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**STATEMENT OF
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**BEFORE THE 109TH CONGRESS
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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Chairman Hunter, Representative Skelton, distinguished members of the Committee; it is my pleasure to testify today on the contributions made by the National Guard and Reserve and the challenges we face in fully integrating them and their requirements into the organize, train and equip processes of the Military Departments. First though, on behalf of the Joint Force, in both the Active Component and the Reserve Components, thank you for your continued bipartisan support. That support has been exemplified this past year by Congressional visits to our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world; visits to those hospitalized; your funding for operations; your support of transformation and recapitalization initiatives; and the improved pay and benefits you have provided to our Service members and their families.

As we consider recommended changes in policy, law, regulation and practice to ensure that the National Guard and Reserves are organized, trained, equipped, compensated and supported to best meet the national security requirements of the United States, I reflect back on years of joint experience working with the National Guard and Reserves. In fact, my first assignment after commissioning was as the Executive Officer of a Naval Reserve Training Center in Whitestone, New York, as an Ensign. Much later, I gained further experience working in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. As Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command, I was deeply involved in Reserve Component resourcing for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom and in the Lessons Learned by the National Guard and Reserve Component in Major Combat Operations, the Global War on Terror. As the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have worked extensively on National Guard and Reserve issues from resource, policy and operational perspectives, including the response to Hurricane Katrina. Throughout these events, the capabilities, dedication, skill sets and patriotism of our Reservists and National Guard men and women have stood out. I have come to know

and work closely with the leaders of our Reserve Components on important issues. And, most rewardingly, I have been privileged to visit National Guard units and meet individual Reservists and National Guard men and women in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq – and in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. I can report what you already know – that they are doing a magnificent job and are an amazing asset to the Nation.

I highlight my personal experience in working on Reserve Components issues both to emphasize my personal commitment to the Reserve Components' essential role in the Total Joint Force and as a metric of how the Reserve Components have transformed from a Cold War strategic reserve to a much more demanding role as both an operational and strategic reserve, deeply involved in operations around the world and at home in support of the National Defense Strategy. The National Guard and Reserve provide key capabilities to the Joint Force and are indispensable to our overall “capacity” to flex to meet crises at home and abroad as well as meet the steady state needs of our Refined Force Planning Construct, as discussed in the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review.

We should all be familiar with the responsiveness, flexibility and dedication of the National Guard.

- Within hours of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, 1,500 New York National Guard troops reported for duty. This number grew to 8000 within 24 hours of the attacks supporting New York State's security needs. Over 200 Air National Guard aircraft immediately took to the skies to thwart any follow-on attacks, provide air refueling support or transport vital equipment and personnel. At the request of

the President, state Governors temporarily supplemented the security of the nation's airports with National Guard personnel. Their missions encompassed over 400 airports in 52 states and territories.

- Over 290,000 Guardsman have been mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle/ Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. They have fought side by side with their active component brothers-in-arms in foxholes and cockpits with equal honor and courage. They have also brought unique skills from their civilian careers to the challenges they found in Iraq and Afghanistan for which typical military training had no ready answers.
- Our Guard and Reserve Airmen are a vital part of the Air Force Expeditionary team. Over 25% of all Airmen deployed steady-state are members of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.
- Many returned home from overseas deployments just in time to join with 50,000 other Guardsman responding to Hurricane Katrina; the largest and fastest domestic deployment since World War II. Across the United States, whenever there is a natural or manmade disaster, more likely than not, a Governor will call out the National Guard to respond.
- Most recently, the President has requested the presence of 6000 Guardsman on our Southwest Border to support Border Patrol agents.

All of this speaks to the remarkable capability and capacity present in the National Guard and Reserve.

As the role of the National Guard and Reserve has changed to fulfill both a strategic and an operational reserve, we should not be surprised that the resources, processes, authorities and policies devised in the Cold War for a "mobilization-centric" force should prove less than

optimal for sizing, equipping, recruiting and retaining the National Guard and Reserve today. Furthermore, the National Guard and Reserve suffered from the same long term lack of procurement that affected the military as a whole, which we have been addressing, with your help, since 2001.

Congress has been diligent in pointing out many of these problems, including: equipment shortfalls; failure to fully consider all of the National Guard and Reserve in resource deliberations, including the Base Realignment and Closure process; and command and control challenges during national catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina.

We are working hard to address these issues with the authority that we possess within the Department of Defense. All components of the Army and Marine Corp have significant amounts of equipment awaiting reconstitution through the supplemental funding Congress has approved. This supplemental funding has proven critical to our efforts both at home and abroad. Since 9/11, the American public has invested over \$10 billion in Guard and Reserve equipment.

The FY 2007 budget requests \$2.7 billion for new National Guard and Reserve equipment, including armored HUMVEES, Stryker vehicles, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and missiles and other munitions. To ensure the Army National Guard has the funding to support an endstrength of 350,000 in FY07, we are working with Congressional oversight committees to realign \$470 million from the active Army to the National Guard. In all, the Department plans to invest over \$19 billion for new National Guard equipment over the FY 2006-2011 time period, including capabilities to be more relevant for homeland defense and natural disasters, such as an interoperable communications package.

To address the Guard's involvement in strategic resource decision making, the Army established a task force to work with the Guard and 12 State Adjutants General to develop and resource the right mix of roles and missions for the Guard modular Brigade Combat Teams. The Air Force has established a Total Force Integration process that is inclusive and transparent. As an example of the front line role of the Air National Guard in the Total Force, the first squadron to be outfitted with F-22s is associated with the Air National Guard.

Furthermore, the Quadrennial Defense Review declares that the Reserve Components must be operationalized so that selected reservists and units are more accessible and more readily available than today. The Strategic Planning Guidance promotes the development of a sustainable and affordable Total Force of Active Component, Reserve Components, civilians and contractor personnel. Both documents point to changes needed in policy and legislation to effect the ever-greater integration of the Active, Guard and Reserve Components of the Total Force, building on work that included a study on reforming reserve mobilization policies and procedures conducted by U.S. Joint Forces Command.

In this context, the establishment of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves is an essential step in helping all of us work out together how to achieve this greater integration. The Commission is set fair to make a significant contribution to this discussion. I have closely reviewed the seven initial findings in the Commission's 90 day report and agree with them. Many of them are included, in some form, in the Quadrennial Defense Review and the FY 2007 Budget.

In conclusion, I thank this Committee and Congress for your support for the National Guard and Reserve as a strategic and operational reserve of the Total Force and I look forward to working with you to improve our ability to more fully integrate the National Guard and Reserve into the Total Force.

I look forward to taking your questions.