

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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VICE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES ARMY

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Mr. Chairman, Representative Skelton, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today about the Army and specifically the Army National Guard. On behalf of our Secretary, Dr. Francis Harvey, our Chief of Staff, General Pete Schoomaker, and the approximately one million Active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers that comprise the Army – more than 120,000 of whom are serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq – let me offer a sincere "thank you" for your untiring efforts to ensure that Soldiers have the essential resources they need to prevail in the war against terrorism.

The Army National Guard is an essential and integral component of the Army in the Joint and Interagency efforts to win the Global War on Terror, secure the homeland, and provide disaster relief at home and abroad. Since 9/11, Army Guardsmen have comprised over 170,000 of the more than 650,000 Soldiers who have deployed to combat terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. In the past five years, over 40,000 Army Guardsmen have been part of the nationwide effort to secure the homeland. And last year, over 50,000 Army Guardsmen – along with more than 10,000 active duty and Army Reserve Soldiers and Army Civilians – rapidly responded to assist their fellow citizens during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and subsequent recovery efforts.

During the Cold War, the Army's Reserve Components were – by design – principally elements of the Nation's strategic reserve. As such, they were organized and resourced at lower levels than most Active Component units because there would be time available to reorganize, equip, and train them prior to their deployment into combat. Due to the significant reduction of the active Army from its Cold War strength of over

780,000 to its current strength of less than half-a-million and the increased force requirements of the post-9/11 environment, the role of the Army's Reserve Components has changed. By necessity, the Army's Reserve Components have become an operational reserve with – in the case of the Army National Guard – concurrent state mission responsibilities. This change from strategic to operational reserve has necessitated a change in the way the Army National Guard is organized and resourced. Today's environment requires that all units be maintained at a high state of combat readiness, prepared to rapidly deploy as part of the total force.

Following 9/11, the Army began its most significant reorganization since World War II to ensure that the formations of all our components – Active, Guard, and Reserve – were fully manned, equipped, and trained to meet their operational and domestic mission responsibilities. The Army has adopted standardized, brigade-based, Modular Force formations in all components to facilitate interoperability. We are rebalancing the types of units and Soldiers in all our components to ensure we have the right types of units and skills in greatest demand – infantry, engineer, military police, military intelligence, special operations forces, chemical, civil affairs, and psychological operations. And, we've implemented a cyclic Army Force Generation model (ARFORGEN) to manage force availability and synchronize the preparation of all Army forces.

As part of this comprehensive, Army-wide reorganization, the Army National Guard is restructuring to increase its capabilities and effectiveness. The goal of the ongoing restructure is to reduce excess, non-operational forces, create an Army National Guard personnel training account, facilitate a higher level of manning in all Army National Guard formations, achieve the required operational force structure for the Nation, and increase domestic mission capabilities available to the states without decreasing existing endstrength or capabilities within the individual states.

The ongoing force structure decision is a collaborative process that includes the Army Staff, the National Guard Bureau, and the Force Structure Committee of the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

Prior to 9/11, many of our units, including those within our Reserve Components, were inadequately manned and equipped due to years of insufficient resourcing. To make these units combat ready, we had to pool personnel and equipment from across the force to make them whole before they deployed. Given the Army National Guard's new role of operational reserve and first-responder for homeland defense and civil support, the Army is committed to resourcing them appropriately, and has fenced \$21 billion for Army National Guard procurement in fiscal years (FY) 2005 through 2011 – a four-fold increase over the FY03 to FY09 period. The Army and Army National Guard staffs have worked together to identify and prioritize the baseline equipment set required for domestic missions. Additionally, the Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve staffs have collaboratively developed equipping plans to accelerate over 11,000 items of equipment required by the eight most critical states for the impending hurricane season.

The realities of the post-9/11 security environment have resulted in an unprecedented level of Army National Guard integration. The Army is incapable of generating and sustaining the forces required to wage the Global War on Terror and fulfill other operational requirements without all its components – Active, Guard, and Reserve. The Army is committed to “total force integration” and inclusion of the National Guard leadership in decisions that impact the structure, manning, training, and resourcing of the Army National Guard and its ability to fulfill its operational reserve and domestic mission responsibilities. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the Director of the Army National Guard have direct access to the

Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army to provide input or raise concerns regarding issues they believe affect the Army National Guard. The Army National Guard leadership are critical participants in the Army's key, cyclic meetings – such as the Army Campaign Plan, Army Resource and Requirement Board, Army Requirements Oversight Council, Army System Acquisition Review Council, Army Modular Force General Officer Steering Committee, Army Equipping Conference, and Senior Review Group – that address requirements and synchronize resources for all Army components. While this integrated approach has proven very effective during the Global War on Terror at ensuring that the formations of all components have the necessary Soldiers, leaders, equipment, and training prior to deploying in harm's way, we continue to examine ways to improve this process. I look forward to working with this Committee, the Congress, State leadership, and the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves as we examine ways to best ensure “total force integration.”

Let me close by assuring you that the Soldiers of all our components continue to serve magnificently as we engage in the fifth year of the war on terrorism. They continue to distinguish themselves with tremendous acts of courage and valor in places like Baghdad, Ramadi, Mosul, and Khandahar. They understand that we are waging a long war and they believe in their mission. Their commitment and willingness to sacrifice all so that others can live in freedom personify our Nation's highest ideals. Our Nation must remain equally committed to them by providing the resources they need to succeed in their mission. With your continued support and the support of the American people, I know they will succeed.