGELES (February 28, 2014) - **General William M. Fraser III**, Commander of United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) provided testimony and made statements yesterday before the U.S. House Armed Services Committee on the State of the Command that included new statements about the Aeroscraft. The statements were made 10:00 AM/ET during a hearing on the posture of the U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Transportation Command.



In his written statements, Gen. Fraser (U.S.A.F.) reports, *“Airships represent a transformational capability, with the potential to bridge the longstanding gap between high-speed, lower-capacity airlift, and low-speed, higher-capacity sealift. From humanitarian or contingency support to enduring logistical sustainment operations, airship technology has the potential to fulfill future defense transportation needs. We encourage development of this and other commercial technologies that may lead to enhanced mobility capabilities in the future.”*

This assessment echoes previous Commander Testimony and Congressional comments in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act. Following is a transcript of Gen. Fraser’s testimony before the Committee, where he addresses the Aeroscraft during questioning by Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), and expresses encouragement in commercial development activities toward future enhancement of mobility and response capability. A [PDF transcript](#) of the complete witness statement for Gen. W. M. Fraser III is available through the hyperlink.



REPRESENTATIVE LORETTA SANCHEZ (D-CA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, gentlemen, again for being before us today.

General Fraser, last year in your testimony to Congress, you commented, and I’ll say it word-for-word here, “Hybrid airships represent a transformational capability bringing the longstanding gap between high-speed, lower-capacity airlift and low-speed, higher-capacity airlift. Across a range of military operations, this capability can be leveraged from strategic to tactical distances. From swift crisis-action support to enduring logistical sustainment operations, hybrid airship technology has a potential to fulfill factory-to-foxhole cargo delivery. We encourage development of commercial technologies that may lead to this enhanced mobility capabilities in the future.” Those were your words.

So my question is, are you still monitoring the hybrid airship progress?... Obviously, that may be in about three years there might be a commercially viable 66-ton hybrid airship. Do you still believe in this technology? Can you tell me a little bit about where you are in that sequence, please?

GEN. FRASER: Thank you, ma’am. And yes, I still stand by those words. And we have continued over the last year to follow the development of the hybrid airship. In fact, we also were very pleased to see the successful flight that Aeroscraft completed last year in their hybrid airship out in California. It was a very successful flight.

We were also saddened to see that the airship was damaged when the roof gave way. And they --

REP. SANCHEZ: Something owned by the Navy, by the way. (Chuckles.)

GEN. FRASER: We were saddened to see the damage that was done to the hybrid airship, but we have continued to maintain our contacts with Aeroscraft. We're encouraged by that successful flight, the demonstration of that technology.

We're also encouraged by a recent report that I received from them out at Aeroscraft of the interest in the commercial sector to develop this capacity and this capability. I can see utility in the future to utilize something along those lines, especially when I look at some of the things that we've had to respond to as an example here in the United States, to be able to move great quantities into areas where you don't need a lot of infrastructure and something along those lines.

So we'll continue to monitor it. We'll continue to encourage the development of the hybrid airship as they continue to go forward.

REP. SANCHEZ: So you could see it as something that we could actually use in the future if it was a viable -- if it was proven, if it was built.

GEN. FRASER: Yes, ma'am, I do.

REP. SANCHEZ: Thank you.

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Video of General Fraser's statements about the Aeroscraft before the committee are available [through this link](#); General Fraser's complete testimony on the State of the Command is [available here](#).



**About the Aeroscraft:** An Aeroscraft is a new type of Rigid Variable Buoyancy Air Vehicle, designed to control lift in all stages of air or ground operations, including the ability to off-load heavy payloads without the need to re-ballast. For the first time in history, an aircraft has been designed to control and adjust buoyant and dynamic lift, creating a new paradigm for global air transportation and logistics. Poised to enhance the air transportation industry, the Aeroscraft will deliver opportunities for business and consumers globally through access to remote locations and by new VTOL cargo delivery capabilities. The key features of the Aeroscraft include a rigid structure, vertical takeoff and landing, and operational abilities at low speed, in hover, and from unprepared surfaces.



**About Aeros:** Founded 27 years ago in the U.S., the Aeroscraft Corporation (Aeros) has grown from a small aerostat production manufacturer to a leading FAA-certified airship producer and R&D firm for the aerospace industry. Aeros has achieved multiple FAA airship type certificates and operates with an FAA Production Certificate, while featuring a product line that includes advanced airships and tethered aerostats utilized in commercial and government applications throughout the world. Learn more at [www.aeroscraft.com](http://www.aeroscraft.com).

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**AEROS HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A PRIVATE OFFERING FOR INVESTORS TO SUPPORT AEROSCRRAFT FLEET DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS. THIS CAN OFFER INVESTORS A REWARDING OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AEROSCRRAFT'S DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH. EXECUTION OF THIS PLAN IS NOT WITHOUT RISK, AND THE OFFERING CAN ONLY BE MADE TO ACCREDITED INVESTORS AT THIS TIME. FOR MORE INFO ABOUT AEROS' PRIVATE OFFERING, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.AEROSCRRAFT.COM/INVESTORS](http://WWW.AEROSCRRAFT.COM/INVESTORS)**

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