

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROGER C. SCHULTZ
DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS, AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON
COMBATING TERRORISM:
TRAINING AND EQUIPPING RESERVE COMPONENT FORCES

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Chairman Shays and members of the subcommittee: Thank you for your continued support to our National Guardsmen and women deployed around the world. Since 9/11, over 184,000 Army National Guardsmen have served in a federal active duty status, which constitutes about 52 percent of our force. We have demonstrated strength and resilience to transform to operational needs. National Guardsmen have been in Iraq since the war began. Our Soldiers are currently in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, the Sinai, and Cuba. They provide protection to key infrastructure in the United States and at special events. Many of these missions were variations that were not fully anticipated or planned, but our Soldiers have exhibited adaptability in executing their roles and missions.

The National Guard's goal is to have all of our units manned, equipped and trained before they get the call to go to war. With a predictable cycle of an overseas deployment every five years units will be able to efficiently train to certifiable standards, and deploy in a minimal amount of time.

Over time, the Army has accepted risk in the Army National Guard equipment resourcing to support a variety of update programs to modernize Army forces. The logic that supported this strategy was sound at the time, however we are now experiencing the results of that risk - large shortfalls in equipment inventories while we are mobilizing and deploying units to the theater at full capability. Critical items include night vision devices, individual body armor, small arms and crew served weapons, communications, command and control systems, and other items. The Department of the Army and Forces Command has assisted greatly in filling the requirements for our current forces in the theater. Herculean efforts have assured that every soldier has the latest in body armor, personal protection and comfort equipment, unit equipment for operations in built up areas, and weapons upgrades.

The Army National Guard has moved equipment from later or non-deploying units to assure that our Soldiers have everything we can provide to support them in the harsh environments they experience in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the critical, high cost shortfalls are mitigated in theater through a process termed “stay behind equipment”, wherein a unit entering the theater will go without equipment and use that of a like unit returning home. At this point, that is serving us well, however continuing to rotate equipment between units may eventually present Sustainment challenges due to the harsh environment present in theatre. To help offset this challenge, and because of the developing operational scenario more organic equipment will be sent with the next rotations. Of course, soldier protection is always first and foremost in our priorities of equipping the force.

A key tool in reacting to the challenges of equipping our forces has been the National Guard Reserve Equipment Appropriation. Through your efforts, we have been able to procure critical small arms, night vision devices, various vehicle models, and some communications equipment. The ARNG used some of the funds to develop a variety of simulation tools that have proven invaluable in preparing our units for current operations. We have developed several key tools - Abrams and Bradley Full Crew Interactive Skills Trainer modified into HMMWV/Tactical Truck Crew Trainers to support convoy operations training in a virtual Baghdad database with real world scenarios developed from lessons learned in theater. Also, the Army National Guard relies heavily on the Laser Marksmanship Training System and the Engagement Skills Trainer that simulate individual, team and squad battlefield scenarios using small arms and crew served weaponry. We are able to deploy the systems throughout our units to quickly enhance their training opportunities at a critical period in their mobilization process.

Fully incorporating the Army National Guard into the Army Modularity transformation is essential to our ability to provide forces during national crises such as the Global War on Terrorism. This includes modernizing our equipment to support the

change in unit configurations. We have a very robust refurbishment program within the Army National Guard to assure that our older equipment remains in the best condition possible, however modern equipment is essential for training and fighting in today's worldwide environment.

The U.S. Army Center for Lessons Learned (CALL) at Ft. Leavenworth is the official repository for lessons learned. CALL is conducting post-deployment operations with returning units from OIF as well as analyzing current reports from the field to build web-based modules that Soldiers and units can access before deployment and during actual operations. At the National Guard Bureau, we are working with CALL to develop web-based modules to train and educate deploying RC Soldiers on lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom. Deploying units are trained in the lethal tactics used in Iraq and Afghanistan when they get to their Mobilization Stations and begin collective training. Even before that point the information is available on the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) website. Our units are continually going to the website to get the latest information to disseminate to their Soldiers even if they are not alerted.

Both sites are open to our leaders and Soldiers so they can obtain the latest operational information to ensure their training programs are timely and relevant. We encourage all of our units to go to CALL and get information so they can be up-to-date on the latest information.

The Army National Guard is working hand in hand with both the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) and the Pentagon's IED Task Force to improve training against IEDs for units deploying to OIF and OEF. CALL and the IED task force are developing web based and computer based distributive learning (DL) modules for Soldiers to access during pre-mobilization training, post mobilization training and while deployed in theater. The Army National Guard is assisting both organizations in developing IED and other needed DL training modules to enhance the individual soldier's readiness.

The Army National Guard has formal mechanisms for inserting lessons learned into unit training programs. The Distributed Battle Simulation Program (DBSP) prepares weekly post-mobilization Situational Reports (SITREPS) during each unit's post-mobilization training period. The report discusses the unit's training requirements based on the unit's Contemporary Operational Environment (COE) Mission Essential Task List (METL) and offers the use of this information for later deploying units. In addition, units returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) provide specific Area of Responsibility (AOR) lessons learned which are incorporated into training programs for other units prior to their mobilization. The Army National Guard's Battle Command Training Center (BCTC) at Ft. Leavenworth trains Battle Staff on key individual and collective command and control tasks. BCTC is resourced to deliver just-in-time training events for units anticipating alert and mobilization. Furthermore, the U.S. Army's Training Support XXI (AC to RC support) program uses lessons learned from the field to integrate Active Component operational experience directly into Reserve Component training. This helps ensure that Reserve Component leaders at all levels are receiving relevant training.

Prior to deployment ARNG units execute post mobilization training under the control of the Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command culminating in a multi-echelon training event called a Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX). One of the U.S. Army's major training centers hosts the MRX and ensures that training for each rotation is tailored to the current theater. This ensures that relevant tactics, techniques and procedures learned overseas are trained at home.

We are finding great value in incorporating the lessons learned into the training plans. The Combat Training Centers (JRTC/NTC) are replicating the area of operations to the best of their ability. The deploying Brigades live in areas, as they train, that represent Forward Operating Bases on the outskirts of local villages and have Arabic speaking personnel there constantly during training. Not all of our combat support and combat service support units (CS/CSS), the units getting hit with roadside explosive devices, are being given the opportunity to go through JRTC and NTC. The Training

Support Brigades (TSB) tasked with the pre-deployment training at other locations, are not able to provide the same level of threat replication. Our CS and CSS units need this experience of going through JRTC or NTC in a direct support roll, prior to deploying. We are now working toward providing all National Guard units the same outstanding collective training prior to deploying.

We have had some units that deploy more frequently than others. The War on Terrorism required that we activate every Military Police unit we have in the Guard today. Our two Special Forces Groups have played a major role as well. Our plan is to increase the number of our High Demand units as one measure to reduce the stress on these Soldiers. We have already begun converting some units into Military Police and plan to increase the number of Military Police by 12,000.

As National Guard commanders transfer both soldiers and equipment required by units for their assigned missions, we maintain one priority: Every Soldier in every unit will be certified for deployment in equipment and medical readiness prior to their movement to their area of operation. These transfers of equipment and personnel are essential elements in making units ready to perform their mission

In closing, we have the best Soldiers in the world today. We can ensure that they remain so by supporting their finances, families, and employers and providing reliable equipment and medical care. Army National Guard citizen-Soldiers are actively protecting our country, and they are proud to serve.

Thank You.