

TESTIMONY OF
MAJOR GENERAL MASON C. WHITNEY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF COLORADO
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6035
July 20th, 2005

I am Major General Mason Whitney, the Adjutant General of Colorado and Commander of the Colorado National Guard Joint Force Headquarters. I am testifying in my status as a member of the Governor's cabinet and a state of Colorado employee. I will present information relative to my participation as one of the representatives of the Adjutants' General Association of the United States (AGAUS) to the Air Force Future Total Force (FTF) General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC). This information will include a background of the Air National Guard (ANG) planning initiatives for FTF, the Adjutants' General involvement in FTF, and FTF planning factors for the ANG. My military background includes 11 years of active duty Air Force service, consisting of 4 years as an officer of the Air Force Reserve and 7 years as an officer of the Regular Air Force; and 26 years as an Air National Guard officer. Most of my experience has been in fighter aircraft. I have been the Adjutant General of Colorado since January of 2000 and am currently the chairman of the AGAUS Modernization Committee. I am also a member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

The ANG Directorate of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) first briefed their version of a transformational strategy called Vanguard in December of 2002 to the senior leaders of

the ANG. The briefing identified Vanguard as the strategy to keep the ANG relevant in a future Air Force that will be replacing legacy aircraft with smaller numbers of more capable aircraft and will be developing emerging missions for new technologies. Several transformational focus areas were developed, to include leveraging technology to reduce manpower, consolidating geographically separated units, co-locating units in states with multiple flying units, blending ANG and active units, and consolidating units with like equipment to increase efficiencies. The ANG Directorate briefed the Vanguard planning results to the ANG senior leaders in December of 2003. The briefing detailed the reductions in aircraft and the emerging technologies that would require new missions. It called for re-shaping the ANG into healthy and efficient units prepared to receive the next generation of aircraft and missions. During the next year, an ANG Directorate task force worked with each state to develop initiatives that would re-shape their units by using the transformational focus areas and based on Air Force planning factors of aircraft procurement and emerging missions.

Some states developed initiatives for UAV missions, active/guard integrated units, and emerging missions. Many other states were not comfortable with the level of reductions and consolidation of their units and the lack of a clear picture of future missions with a bridge from current missions. At the same time Vanguard planning was progressing, the Air Force XP Directorate was developing policy for implementation of the Air Force transformation to the Future Total Force (FTF). The Air Force also developed a plan for retiring legacy aircraft and procuring new aircraft during that period. News of that planning created concern as to whether the Air Force envisioned a role in the new aircraft for the ANG because of the rapid retirement of ANG legacy aircraft well before new aircraft were procured. TAGs were briefed in February of 2004 that ANG Vanguard planning would be

included in the Air Force FTF implementation plan and the aircraft retirement plan. After several TAGs expressed concern to their state's political leadership regarding the direction Vanguard and FTF was headed, some members of congress questioned the Air Force and NGB on what the impact of this force planning would be for the ANG. Because of the lack of TAG support for Vanguard and FTF and the congressional interest that generated, the Secretary of the Air Force asked to meet with the TAGs in a special session at the Pentagon in July of 2004 to try to clarify his intent for FTF. TAGs expressed concern that they weren't involved in the planning processes for FTF and asked if representatives of AGAUS could be included in FTF deliberations. The Secretary agreed to include representatives of AGAUS on the FTF GOSC and FTF Working Groups. The chairmen of the AGAUS ANG Force Structure and ANG Modernization Committees were asked by the President of AGAUS to participate in the FTF GOSC meetings. He also asked The Adjutant General of Maryland to represent AGAUS on the GOSC as well.

The first FTF GOSC meeting attended by the AGAUS representatives was held in October of 2004. We have been included in all of the following FTF meetings and have been allowed unrestricted access to all materials and briefings presented. The guidance given by the Director of AF/XP was to work the issues of FTF together with active, guard, and reserve members of the FTF Working Group and GOSC. The Air Force FTF directive establishes policy for implementing integration of the active and reserve components of the Air Force. The desired end state is a more effective organization which optimizes the unique strengths of each component. The FTF will provide for increased utilization of new, more capable weapons systems; allow more rapid accession of new weapons systems and emerging missions into the reserve component; provide a cost effective force multiplier; and relieve stress across the force by sharing deployment burdens. There are active, guard, and reserve

members of the FTF Working Group and GOSC monitoring current FTF initiatives, developing FTF unit templates for current missions, developing emerging FTF missions, and working issues that inhibit FTF implementation, such as title 10 and title 32 obstacles. If properly implemented, the FTF will support the National Military Strategy by ensuring an optimum force structure to support the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) and Homeland Defense/Homeland Security. Several planning assumptions for this optimum force are being worked through this FTF process. Recognizing the capabilities of the ANG to support the AEF through volunteerism and through rainbowing units is critical to ANG participation in future weapons systems and should be included in the FTF planning factors. The capability of the ANG to support Homeland Defense/Security missions because of participating in these future weapons systems also is a force optimizer that needs to be considered in the FTF processes. The ANG community basing has great potential to generate support for national military initiatives and should be leveraged to the maximum extent possible by using ANG installations for integrated units. I feel we can bring these capabilities to the attention of the FTF planners by virtue of our presence on the FTF Working Groups and GOSC.

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) will determine what types and levels of force structure will be required for the next several years. The FTF plan will determine in what manner we employ them. There is still much concern about the phasing of the retirement of legacy aircraft and the transition to new aircraft in the ANG. Those plans are still being worked and probably won't be finalized until after the QDR. However, by including The Adjutants General in the FTF processes, the Air Force is allowing us to have a voice in our future. It is unfortunate BRAC didn't allow us the same opportunity.

I would be glad to answer any questions the committee may have.