

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019**

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met at 10:00 a.m., in room SD-192, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Richard C. Shelby (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Shelby, Blunt, Daines, Moran, Hoeven, Durbin, Leahy, Tester, Udall, and Baldwin.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

**STATEMENT OF GENERAL JOSEPH L. LENGYEL, CHIEF, NATIONAL
GUARD BUREAU**

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR RICHARD C. SHELBY

Senator SHELBY. Good morning. This subcommittee will come to order.

I am pleased this morning to welcome our distinguished panel to review the budget requests of the National Guard and the Reserve components.

Today, the committee will hear from General Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau; Lieutenant General Charles Luckey, Chief of the Army Reserve; Lieutenant General Maryanne Miller, Chief of the Air Force Reserve; Vice Admiral Luke McCollum, Chief of the Navy Reserve; and Lieutenant General Rex McMillian, Commander of Marine Corps Forces Reserve.

Our Nation's active duty and reserve component forces are more fully integrated today than at any time in the modern era. Guardsmen and Reservists have been regularly called upon since 2001 to deploy in support of our Nation's contingency operations abroad and to protect our citizens at home. Through programs like the Guard's State Partnership Program, they participate in joint security cooperation activities with our international partners.

In 2018 now, as in years past, we have seen our Guard and Reserve forces called upon to assist local communities devastated by natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. And most recently, the President has announced his decision to send up to 4,000 National Guard troops to the southwest border in support of the U.S. Border Patrol's mission.

This level of integration and cooperation with active forces, domestic agencies, and international partners requires Guard and Reserve units to be sufficiently manned, trained, and equipped to handle their diverse mission sets.

Today, we thank all of you for your service and look forward to your update on the border development, as well as any resource challenges that you foresee as this committee reviews the fiscal year 2019 budget request.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR RICHARD C. SHELBY

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Now I turn to the Vice Chairman, Senator Durbin, for his opening remarks.

Senator SHELBY. At this point, I want to recognize the ranking member, the Vice Chairman, Senator Durbin.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR RICHARD J. DURBIN

Senator DURBIN. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to join you in welcoming our witnesses to this hearing to discuss the issues and priorities of the National Guard and Reserve.

Let me say at the outset, thank you to each and every one of you and to the men and women that you represent.

This hearing is quite timely, given the President's recent decision to deploy the National Guard to the southwest border, and his intention to use Department of Defense funds to build a wall there.

I ask unanimous consent, Mr. Chairman, to place into the record a letter that Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island and I sent to Secretary Mattis earlier this month. We requested Secretary Mattis' legal review of the Department of Defense's authority to use funds appropriated in the fiscal year 2018 defense bill to construct a wall.

This letter lays out the case that the Department of Defense has no legal authority to build a border wall with or without reprogramming because the President did not ask for, and Congress

did not provide, any funds that could be legally used for that purpose.

Many of us were also taken aback when the President tweeted he was deploying the National Guard to the border. The President's claim that we face a crisis at our southwest border is simply not supported by any evidence. And it is particularly ironic when the President has said repeatedly that illegal border crossings are at an all-time low.

I am concerned this Administration is diverting limited Department of Defense resources to the border to carry out a deportation agenda. Instead, the Administration should rethink its proposal to dramatically cut foreign aid to Central America, aid that would help address the violence driving women, children, and others to our border.

It is evident that the Pentagon was also taken off guard by the President's tweet. Two weeks after the President's announcement, the Department of Defense still could not provide any estimate as to how much this deployment will cost or who is going to pay for it.

Using past history as a guide, this deployment could easily cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Congress needs to know what is going to be cut from the Defense budget to pay for this. I hope that General Lengyel can provide some insight into the planning for this mission.

I must tell you, I have serious concerns about what an open-ended deployment will mean to the National Guard's readiness and the Guard members' personal lives, their jobs, and their families.

For 17 years now, our Nation has relied on the Guard and Reserve as an operational force, seamlessly working with the active duty force. It has been many years of high tempo. Under Secretary Mattis' leadership, each of you has made the readiness of your force your highest priority: renewing training efforts and modernizing equipment.

This committee has repeatedly provided the Federal funding that you needed for support.

I am eager for an update on your readiness levels and how we can further support you. I recognize that strengthening readiness has not been easy with continuing resolutions, threats of a shutdown, and sequestration looming. It has been start and stop, and still, you fulfilled your duties, and I thank you for this. That is not easy in any organization and not fair to our military and families who serve so selflessly.

You can count on me to work with our new chairman of this subcommittee, and the full appropriations committee, Senator Shelby, to get the fiscal year 2019 budget process started as soon as we can.

The three of us, who are sitting at this moment together, are old school. We remember the Senate Appropriations, and even the House Appropriations, committees that actually produced bills that were actually debated, that actually passed, and that actually became law. We would like to return to those thrilling days of yesterday.

We have other specific issues to discuss with the panel, water contamination caused by firefighting chemicals, cyber protection,

and equipment needs, to name a few. I look forward to that discussion.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator SHELBY. The letter from Senator Reed that you referenced, Senator Durbin, will be made part of the record in its entirety without objection.

[The information follows:]



April 2, 2018

The Honorable James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis:

Recent press reports have indicated that the President has instructed the Department of Defense to examine diverting billions of dollars appropriated to the Armed Forces to the construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Such a controversial move could only be funded by cutting other vital priorities for our service members, mere weeks after the Department communicated its needs to the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee during omnibus appropriation negotiations. We request your views on the legal authority of the Department to use funds appropriated for specific purposes in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018, for such a construction project.

As you are aware, appropriations made by the Congress are limited to the purpose for which they were intended, according to the Purpose Statute (31 U.S.C. §1301(a)). The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018, provides for the pay, operations, and equipping of the Armed Forces, but contains no provision making appropriations for constructing a wall along the U.S. border.

While the Act also provides for the transfer or reprogramming of funds among appropriation accounts, this reprogramming authority (section 8005) specifically requires that any funds so transferred shall "be available for the same purposes... as the appropriation or fund to which transferred," and that any transfer of funds shall be for "higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements," and "in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress." In other words, a reprogramming request cannot create a new purpose for any funds, all reprogrammings must be for unforeseen military requirements, and a reprogramming cannot undo a rejection by the Congress of funds for a certain purpose.

Furthermore, in 2006 and 2008, the Bush Administration requested funding from the Congress to support Operation Jump Start, in which the National Guard assisted the Department of Homeland Security in the construction of roads and fences along the Southwest border. In each of those years, the Congress specifically appropriated \$708 million and \$247 million, respectively, for "National Guard support to the Department of Homeland Security, including operating surveillance systems, analyzing intelligence, installing fences and vehicle barriers, building patrol roads, and providing training." This specific language that was requested in a budget amendment signed by President Bush on May 18, 2006, indicated that the Department of

Defense had no inherent legal authority to use appropriations for those more limited purposes at the time the President made the request.

Based on a thorough review of appropriations law, the text of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018, and the 2006 and 2008 appropriations made for the National Guard to conduct specific construction activities near the border, we conclude that the Department of Defense has no legal authority, with or without a reprogramming request, to use appropriated funds for the construction of a border wall. Further, since no funds have been appropriated for that purpose, we conclude that an expenditure of funds by the Department of Defense for the construction of a border wall would very likely violate the Antideficiency Act (31 U.S.C. §1341).

We ask that you review the availability of appropriations relating to diverting funds from the Department of Defense for the construction of a border wall, and apprise us of your views as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Durbin
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense


Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee

Senator SHELBY. General Lengyel, do you want to start.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF GENERAL JOSEPH L. LENGYEL

General LENGYEL. Thank you, Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Durbin, distinguished members of this subcommittee.

It is a pleasure to be here today.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit my full written statement for the record.

The National Guard consists of 343,000 citizen soldiers of the Army National Guard and 106,000 citizen airmen of the Air National Guard. They represent the finest National Guard in our 381 year history. I am honored to represent them along with their families, communities, and employers here today.

In the National Defense Strategy, the Secretary outlined the priorities of our military to deter war and protect the security of our Nation. In supporting the National Defense Strategy, my focus remains on our three primary missions: the war fight, defending and securing the homeland, and building enduring partnerships.

The Guard is tremendously appreciative for this committee's support in enabling us to accomplish these missions.

On any given day, approximately 20,000 men and women of the National Guard work seamlessly with the Army and Air Force as part of the joint force protecting our Nation's interests around the globe. With approximately 850,000 deployments since 9/11, Guard, soldiers, and airmen conduct complex operations that support every geographic combat and command. Your continued support allows us to leverage our years of combat experience to help confront current and future security challenges.

In the homeland, your investment supports, on average, about 8,000 Guard, soldiers, and airmen every day conducting domestic and homeland security defense operations.

The Defense Department is assigning our Guardsmen to support the Department of Homeland Security with its border security mission as we speak. These Guardsmen, who are under the command and control of your State governors, will be in support as DHS (Department of Homeland Security) continues to refine the requirements.

Your Air National Guard Fighter Wings are protecting the Nation's skies in 15 of the 16 aerospace control alert sites, including the skies over the Capitol here today.

The Guard has over 60 percent of the Department of Defense's chemical, biological, and radiological nuclear response forces that are strategically positioned throughout the United States.

Our Cyber Force will grow to 59 units across 38 States by fiscal year 2019 in addition to the existing 54 Army National Guard Defensive Cyberspace Operations elements.

Soldiers and airmen in our Counterdrug program, in coordination with law enforcement agencies and other partners, detect, interdict, disrupt, and curtail drug trafficking across our Nation. And the Army National Guard Ballistic Missile Defense Battalions defend the Nation against intercontinental ballistic missile threats.

On top of all of this, the National Guard stands ready to respond to emergencies such as hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding, as well as assist law enforcement during times of civil unrest; missions the National Guard performs with little or no notice.

Over the past year, 45,000 men and women of the National Guard responded to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria while simultaneously supporting wild land firefighters and other DOD (Department of Defense) missions across the States.

The National Guard was called 255 times and served more than 1.8 million man days, responding to homeland emergencies in fiscal year 2017, saving thousands of lives. Our presence in communities around the Nation uniquely postures us to respond when our communities need us most.

The National Guard's success in the war fight and homeland operations is a direct result of the enduring partnership we build with international, Federal, State, and local partners. Through the State Partnership Program, we currently partner with 79 nations. This low cost, high return program builds enduring partnerships based on mutual trust and generates contributions to coalition efforts around the world.

Today, the National Guard has co-deployed more than 80 times with partner nations on State, Federal, and local. Deep partnerships with the National Guard's unique authorities ensure a speedy domestic response during times of domestic crisis.

Our Nation is currently facing an ever-evolving security challenge. I am thankful for this committee's recognition in the support of your National Guard's role both in the homeland and abroad.

For instance, this committee's support of the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account allows our Force to improve its ability to perform across the broad spectrum of contingencies here at home and overseas.

Today's operational National Guard requires concurrent and balanced modernization and recapitalization with our active components.

This committee's commitment to modernization and recapitalization on platforms such as the F-35, KC-46, C-130J's, Blackhawks, HMMWV's, and other ensure the National Guard is a seamless, interoperable total force partner supporting our national defense.

Finally, funding for programs, such as the State Partnership Program and Counterdrug Program, allow the National Guard to leverage its unique attributes to strengthen relationships overseas and aid domestic law enforcement encountering illegal drugs.

Again, I am honored to be here representing the men and women of the National Guard and the families who support them.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to your questions.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF GENERAL JOSEPH L. LENGYEL

Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Durbin, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, it is a pleasure to be here today with my fellow Reserve Component Leaders.

Today's National Guard is the most relevant it has ever been. I have lived through the transformation of the Guard from a good, reliable, and competent strategic reserve, to a combat-tested and experienced operational force that works seamlessly with the Army and the Air Force. We are witnessing the best National Guard in our history, but there is more to be done as we face challenging times ahead.

As Chief of the National Guard Bureau, my focus every day is accomplishing our three core missions—fighting America's wars, securing the homeland, and building enduring partnerships. This past year, our Guardsmen and women performed these missions magnificently and I could not be more proud of their commitment and dedication.

As the new National Defense Strategy acknowledges, we live in an increasingly complex global security environment where the character of war is changing. We are no longer safe at home as the current threat environment blurs the lines between domestic and overseas threats, with many of these threats transcending regions and domains of warfare. We must compete globally, across the engagement spectrum. We must build a more modern, lethal, agile and resilient force to respond to these challenges and the increasing volatility of our security environment. Maintaining an operational National Guard, as a part of the joint force, is critical to this end.

WARFIGHT

Fighting America's wars will always be the primary mission of the National Guard. The National Guard supports the needs of the Nation, the Army, and the Air Force as an operational warfighting force providing strategic depth, designed with a balance of combat and enabling units that largely mirror our active Army and Air Force. As the primary combat reserve of the two services, the Guard is a critical element of the joint force.

The Nation needs a Guard that is ready, rapidly scalable and accessible with little or no notice for any contingency to meet any need. When mobilized and deployed, the Guard is interchangeable with its active components, providing the joint force highly trained capacity and capability for the fight. Further, today's National Guard Soldiers and Airmen expect to be deployed and then employed fighting and securing America's national security interests.

Thousands of Guardsmen and women serve around the globe on any given day. Today, we average around 20,000 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized in places such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, the Sinai, Europe, and South America. However, this is well below our level of mobilizations at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I believe we have the capacity to increase the number of mobilized Guard units over the next several years to support combatant commands around the world countering threats wherever they exist. Guard utilization can be maintained indefinitely when mobilizations are recurring, rotational, sustainable, predictable, and resourced.

HOMELAND

Here in America, the National Guard plays a unique role. Our dual-use nature and robust presence in 2,600 communities in our States, territories, and the District of Columbia, gives our National Guard the ability to quickly and efficiently respond to contingencies. Our experience and capabilities, gained from conducting complex combat operations, are utilized in coordinating a unified response across local, State and Federal agencies using the dual-status authorities that permit the Guard to be employed under State or Federal command during domestic emergencies.

The homeland is part of the global battle space. In the past, America benefited from its favorable geography with friendly neighbors to the north and south and large oceans to our east and west as natural barriers. Today, we no longer enjoy this safe haven as a result of new technologies and weapons that can reach the heart of America with little or no warning. Additionally, our competitors use cyber in various ways that include information campaigns as a means for influence. We must compete every day to safeguard our way of life.

Proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and high-yield explosive devices has increased the threat of a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) attack on the United States. Delivery mechanisms for these kinds of weapons have also multiplied, and our adversaries continue to probe for weaknesses in our defense. In any future conflict, space and cyber attacks will be the norm and will have extensive impacts on American civilians and our Nation's infrastructure.

In addition to around 20,000 Guardsmen and women mobilized around the world, on average, about 8,000 Guard Soldiers and Airmen conduct domestic and homeland security/defense operations in the United States on any given day. The National Guard Counterdrug Program assists law enforcement with the detection, interdiction, disruption and curtailment of illicit drug trafficking. We support governors and State agencies during emergencies by providing life-saving aid to devastated regions ravaged by disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes. We safeguard our skies by operating from 15 of the 16 Aerospace Control Alert sites within the United States. Guard battalions in Alaska and Colorado protect our citizens from ballistic missiles, a threat that is more immediate now than ever before. The National Guard also provides over 60 percent of the Department of Defense's chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) response forces, capable of responding to a host of CBRN threats to our homeland. National Guard cyber units will grow to 59 units across 38 States by fiscal year 2019 in addition to the already existing 54 Army National Guard Defensive Cyberspace Operations Elements.

This past year, the National Guard responded to Hurricanes Irma, Harvey, and Maria where a total of approximately 45,000 Guardsmen and women supported recovery efforts. Simultaneously, the National Guard supported wildland firefighting efforts across several States. The Nation had to galvanize its efforts and resources to provide resiliency and stability to the communities affected by these disasters. The National Guard was there every step of the way, and I could not be more proud of our Soldiers and Airmen. Further, we supported all of these events while we continued to meet our deployment requirements. We will utilize the experience we gained in responding to these recent disasters and benefit from lessons learned as we continue to improve and increase coordination with our partners in order to achieve unity of effort within a whole-of-government response.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

In today's security environment, threats are increasingly global and multiregional. As the National Defense Strategy outlines, our alignment with allies and partners provide a durable and asymmetric advantage over our adversaries.

Twenty-five years ago, the National Guard began its State Partnership Program (SPP) to assist the countries of Eastern Europe reform their defense sectors, improve preparedness, and develop leaders. With the recent signing of the Malaysia—Washington State partnership, the SPP has grown to include 79 nations, roughly one-third of the nations in the world, and more partnerships are planned for the future. We have seen the fruits of these relationships, which are built on trust, the exchange of ideas, and mutual respect. Our partnerships are located in strategic regions around the world and support the transition of many nations from security consumers to global security providers.

The SPP provides a low-cost mechanism that bolsters U.S. security by, with, and through allies and partners. By building these enduring partnerships, we secure partnerships and commitments and help develop new ones.

The National Guard's emphasis on partnerships did not begin with the SPP. Throughout our history, based on our State mission, the National Guard had the responsibility to safeguard our citizens. This naturally led us to build partnerships

with State and local agencies and officials. Today, we are part of multiagency integrated playbooks that governors use in planning for and responding to crises. States can call on us to augment their organic response as we bring what the Department of Defense brings, such as manpower, training, leadership, organization, logistics, and communications to help rebuild communities after a catastrophe. Developing cooperation and long-standing partnerships over time is a core competency of the Guard.

The National Guard is a community-based force with many of our members working and serving where they live. We're integral to the life of our local communities. Whether partnering with local chapters of Youth Challenge and Joining Community Forces, or assisting local responders after a heavy snowstorm, the saying is quite appropriate—when you call out the Guard, you call out America.

THREE PRIORITIES

This past year saw a confluence of factors shaping our security environment. Near-peer competitors continue to test longstanding international norms and engage in activities that are just short of conflict, yet whose actions provoke, disrupt, and destabilize the global order. Other nations such as North Korea and Iran not only threaten regional territories, but also our citizens here at home as they continue to fund terrorism and develop increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile technology. Catastrophic disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires challenged the limits and capacity of our responders.

In light of these challenges and those that lie ahead, I have laid out three priorities to respond to our current threats and capture my vision for the Guard's future—provide ready forces to the President and our Governors, take care of and develop our people, and innovation.

PRIORITY #1: READINESS

The past 17 years of continuous combat experience has instilled focused discipline into our training process. We are part of the Nation's operational force which regularly and routinely contributes to the warfight. Consequently, I believe we have the best relationship in our history with our active components.

In building a more lethal Joint Force as directed by the National Defense Strategy, the National Guard must ensure readiness. Readiness begins with our force structure and the Guard must have a balanced array of combat and enabling forces that largely mirrors the Army and the Air Force. Readiness also includes resourcing the National Guard through appropriate levels of full-time support, modernization and recapitalization of equipment, replacing and upgrading Guard facilities, and recruiting and retaining the best men and women to enhance the readiness of our force. Investment in high-level collective training opportunities, such as Combat Training Center rotations and Red Flag exercises, builds the readiness of the National Guard, develops leaders, preserves readiness in the active components for contingency operations and supports critical joint force requirements. Increased combat readiness also enhances our ability to respond quickly and effectively, saving lives and property in the homeland.

The Army maintains readiness as its top priority. The Army National Guard (ARNG), which comprises nearly 34 percent of the Army's manpower and provides approximately 39 percent of the Army's operational force, continues to provide rotational forces for named operations, enabling active component forces to support contingency plans. In addition, the Army Guard always remains responsive to governors in supporting civil authorities with such disasters as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and tornadoes—just as we did this past year.

In fiscal year 2017, the Army National Guard supported 68 exercises worldwide. Additionally in 2017, more than 150 Army Guard units participated in collective training exercises at Combat Training Centers which resulted in increased mission readiness. Beginning in 2018, the Army National Guard Combat Training Center rotations double, from two to four per year, for our Brigade Combat Teams.

At the forefront is maximizing unit readiness in order to reduce post-mobilization timelines. The ARNG recognizes the importance of modern facilities for today's Soldiers and their equipment. As we continue to invest in developing and improving installations and facilities for optimum training and efficient mobilization, we will develop leaders for the total force and, as always, maintain proper stewardship of our nation's resources.

The Air National Guard continues to utilize its multi-component dual-use capability at home and abroad. We work seamlessly with the Air Force and maintain the same standards of operational readiness and cross-component operational capabilities. Guard Airmen, comprising approximately a quarter of the Air Force's total

manpower, supported deployment requirements in 56 countries in fiscal year 2017. At home, our Airmen responded to raging wildfires and provided lifesaving support and comfort for victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. In addition, the Air Guard continues to protect our skies as the primary force provider for the North American Aerospace Defense Command. The Air National Guard is focused on readiness for today's fight while simultaneously developing 21st Century Guard Airmen and preparing for tomorrow's fight.

PRIORITY #2: PEOPLE

Our three core missions cannot be accomplished without our most important weapon system, our citizen warriors, symbolized by the Minuteman. They provide the foundation on which all our capabilities reside.

Our Guardsmen and women have been answering the call since the first militia regiments were organized in Massachusetts in 1636. While the underlying principles of the Minutemen remain constant, ready to defend our communities and our Nation, the Minutemen of the 21st century are a premier force that is a key component of the joint force. They are adaptive and innovative, often bringing diverse and new ideas on how to accomplish different missions.

In order to maintain this unique and talented force, we have to ensure the well-being of our Guardsmen and women, including support for our families and employers.

Respect throughout our ranks must be second-nature and we will always strive to be the most diverse force we can be. We will not tolerate acts such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and any forms of social media that degrade or demoralize unit cohesion and readiness. We must ensure all victims receive our utmost support and care.

With respect to suicides, any Soldier or Airman who takes his or her own life is one too many. We must ensure our service members look out for one another. Every first-line supervisor, battle buddy and wingman should have the requisite training that equips them to look out for fellow Soldiers and Airmen. We are emphasizing mental health and resiliency for our units and leaders as we strive to prevent suicides.

Our families also faithfully commit to our Nation, States and communities when a Guard member serves. We must take care of our families by ensuring they are aware of family readiness programs, employment assistance programs, and where to turn to when they need help.

Although the increased demand that is placed on the National Guard will add stress to the Guard's part-time force and our business model, we will continue to adapt. Guard Soldiers and Airmen offer employers a culture of selfless service, an immeasurable benefit brought to the job through their military training, experience and leadership. At the same time, the National Guard benefits from the civilian skills our men and women bring from their employers. To protect this business model, we must do our best to provide as much predictability as possible as we train our forces to answer our Nation's call. We owe this measure to our dedicated service members, their families, and our employers.

PRIORITY #3: INNOVATION

Innovation is inherently in the DNA of the National Guard. National Guardsmen and women bring unique solutions to different problem sets using their dual-life military and civilian experiences. For example, many of the scientists, engineers, and technology experts we see in the private sector, are also members of the National Guard.

I have created the National Guard Innovation Team which gives me a direct conduit to Soldiers and Airmen of all ranks who can lend their diverse expertise in tackling some of the most challenging issues we face as an organization. However, every Guard Soldier and Airmen should be empowered to be innovative. We all need to work together to find solutions for issues that can have wide implications for the Guard such as more effective organization, recruiting, communications, and employing social media more effectively. Looking at the spectrum of threats at home and across the world, we need innovative minds more than ever.

We need to harness the intellectual capital resident in the Guard. By developing imaginative solutions and inspiring our culture to be more willing to evolve and change, we will become a stronger, more efficient and effective National Guard.

CONCLUSION

I am proud to represent the 450,000 Soldiers and Airmen who serve in the National Guard. We are an organization steeped in history and tradition. However, I believe the best is yet to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the members of the National Guard and their families.

Senator SHELBY. Lieutenant General Luckey.

**STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES D. LUCKEY, CHIEF,
ARMY RESERVE AND COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES
ARMY RESERVE COMMAND**

General LUCKEY. Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Durbin, distinguished members of the subcommittee.

Thanks for the opportunity to appear before you this morning. It is an honor for me to represent the some 200,000 soldiers and the civilians of America's Army Reserve who, as I speak, serve in 20 time zones across the globe. On behalf of them and their families, I want to thank each of you for your support.

With a presence in 50 States, 5 U.S. territories, and 30 countries around the world, your Army Reserve is becoming the most capable combat ready and lethal Federal Reserve force in the history of the United States.

Over the past year, we have continued to refine our Ready Force X construct as the driver and intellectual forcing function for all aspects of manning, equipping, training, and deploying key capabilities on compressed timelines. As I tell our troops, RFX (Ready Force X) is a verb, not a noun.

At its core, RFX does two things. First, it is a way of seeing ourselves as a Force, from a readiness perspective, with high fidelity and within the context of joint staff validated war plans. It enables us to prioritize activities and target policies that get after manning, training, and equipping early deploying capabilities before mobilization. In essence, it anticipates and prioritizes what needs to be done first in order to dramatically reduce post-mobilization timelines.

Second, it forces commanders at echelon to realistically assess the amount of time they will need to finalize preparation of their units for combat, post-mobilization, and to commit to those timelines that are measured, oftentimes, in days and weeks, not months or years.

This is essential, because it enables us to articulate and mitigate both risk to mission and risk to force by clearly assessing the criticality of making mobilization decisions well before we expect some units to arrive in theater fully combat ready.

As America's Army Reserve becomes more capable and combat ready over time, we also remain consistently ready for our Defense Support to Civil Authorities' missions here at the homeland and on a moment's notice.

Last year, leveraging its immediate response authority, your Army Reserve conducted hundreds of missions to evacuate and rescue thousands of citizens in need, to transport emergency responders, and airlift lifesaving capabilities and medical supplies to generate power, purify water, open ports, clear roads, and deliver food, water, and supplies in support of Harvey, Irma, and Maria relief efforts.

That said, readiness remains this team's top priority. Last spring, America's Army Reserve conducted the largest crew-served weapons gunnery exercise in its history: Cold Steel II at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. This historic operation trained thousands of soldiers and hundreds of key raters now qualified to train and evaluate others, as well as reinvigorating the Non-Commissioned Officer corps of your Army Reserve and reinforcing our ethos of lethality. It was awesome.

This year, we are on our way to more than doubling down on the production of this force and this capability. Operation Cold Steel II started last October at Fort Hunter Liggett, California and it continues today at Fort McCoy Wisconsin, Fort Knox Kentucky, and will soon shift to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey as we move into the summer. It dwarfs Cold Steel One in terms of scope, complexity and throughput, and constitutes, once again, the most aggressive and productive weapons training in the 110 years of this team.

As we look to the future, your Army Reserve continues to assess shifting demographics and emerging markets as we position and posture structure to ensure that we continue to leverage and share the best talent in America with employers across the Nation. Targeting, in some cases, digital key terrain, your Army Reserve is driving to exploit its public-private partnership program, to develop and expand unique employment relationships with the private sector as a screening force for the Army and the Department of Defense.

Creating and moving new structures to key regions, to gain and retain talent in areas such as cyber operations, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, your team works closely with the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental, that is, DIUx, at the Department of Defense in Military District 5 here in Washington, D.C. and other critical defense-oriented entities. This initiative is already well underway and bearing fruit.

Finally, I want to thank the Congress and this subcommittee for your continued support of the Army Reserve to the National Guard and Reserve Equipping Appropriation, NGREA. This funding remains vital, and I can assure you that we leverage it to produce key readiness and lethality enhancing capabilities.

In closing, I encourage you to continue to reach out to the communities in cities, campuses, and employers in your State, and to influence the influencers within the sound of your voice. Let them know that we appreciate their full partnership in the national security of our great Nation. They are sharing the best talent in the world with America's Army Reserve.

We could not generate the capability we do for the Nation without their continued support. That sustained support is essential if we are going to continue to be ready enough to be relevant, but not so ready that our soldiers cannot keep meaningful, civilian jobs and supportive and healthy family lives.

On behalf of my entire team, we appreciate you, your support, and your leadership.

I look forward to your questions.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES D. LUCKEY

Ready Now; Shaping Tomorrow

Throughout its 110-year history, America's Army Reserve has always met the challenges of the time. Leveraging its broad and pervasive presence on, and connections with, Main Street America, the Army Reserve has consistently demonstrated its ability to build and sustain readiness, and provide unique and critical capabilities to the Army and the Combatant Commands at a massive cost-savings to the American people. These times are no different.

As the Army's sole, dedicated Federal reserve force, America's Army Reserve has been preparing and posturing its forces to respond quickly to evolving threats from multiple sources. In 2016, we embarked upon an effort to significantly increase the readiness of our forces and close interoperability gaps with the Joint Force. Today, some 30 percent of Army Reserve units are charged with maintaining higher levels of peacetime readiness to reduce post-mobilization training time, and both risk-to-mission and risk-to-force, in the event of war.

These units, organized into the construct of Ready Force X (RFX), are pre-identified based on contingency plans, to mobilize and deploy on short timelines as part of critical "Fight Fast" formations. Some RFX units will provide unique and essential early-entry and set-the-theater capabilities to support Army requirements in contested environments across multiple domains. Others are tailored to support Army efforts to rapidly expand the critical mobilization platforms needed to generate the deployment through-put as needed on behalf of the American people. Still others provide operational depth, acknowledging that hostilities in one theater may tempt other competitors to become opportunistically adventurous in another. All these forces are being methodically identified, prioritized, trained and postured to move fast, engage quickly and win decisively on the battlefield of today.

This urgent press to build sufficient readiness to meet the demands of a large and sudden contingency operation, driven by this new threat paradigm we face today, has the potential to increase stress on our Army Reserve Soldiers, families and employers. We acknowledge and accept the daunting challenge it creates, which is to be ready enough to be relevant, but not so ready that our Soldiers cannot keep superb civilian employment and maintain healthy, rewarding and balanced lives with their families.

This is no small order, but this is no ordinary team. A combination of engaged leadership, a realigned and dynamic command and control structure, a reformed and innovative training strategy, and enhanced time-management flexibility for junior commanders at echelon, will help mitigate increased pressure on the Soldier. We are also re-tasking and redesigning our Family Support Program to include regionally-oriented, organically-nurtured programs that support the family. Finally, the Army Reserve will continue its persistent engagement with influencers and employers across America to reinforce the strategic partnership between Main Street and America's Army Reserve to employ the Nation's best talent in support of the American people.

Looking to tomorrow, your Army Reserve will continue to assess, innovate, and shape as we lean into the future. Our aggressive initiative to anticipate and be informed by emerging demographic trends in the United States, will enable us to integrate, scale and—where necessary—realign force structure and facilities to better recruit and retain critical talent for the Army by being well-positioned to meet and support our Soldiers where they live and work.

Leveraging new systems and policies, America's Army Reserve will explore and, where appropriate, operationalize innovative ways to attract, "hire" and leverage the rapidly developing "digital talent" that exists in the private sector for the good of the Army and the Nation. In short, we will do more than prepare for tomorrow; we will shape it.

Ready Now, Shaping Tomorrow is not just a slogan. America's Army Reserve—capable, combat-ready and lethal—is ready to fight fast today, and innovate for tomorrow, in support of the Army's mission to fight, survive and win the Nation's wars.

THE STATE OF THE ARMY RESERVE

With a presence in all 50 States, five U.S. territories, and 30 countries across the globe, America's Army Reserve provides operational capability and strategic depth to the Army and the Joint Force in support of U.S. national security interests and Army commitments worldwide.

The Army Reserve comprises nearly 20 percent of the Army's organized units, almost half its total maneuver support, and a quarter of its mobilization base-expansion capacity. Its unique status as both a component of the Army and a singular

Command imbues it with the flexibility, agility and unity of effort needed to respond to any mission at home or abroad, often with little notice.

Manned, trained and equipped primarily to enable combat formations, the Army Reserve provides quick access to trained and ready Soldiers and units, and the critical enabling and sustaining capabilities the Army needs to win. These include key strategic and operational capabilities such as Petroleum Pipeline and Terminal Operations, Rail Units, Biological Identification Detachments, Broadcast Operations, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations, a variety of Military Police capabilities, Military Intelligence, Horizontal and Vertical Construction, as well as Combat Engineers, Assault Aviation, Logistics, and an array of Medical Commands and formations.

Engaged globally, the Army Reserve plays an integral role in America's national defense architecture, meeting high operational tempo demands, generating forces as required, and providing reliable capabilities to all Combatant Commands.

Since 2001, more than 310,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been mobilized and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Theater Security Cooperation, Foreign Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Homeland Defense, Defense Support of Civil Authorities, and other missions at home and around the world.

Today, nearly 15,000 Army Reserve Soldiers are supporting global combatant command operations to include Civil Affairs missions in the Horn of Africa, deterrence operations in Kuwait, Military Police operations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Medical Support operations in Honduras.

Without doubt, today's Army Reserve is the most combat-tested and experienced force in its history, but to remain ready to win in an environment that grows daily in lethality and complexity, we must build the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal Federal reserve force in the Nation's history.

MEETING THE NEW THREAT PARADIGM

The emerging threat paradigm is characterized by extraordinarily capable potential adversaries who could contest and disrupt U.S. military operations across all domains—land, air, sea, space and cyberspace. This potential reality expands the modern battlefield beyond anything we have known in terms of tempo, lethality, and operational and strategic reach. Our ability to match and outpace potential adversaries is essential to ensuring freedom of maneuver, while also strengthening our deterrence posture and assessing the resolve and capability of key global allies.

The commanding lead in technical innovation, once enjoyed by the US military, is now subject to challenge by emerging competitors. Moreover, the fast pace of change in the private sector—in areas of quantum computing, artificial intelligence, robotics, computer & materials science, medicine, and genetic research and engineering, to name a few—has, in the main, been driven by profit-motivated markets that can, in many cases, be characterized by regions, communities or, in some cases, specific corporate entities. This pace has accelerated to the point where private/public partnerships are, arguably, an essential element of National Security.

In this evolving global security environment in which both U.S. technological supremacy and vital national interests are subject to challenge by States who potentially possess both the means and proclivity to challenge U.S. dominance in critical areas and non-State actors who may acquire capabilities to acutely challenge our forces for discrete attacks, the mandate is clear: increase the readiness of Army Reserve forces—primarily units with a bias for action—in order to enable them to deploy and engage on short notice. This focus on readiness, of both individual Soldiers and action oriented units, drives the Army Reserve's strategy for manning, training, and equipping its "Fight Fast" formations and adds credence to the Nation's deterrence posture.

Readiness is our first priority, and full-spectrum threats demand full-spectrum readiness. In addition to sustaining the counter-insurgency and counterterrorism capabilities we have developed, the Army Reserve must be ready to respond to evolving threats in several theaters, and be prepared for the warfighting demands of large-scale, nearly simultaneous contingencies in more than one of them. Should they materialize, these contingencies would require significant and rapid mobilization, and require lead formations from America's Army Reserve to provide technical enabling capabilities crucial to opening, synchronizing, and sustaining major operations.

In this new threat paradigm, the time-tested model of rotational readiness will no longer suffice. Our traditional "patch chart" approach will not generate the significant surge capacity that such contingencies—arising quickly with little strategic indications and warning—will demand. To that end, the Army Reserve must now focus its training, equipping and manning priorities to meet the challenge of gener-

ating full-spectrum readiness for a Ready Force of tens of thousands of Soldiers who can deploy to the fight in a matter of days and weeks. This work includes having sufficient critical Army Reserve enabler capabilities and ensuring there are no interoperability gaps in areas such as mobility, lethality, battlefield communications and mission command systems.

Ready Force X

In an environment in which the rapid mobilization and deployment of lead formations is critical to massing and sustaining combat power, the Army relies upon the fundamentally integrated and unique capabilities of America's Army Reserve to fight and win. To that end, as noted earlier, your Army Reserve has continued to refine and develop Ready Force X (RFX) as the driving force for all aspects of manning, equipping, training, and deploying key capabilities on the compressed timelines that certain contingencies mandate. While this remains a work in progress, much advancement has been made.

RFX units will have the ability to deploy rapidly—in some cases days or weeks—with the mobility, survivability, lethality and netted mission command architecture to synchronize with the Total Force and win on the battlefield. While RFX units may be missioned, primarily, with an eye towards one contingency, their key organizing aspects are readiness and agility. Put simply, they must be ready to “Fight Fast.” Whether it be opening ports, setting the theater with critical enablers, constituting and operating mobilization support platforms for the Total Force, or supporting maneuver forces in contact with the enemy, RFX units need to be ready to move quickly to a wide-variety of contingencies.

RFX units comprise critically integrated capabilities for the Army. In some instances they consist of capabilities that are unique to America's Army Reserve and have, essentially, no analogue in either the Active Army or the National Guard. Key aspects of petroleum distribution, rail operations, theater-level engineer and aviation operations, civil affairs, and psychological operations are but a few examples of such formations. In other cases, they are capabilities that, while not exclusively the province of the Army Reserve—critical medical units, a wide array of sustainment capabilities, and multiple maneuver support formations to list but a few—form a large percentage of the Army's total capacity and are likely to be needed on compressed timeliness. These requirements drive the mandate: certain units must be able to achieve a high degree of pre-mobilization readiness and sustain it over time. Readiness begins with the individual American Soldier. Fit, medically-ready, appropriately trained, and conditioned, the deployable Soldier is the foundational element of capability. Upon this foundation we build the collective capability of units-of-action that are manned, trained, equipped and—above all—led to genuine combat-readiness. In RFX formations, this effort requires, in addition to motivated and committed leadership, persistent energy and a dogged determination to focus on those mission-critical tasks that must be accomplished now since there will be little to no time upon mobilization.

At the core, RFX is two things. First, it is a way of prioritizing activities and focusing decisionmaking—personnel policies, training schedules, equipping timelines, modernization priorities, etc.—with a view towards those things that must be done quickly in the event of a contingency or surge requirement. Second, it is a lens that forces commanders to access, in conjunction with a potential wartime requirement, the amount of time they will need to prepare their unit for combat, but also to view that assessment considering when the Combatant Command has determined that the capability will be needed, in the battle-space, and fully mission capable. That lens is what enables leadership to see the risk of not being ready to “Fight Fast,” because it bounds the problem and clarifies the risk.

RFX is not a rotational-readiness construct. Units in it, to include early-entry/set-theater capabilities, and other formations meeting specific Combatant Command requirements, will be appropriately manned, trained, equipped, and maintained in place until further notice to enhance stability within the force and enable the Army Reserve to build and sustain individual and collective readiness. Leveraging the Army's Sustainable Readiness strategy, strategic depth units will remain sized, trained, and postured, as required, to protect the Nation and its interests, to include Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA).

Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities

With Soldiers and equipment in more than 1,100 communities across the Nation, America's Army Reserve is uniquely postured to employ capabilities critical to Homeland Defense and DSCA. These include search and rescue, aviation, engineer, transportation, medical, water and fuel distribution, water purification and communications support.

Operating under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, America's Army Reserve supports local, State and Federal agencies as part of the synchronized Federal response force coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that fills the capability gaps of Civil Authorities, conducting operations to save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate property damage. Operating under the guidelines of the National Response Framework (NRF), and in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), America's Army Reserve provides an immediate and deliberate response in support of the American people at their time of greatest need. As with their brothers and sisters in the Army Guard, Army Reserve Soldiers live and work in local communities across the country and around the world, and they stand ready to support on no-notice.

Over the past year, in anticipation of Hurricane Harvey's landfall, your Army Reserve prepared and positioned capabilities to be ready to support on a moment's notice, and then—pursuant to Immediate Response Authority (IRA)—executed dozens of missions to rescue and evacuate well over 4,000 people, transport emergency responders, and airlift life-saving medical supplies throughout the greater Houston metroplex. Similarly, your Army Reserve Soldiers provided massive IRA support in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, providing key port-opening capabilities, road clearance operations, water and fuel distribution, and water purification operations in support of thousands of devastated survivors.

More than 2,000 Army Reserve Soldiers from the Puerto Rico-based 1st Mission Support Command and other Reserve units on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands responded to local and Federal requests for assistance. Placed under the unified command of an Army Reserve Brigadier General immediately after Hurricane Irma struck, these units provided critical and orchestrated capabilities setting the stage for operations after Maria's devastating blow. These operations included movement of life-saving commodities, mortuary affairs, power restoration, opening of roadways, support of the U.S. Coast Guard in opening the Port of San Juan, and enabling additional support to the Federal Government's effort to assist the Commonwealth and the Territory. Your Army Reserve Soldiers, living in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, cleared access corridors to hospitals and positioned civil affairs capabilities to better orchestrate medical support to local civilians.

Water purification units, like the 973rd Quartermaster Company, provided more than 12,500 gallons of safe water per day to people who had no access to potable water. Army Reserve Convoys transported pallet-loads of bottled water, thousands of meals, and gallons of freshly purified bulk water, and distributed well over 100,000 gallons of fuel in support of local authorities.

Twenty-one personnel from Delta Company, 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), were on the ground in Puerto Rico repairing distribution lines. Delta Company, the only Army unit comprised solely of linemen, placed an average of 10 power poles per day, and repaired more than 52,800 feet of distribution lines, connecting over 3,500 clients to the power grid.

America's Army Reserve fields a significant portion of the Nation's chemical and biological agent defense capabilities, many of which are fully integrated into the standing Department of Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Response Enterprise. An Army Reserve mission force comprised of units assigned to the CBRN Command and Control Element conducts critical enabling tasks for CBRN response operations in support of if called upon, these highly trained Soldiers support civil authorities to save lives, minimize human suffering, maintain public confidence, and mitigate the effects of CBRN incidents.

Leveraging the Civilian Skills

Many of America's Army Reserve Soldiers have years of civilian experience and industry-specific knowledge, expertise and skills in cyber, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and other advanced-technology fields. Your Army Reserve has already moved rapidly and decisively to position force structure across the United States to assess and develop "digital key terrain". Intended, broadly, to both better understand the rapidly developing technologies in the private sector of the global economy and to exploit the Army Reserve's unique ability to leverage its pervasive presence in that sector to bring additional capability to the Army, this initiative is well underway. Working closely with partners in both the public and private sectors, your Army Reserve is playing to its strength—finding some of the best talent in America and weaving it into the National Security fabric of America.

We will continue to explore and exploit opportunities to draw upon our civilian-acquired or civilian-retained skills, and to leverage our relationships with industry and academia, while also capitalizing on evolving demographic shifts in the population. But one example from an operational perspective: Army Reserve cyber Soldiers support a myriad of missions to include cyber protection of critical infrastruc-

ture networks. Army Reserve Cyber Operations Group Soldiers are employed by more than 30 government agencies and contractors, including the Department of Homeland Security, the National Security Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Intelligence Agency and more than 40 corporate, financial and academic institutions, such as Uber, Google, IBM, MIT, Carnegie Mellon University and the Naval Post Graduate School. This is but the beginning.

Families and Employers

Readiness is built and sustained by garnering and retaining the support of both our families and, for America's Army Reserve, the employers who enable us to serve the Army and the Nation. The reason for this is as simple as it is self-evident: in a Nation that depends upon an all-volunteer force for its survival, if you are unable to hold the support of our families and fellow citizens, you do not have an Army. Families who feel embraced, appreciated, and integrated into the Army Reserve are our key enablers. Similarly, the unwavering support of employers for Army Reserve Soldiers often determines their ability to continue to serve the people of the United States as an American Soldier.

Translated into action, this reality requires a coherent and integrated approach whereby a variety of Family Support programs and initiatives are leveraged to support Families and sustain a sense of community and mutual support in spite of the geographic dispersion of our units and Soldiers who are spread around the world. Sustaining employer support becomes an even more complex and demanding challenge when seen in the context of the Army's appropriate reliance upon the Army Reserve to generate the requisite combat power the Nation requires. Persistent and persuasive engagement with employers and the communities in which they reside, through a variety of outreach tools, is the key to reminding American businesses of the essential linkage between their patriotism and national security. We cannot, and will not, throttle back on this effort. Our U.S. Army Reserve Ambassadors, Public-Private Partnership Program and community support initiatives at the local level are all critical enablers in this push.

By way of example, the Army Reserve maintains an around-the-clock capability to support our Soldiers and Families. The Fort Family Outreach and Support Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, provides a direct conduit to command and community resources with comprehensive and confidential information, assistance, and referrals for every aspect of military life. Moreover, the Army Reserve Volunteer Program promotes and strengthens volunteerism by uniting community volunteer efforts, enhancing volunteer career mobility, and establishing volunteer partnerships.

Our Survivor Outreach Services Program maintains a family's connection with the Army family in times of loss, regardless of a fallen member's duty status or component. Child and Youth Services helps geographically dispersed Soldiers and families find affordable childcare and youth supervision options within local communities. Army Family Team Building is a readiness training program to educate Army Families about military life. These and other Family Readiness programs support more than a quarter of a million dependents in America's Army Reserve. They are initiatives that have proven themselves effective repeatedly.

Our Private Public Partnership (P3) program directly serves to meet the demand signal of attracting and retaining talent. Within the P3 program, America's Army Reserve develops, integrates, and fosters relationships between Army Reserve Soldiers and private and public-sector organizations. P3 has established an extensive network of partners that include not-for-profit and for-profit organizations and has helped establish veteran specific employment initiatives through a teamwork approach with employers—a win for both teams.

Suicide Prevention

In America's Army Reserve, suicide prevention is the shared responsibility of commanders, leaders, Soldiers, Family members, and Army civilians at all levels and our efforts are a key component to personal unit readiness. Ensuring prompt access to quality care is an essential component of suicide prevention but we must also reduce risk, and one of the greatest risks is stigma. In the Army Reserve, we are working to eliminate the stigma associated with seeking help for suicidal thoughts or feelings, and are working to provide supportive environments for those with emotional and psychological issues.

The Army Reserve is diligent in raising awareness of the many tools and resources available to increase individual resiliency and eliminate the incidences of suicide. For example, Military OneSource provides free financial counselors for military members facing serious financial issues—a key suicide risk factor. The Comprehensive Soldier Fitness (CSF) Program helps Soldiers learn resiliency and have the tools to grow through demanding experiences. The Army Reserve's Fort Family

Outreach Support Center (1-866-345-8248) provides assistance for Soldiers and Families in need. The Army Reserve is unleashing the power of the team to take care of our teammates and eliminate suicides within our team.

Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention

There is no place for sexual harassment and assault in the Army Reserve. America's Army Reserve is a family, a close-knit team. Sexual harassment and assault is an attack on our team, and it is not tolerated. Just as we would not let anyone hurt our immediate family members, we will not let anyone harm a member of our Army Reserve team and our unit readiness.

The leaders at all echelons of the Army Reserve are the shields of trust for each Soldier. We must have high levels of mutual trust to get after those who would break that bond. As the shields to our team, the entirety of the Army Reserve is committed to 1) Protect victims, provide compassionate care, protect their rights and privacy, and prevent sexual assaults from occurring in the first place; 2) Report every allegation, ensure they are thoroughly and professionally investigated, and take appropriate action based on the results of those investigations; 3) Create a positive command climate and an environment of trust and respect in which every person can thrive and achieve their full potential; 4) Hold individuals, units, Commanders and leaders responsible for their actions or inactions; 5) Fully engage the chain of command, and hold it accountable for everything that goes on in the unit. America's Army Reserve is fully committed to eradicating instances of harassment and sexual assault, caring for the victims, and holding those who commit such egregious acts accountable.

SHAPE AND GROW THE FUTURE FORCE

Staying current with force structure changes, unit positioning, leader development, and leveraging emerging technologies, capabilities and opportunities are key aspects of the agility the Army Reserve will use to shape and grow the future force. The positioning of force structure, units and capabilities is a vital part of developing tomorrow's Army Reserve. Building for the future means ensuring that America's Army Reserve not only anticipates and flexes to meet new and emerging force structure requirements, but that ready units are positioned where future Soldiers are living and working in their chosen fields. Aligning force structure and unit locations with trending demographics will also help overcome perennial recruiting and retention challenges.

Developing agile leaders who can thrive in a full spectrum environment, are capable of making hard decisions under stress, and can operate in a complex and potentially digitally-disrupted or austere environment is a key component of our strategy to shape and grow the future force.

The Army Reserve's deep connection to the private sector is a substantial advantage in understanding and exploiting cutting-edge technology advances and capabilities, such as those in the cyber domain. For example, we are already positioning structure to support high tech-focused Department of Defense (DoD) initiatives leveraging "digital key terrain" in select locations in the United States, and seizing on further opportunities to draw upon our civilian skills and relationships with the private sector to meet critical needs of the Army.

Finally, infrastructure is also a critical component of generating readiness. No one installation is ideally suited to providing first-class training to all formations at all times of the year. Training platforms—their location, capabilities, and limitations—must be assessed and leveraged in a manner that optimizes their ability to provide relevant, combat focused training experiences for Army Reserve units, and maximizes their ability to increase the combat-readiness of discrete, capable units in the minimum time possible.

Resourcing and Sequestration

Consistent funding is critical to ensuring that America's Army Reserve can meet the needs of the Army and Combatant Commands across the range of military options. We are grateful to Congress for the recent agreement to increase the discretionary budget caps for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. If sequestration budget caps return in fiscal year 2020, the Army Reserve will incur significant risk in training, facility restoration and modernization, and equipping and modernization programs vital to winning the Nation's wars. To date, the Army Reserve has managed to fund training for critical units.

Sustaining critical operational capabilities requires consistent, adequate, and predictable funding over time. Past budget uncertainty and the 2013 sequester have negatively impacted modernization and equipping investments. To ensure Army Reserve units are ready when called upon, Army Reserve Training Centers that sup-

port Home Station training requirements must be adequately resourced and properly configured to maintain quality facility conditions.

The velocity of technology change continues to outpace the Army's modernization strategy and the resources required to procure and sustain the most modern equipment across the entire force. Given Army priorities and resources levels, the Army Reserve is at risk striving to maintain battlefield commonality. Risk is particularly acute for the Army Reserve in Mission Command Systems, to include battle command systems, tactical radios, and satellite transport platforms. Moving forward, America's Army Reserve will focus its innovation efforts on units that must be postured to provide critical early entry and set-the-theater capabilities.

From fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016, the National Guard and Reserve Equipment account (NGREA) funding allocated to the Army Reserve enabled investments in tactical wheeled vehicles (\$164 million), engineer equipment (\$28 million), simulations (\$23 million), and field logistics (\$21 million). Using fiscal year 2017 NGREA funds, the Army Reserve will procure Critical Dual Use (CDU) items, including Logistics Automations Systems, Bridge Erection Boats, Power Distribution Systems and Scrapers in support of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA).

AMERICA'S ARMY RESERVE: CAPABLE. COMBAT-READY AND LETHAL

America's Army Reserve is a capable, combat-ready, and lethal team providing critical capabilities to Army Service Component Commands and all Combatant Commands. Although the threats to America are dynamic and increasing every day, your Army Reserve remains a highly effective and responsive force for the Nation. As it has since its founding in 1908 as the Medical Reserve Corps, today's Army Reserve—anchored in civilian employment and local communities across the Nation, and highly trained and educated in 148 different military career fields—stands ready to serve the Nation at home and abroad. America's Army Reserve—a force of technically and highly skilled Soldiers, leaders, and units: Capable. Combat-Ready. Lethal.

Senator SHELBY. Lieutenant General Miller.

**STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MARYANNE MILLER, CHIEF,
AIR FORCE RESERVE, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

General MILLER. Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Durbin, and members of the subcommittee.

I am truly honored to have this opportunity to report to you on the state of the Air Force Reserve.

I am joined today by Chief Master Sergeant Ericka Kelly, Command Chief for Air Force Reserve Command.

On any given moment, on any given day around the world, 6,500 active citizen airmen, stationed stateside and deployed around the world, are supporting our Nation's defense.

There is no distinction between our Active Guard and our Reserve Airmen. They are lethal. They are privileged to defend this great Nation. Honored to serve alongside our joint partners and allies, and we are ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

At our core, we are seasoned then to fight and experienced in every mission set of our Air Force. Our civilian experience is a great asset in all that we do, and we never fail to leverage that experience in our military duties, whether it be as a pilot, an aircraft maintainer, a security force airmen, firefighter, cyber defender, or medical expert.

We succeed because of the support of this great country, of our Congress, this distinguished committee, our employers, and most importantly, our treasured airmen and their families.

Over the past year, we have committed to amplify our readiness in accordance with the National Defense Strategy by growing Reserve in growth commiserate with the joint force demand, expanding our total force recruiting initiatives, and increasing our flying

hour program. We also remain focused on our Weapon Systems Sustainment program to ensure we sustain the fight into the future.

We are recapitalizing vehicles and support equipment, and increasing the lethality and survivability of our weapons system, all of which rely heavily on the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account Appropriation. Thank you very much for the support of this account from this committee.

During last year's hearing, I spoke about the pilot and aircraft maintainer retention challenge. Today, the flight line manning of our part-time citizen airmen force remains very strong. However, the steady state demand for airline pilots and civilian industry aircraft maintainers continues to impact the retention of our full time technician force.

In response to these challenges, we have implemented bonuses, incentive pay, and special salary rates for our pilots and our maintenance force. Though this approach has positively impacted retention, it may not be sufficient for the long term.

We need to continue to discuss other fulltime support options and incentives with your staffs, and we need to garner support for these options to improve our manning over time.

Our Nation's Air Force Reserve is strong. We are a resilient force of airmen, civilians, and contractors postured to ensure that we preserve our foundational strength. Our Nation depends on the daily operational capability and strategic depth that we provide. We will continue to sharpen our edge and improve our readiness to win any fight at any time.

We are focused on recruiting essential talent and retaining critical skills to expand our competitive edge across all domains. America's Air Force Reserve continues to treasure and strengthen that bond between the citizens of our Nation and the airmen who answer the call to defend our freedoms.

I am honored to represent all of our airmen and their loved ones today and I thank this committee for your enduring support, and I look forward to your questions.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MARYANNE MILLER

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

America's Air Force Reserve, an essential and integral component of the United States Air Force, faces a more complex and demanding environment than we have seen in generations. Great power competition has reemerged as the central challenge to U.S. prosperity and security and our relative advantage in air and space is eroding.

As a Major Command growing back to 70,000 Airmen, the Air Force Reserve stands ready, as a principle contributor in all Combatant Command areas of responsibility, and in response to those who challenge U.S. prosperity and security. As a Major Command with Airmen rich in combat experience and years of engagement in conflict zones, our strength is still our seasoned talent, steeped in experience and postured for ready response.

Aligned and postured with the National Defense Strategy, we are building an even more lethal and ready force, strengthening alliances and partnerships, and continuing to deliver greater, more affordable results across the domains of war. We are tailoring our Command to the right size and mix of agile capabilities to compete, deter, and win in joint and combined warfare.

AMERICA'S AIR FORCE RESERVE IN DEMAND

The Reserve is indispensable day to day in every joint force operation, with over 6,500 Airmen serving on full-time orders around the world in all core missions of the Air Force. Our first responsibility is to integrate seamlessly with unmatched lethality as an equal member of the Total Force.

The Reserve is integral in all five Air Force core missions by providing:

- Air and Space Superiority . . . *freedom from attack and freedom to attack.* As we continue to build a lethal force, we are emboldened by years of combat experience. The talent of Reserve Citizen Airmen in dominating air and space domains, distinguishes America's Reserve as high threat in any aggressor's risk calculus.
- Global Strike . . . *any target, any time.* Over 1,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen and their bombers project nuclear deterrence and strike lethality across the globe as a counter to inter-state strategic competition and terrorism.
- Rapid Global Mobility . . . *delivery on demand.* The Reserve's 24,000 Airmen contributing to Air Mobility solidifies our Air Force's ability to frustrate the adversaries efforts and preclude their options while expanding our own, selecting the time and place of our choosing as the world's most resilient and agile air mobility force.
- Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) . . . *global eyes and ears on adversaries.* The fiscal year 2018 Reserve focus, in response to the joint warfighter demand, establishes a new ISR Wing, 2 ISR Groups, 14 Intelligence squadrons, and adds 9 intelligence targeteers—supporting all four layers of the National Defense Strategy Global Operating Model.
- Command and Control . . . *right info, right person, right time.* America's Air Force Reserve holds a critical role in Total Force command and control, employing three squadrons dedicated to Combatant Command's Air Operation Center's steady state and surge activities—employing the AN/USQ-163 Falconer Air and Space Operations (AOC) Weapons System and directly supporting service and joint staffs. These units ensure both Pacific and Central Commands are postured with command, control, and communications capabilities that project joint force lethality.

AMERICA'S RESERVE ALIGNED WITH AIR FORCE STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Air Force Reserve budget request of \$5.1 billion for fiscal year 2019, builds on the progress made in 2018, to amplify the readiness of the force, project lethality, and cost-effectively modernize. Sustaining these efforts requires predictable, sufficient, and flexible budgets.

In alignment with our Service and National Defense Strategy, our budget prioritizes long-term readiness supporting Air Force Reserve contributions in the Pacific and European theaters. Our Reserve focus continues to be readiness through theater specific training sets and weapon system modernization that addresses increased peer competition in today and tomorrow's battle space.

Associations with our Active Component remain the foundational organizational construct of our Air Force Reserve where two thirds of all Air Force associations reside. Associations ensure we continue to capture seasoned active airmen for continued service, leverage scarce resources in organizational efficiencies and improve our lethality through shared training and combat experiences. The bottom line is that Association models leverage unique strengths of each component to capitalize on recruitment, retention and readiness.

CONTINUING EFFORTS

Some elements of this budget continue programs and strategies that are underway:

- Amplify Readiness.*—America's Air Force Reserve always trains to the same standards and maintains the same level of readiness as the Active Component. We balance our baseline budget of a Strategic Reserve with the day-to-day operational demands of our force. We are in an age of constant global competition where the Air Force Reserve, while funded as a strategic resource, is essential as a daily operational contributor. We are reviewing opportunities to change the strategic model of "part time—full time" Airmen to leverage Reserve operational lethality without breaking strategic readiness.
- People.*—Reserve readiness requires manpower end-strength commensurate with global demand. In fiscal year 2019, we seek an increase of 200 positions, primarily to support Force Protection and Special Operations Intelligence growth areas. As we increase the base of Reserve Citizen Airmen, our personnel

programs must adapt as well. As a retention initiative in our critically manned pilot and maintainer community, we will continue to propose a change in law to allow Tricare Reserve Select for our Title 5 Air Reserve Technicians. This effort, along with a rebalance of full-time support across our squadrons, will bolster recruiting and retention in critical skills areas.

- Nuclear Deterrence.*—Central to the projection of Total Force nuclear response, the Reserve is postured in disciplined readiness with B-52 aircrews as a key enterprise contributor. The initiative to develop replacement engines for the B-52 will capitalize on the lethality of this proven aircraft and the seasoned Reserve Citizen Airmen that employ them.
- Space Superiority.*—We have 11 space units in America’s Air Force Reserve which align under Air Combat Command and Air Force Space Command—10 Classic Associations and 1 national level association. Our Classic Association partnership supporting the Space Test and Training Range at Schriever Air Force Base ensures readiness of the only range of its kind in the Defense Department. Increased budget proposals led to an overall increase of 55 positions throughout the 26th Space Aggressor Squadron.
- Multi-Domain Command and Control.*—The Air Force budget proposal focused on modernizing seven E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft will continue to ensure our Airmen in our Classic Association unit stand ready to employ one of the world’s most sophisticated Command and Control resources.
- Air Superiority.*—Years of seasoned combat experience are a hallmark of America’s Air Force Reserve Citizen Airmen who fly the most sophisticated 5th generation fighters in the world. The Air Force 5-year plan and associated fiscal year 2019 budget capitalizes on the Reserve’s seasoned experience by directly increasing the overall manpower within our F-35 schoolhouse by 72 positions, enhancing electronic warfare, and control of the electromagnetic spectrum across the air superiority enterprise.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Improving Warfighting Readiness.—Readiness is first and foremost about having enough trained people. We are recruiting to 343 pilot and 2,143 maintainer vacancies. To expedite recruitment, we increased pilot training selection boards from 2 per year to 6 per year; in maintenance, Office of Personnel Management delegated Direct Hiring Authority to the Office of the Secretary of Defense to reduce accession times.

As we continue to bolster our lethality, we leverage five major levers of readiness; Critical Skills availability, Training Resource availability, Weapon System sustainment, Flying Hour Program, and Operations and Personnel Tempo. The flexibility in balance between levers of readiness gives the business model its strength, as each lever is mutually supporting.

Funding for Weapon System Sustainment in the fiscal year 2019 budget accounts for 76 percent of the program’s baseline. Leveraging of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding increases our program to 83 percent of our baseline request. The Air Force Reserve seeks a stable and predictable budget by reducing reliance on OCO funding and increasing our baseline budget.

The Reserve capacity to execute additional increase in our baseline exists with the retention of the A-10, C130H and the KC-135 and associated costs in system sustainment of these mature platforms.

In the Flying Hour Program, we seek a \$49.7M increase from fiscal year 2018—a total of \$739,194,000. This increase ensures sufficient funding of higher cost C-17 hours as one of our wings converts from C-130s to C-17s. It also adds flying hours in support of the buyback of two, eventually eight, C-5 aircraft. Additionally, hours are added for the fielding of the KC-46 program. The budget increase supports the capacity of Reserve resources (aircrew, maintenance, and aircraft) to execute the Flying Hour Program.

Strengthening Alliances.—The Air Force Reserve, in alignment with the Total Force, will continue to build on our efforts to assist our allies and partners in times of peace and war. The diversity of our Reserve Citizen Airmen remains a unique and valuable attribute to maturing existing and future partnerships and alliances. America’s Air Force Reserve hosts one of the nation’s top Foreign Military Sales training wings led by Citizen Airmen. The wing refines partner and ally nation’s fighter pilots and maintainers into a robust constellation of lethality ready to prevail in conflict and preserve peace through strength.

CONCLUSION

The Air Force Reserve will remain an integrated, flexible, and lethal force of Airmen indispensable to the fight across the domains and across the globe. We continue to build and shape our combat force for the future ever focused and always vigilant of the reemergence of great power competition. Thank you for your tremendous support of America's Air Force Reserve.

Senator SHELBY. Vice Admiral McCollum.

STATEMENT OF VICE ADMIRAL LUKE M. MCCOLLUM, CHIEF, NAVY RESERVE, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Admiral MCCOLLUM. Good morning, Chairman Shelby, and Vice Chairman Durbin, and distinguished members of the subcommittee.

It is my distinct honor to report on the state of the Nation's Navy Reserve.

As we meet here this morning, we have over 16,000 Reserve sailors operating with distinction in support of operations here at home and abroad. The part of the 59,000 strong Reserve force in the Navy, trained and ready to serve anywhere our country asks them to, and are focused on ensuring that our Navy is the most lethal in the world.

Without the unwavering support of their employers, and their families, and Congress they would not be the force multipliers they are today. And I believe I speak on behalf of my colleagues with me that we offer our most sincere thanks.

Before I go, I would like to take the time to introduce the Navy Reserve's newest Force Master Chief, Chris Kotz, sitting right behind me. Master Chief, thank you for joining me today.

The mission of the Navy Reserve is to provide strategic depth and to deliver relevant operational capability to rapidly increase the agility and lethality of the total Force. To be ready to do so, we must maintain our focus on readiness, capacity, and ultimately, lethality.

The primary enablers to achieve this are discretionary RPN and NGREA flexible funding. Your continued support in ensuring these accounts remains robust, consistent, and predictable is critical to maintaining our force readiness.

Additionally, I cannot stress enough, and you already mentioned this, sir, the importance of fiscal year 2019 appropriations commencing on time. And like the active component, the shutdowns have an immediate impact to the Reserve Force. And just the shutdown alone in January, reduced the medical readiness of the entire Force by 8 percent.

One of our top priorities is recapitalizing the aging Navy Reserve equipment, which is critical to ensure the highest levels of readiness and interoperability.

As one example, before an aircraft carrier strike group is certified for deployment, the Navy Reserve plays an integral role in providing adversary support using the Reserve F/A-18 alphas to train active duty fighter squadrons. However, these aircraft represent the oldest planes in naval aviation. And while they do provide critical service, there still exists potential interoperability gaps between the Reserve and Active components.

The recently signed 2018 appropriation was instrumental in addressing the immediate needs and getting the C-130 fleet airborne. And it also begins to address the longer term recapitalization need.

The KC-130 Juliet procurement, the replacement of the 24 aging C-130's is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2023 with three aircraft. And your continued support of this program will ensure the Navy Reserve's ability to fulfill our fleet essential airlift requirement.

As it relates to the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance mission, the Navy continues to review requirements for aircraft as they fully transition from P3's. Included in this review is how the Navy Reserve will continue to support this mission with its aging P3 fleet. Without recapitalization, the squadrons in Whidbey Island, Washington and Jacksonville, Florida will decommission in 2023.

In closing, I could not be prouder of our Navy Reserve Force. Every time I set foot in one of our operational support centers, aviation squadrons, or visit our sailors around the globe, I come away inspired and encouraged, as you might imagine. Their motivation and morale is high.

Our dedicated Navy Reserve war fighters take great pride in continuing to serve and the unique civilian skills and innovative mindset they bring to the war fighter are priceless assets that increase the war fighting lethality within the total Force.

On behalf of the Navy and the Navy Reserve, I thank the members of the committee for your support, and I look forward to answering your questions.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF VICE ADMIRAL LUKE M. MCCOLLUM

Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Durbin, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, as Chief of Navy Reserve it is my distinct honor to report to you on the state of the United States Navy Reserve and to discuss our fiscal year 2019 budget request.

The value of the Nation's investments in the Navy Reserve cannot be overstated. Our force is comprised of 59,000 citizen sailors from every State and territory. Historically comprising less than 2 percent of the Navy's total annual budget, Navy Reserve Sailors have mobilized over 81,000 times to every theater of operation since 2001, including 2,961 personnel in fiscal year 2017. On any given day, 20 percent of the Reserve force is operating, delivering critical support to our forces around the globe. As a perpetually-ready surge capability, operationally integrated with the total force, your Navy Reserve continues to deliver scalable lethality in defense of our Nation. On behalf of Navy reservists and their families, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support. The work of the defense committees makes this capability possible.

FORCE STRUCTURE

Today's force structure is the result of Navy's imperative to optimize the interoperability and operational effectiveness of the Navy Reserve. Due to Active/Reserve integration efforts over the past 15 years, Reserve Sailors train and work alongside Active Component (AC) counterparts and units. Integrated partners in the Navy total force, Reserve Sailors provide a rapid response to calls for support, often on short notice. Additionally, Reserve Component (RC) hardware units, aligned and integrated with AC unit training and deployment cycles, are force multipliers through mission augmentation that provide surge capacity to Combatant Commands worldwide.

Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command operates six regional headquarters and 123 Navy Operational Support Centers (NOSCs), located in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and Guam. NOSCs collectively serve as drilling locations and provide administrative support to over 1,400 RC units. NOSCs reside on and off DoD installa-

tions, a mix of stand-alone facilities, Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Centers, and joint Armed Forces Reserve Centers.

Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve comprises three air wings, two Joint Reserve Bases and one Naval Air Facility. Fleet Logistics Support Wing and Tactical Support Wing reside at Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, TX, while Maritime Support Wing is headquartered at Naval Air Station North Island, CA. Naval Air Forces Reserve Joint Reserve Bases are in Fort Worth, TX, New Orleans, LA, and the Naval Air Facility is in Washington, D.C. In addition to these stand-alone commands, the Navy Reserve operates multiple Squadron Augment Units which directly support various AC Navy squadrons around the country. Navy Reserve owns and flies approximately 150 aircraft supporting the Navy total force.

Commander, Naval Information Force Reserve, Ft. Worth, TX, is executive agent for nine of 28 multi-service Joint Reserve Intelligence Centers (JRICs) located throughout the country. These facilities provide fully capable intelligence and cyber warfare centers enabling wartime readiness through training and operations, and real-time intelligence support to Combatant Commands, Combat Support Agencies, the intelligence community, and Navy fleets.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

In 2017, Navy Reserve continued its century-long tradition of supporting Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Operations, contributing to overseas contingency operations in every Area of Responsibility, increasing the collective lethality of our total force. Navy Reserve offers a unique response capability and range of options to Combatant Commander requirements—from mobilization of an entire unit to activation of a single Individual Augmentee Sailor. This model delivers increased flexibility, with both operational capacity and strategic depth for the total force, in a dynamic global security environment.

In mid-January, over 3,000 Navy Reservists were mobilized, 1,076 were preparing to mobilize, and 188 were de-mobilizing. These sailors support Combatant Commands around the globe, and individual mobilizations add to the broad and diverse operational support missions Navy Reserve executes on a daily basis, including Expeditionary Warfare, Naval Air Warfare, Fleet Air Logistics, Cyber Warfare, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, and Shipyard Maintenance. One example is Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, 50 percent of which is composed of Reserve Component Sailors.

READINESS

Navy Reserve's #1 guiding principle is warfighting. We are a ready and lethal military force, maximizing value to the Nation by modernizing the way we do business. We work hard to efficiently and effectively support the Active Component, while making optimal use of talented Reserve Sailors to increase total force capability. We develop Sailors who are "Ready to Win". This concept accelerates the impact of Navy Reserve's mission in the new competitive global environment, through four key focus areas:

- Resourcing the manning, training, and equipment that delivers Navy Reserve capabilities to the fleet;
- Leveraging Reserve Sailors' civilian skills and partnerships with industry and academia;
- Enabling Sailors to more effectively provide warfighting capabilities through innovative application of technology and supportive policies; and,
- Simplifying the way Reserve Sailors support the fleet.

RESOURCE

Fiscal Predictability

Predictable and dependable funding ensures that Navy Reserve Sailors are able to provide consistent and timely operational support to the Total Force. Discretionary Reserve Personnel, Navy (RPN) funding is the primary fiscal means by which the Navy Reserve provides this support. Current RPN funding level supports 31 percent of Combatant Commander operational demand. Your continued support to ensure robust, consistent, and predictable RPN funding is the most important enabler for maintaining readiness and Navy Reserve mission accomplishment.

Equipping the Force

The Navy Reserve provides additional capacity and lethality to the total force. To maximize this capability, aircraft recapitalization is without question Navy Reserve's number one equipment priority—critically important to supporting the warfighter. Almost 16 years of increased operational tempo within a constrained

procurement environment has taken its toll on the aircraft and equipment that RC sailors operate. Navy Reserve's integrated force structure depends on the ability to quickly and seamlessly assimilate with active units to execute the mission. Accordingly, Navy Reserve depends on the availability of modern, compatible hardware to support the AC fleet.

The Navy Reserve air logistics component, made up entirely of RC sailors, fulfills the Navy's requirement for Navy Unique Fleet Essential Airlift capability. Operating C-40A and C-130T aircraft, Navy Reserve executes 100 percent of the Navy's organic air logistics support mission providing responsive, flexible, and rapidly deployable air logistics support required to sustain combat operations at sea. We appreciate this committee's support, which permitted Navy Reserve to purchase two additional C-40A aircraft which, once delivered to Kaneohe Bay, HI, will fulfill the risk-adjusted wartime inventory requirement of 17 aircraft. Meanwhile, our C-130T aircraft average age is 23 years, and maintenance issues heavily impact their reliability. Since the C-130T propeller grounding bulletin was issued by Naval Air Systems Command in September of last year, the Navy Reserve C-130T fleet has been grounded until critical maintenance is completed. This event has degraded Navy's organic lift capability, further highlighting the value to the total force. Accordingly, Navy has committed to recapitalizing these assets with KC-130Js, an exceptional and proven system, already operating in DoD, which ensures the foreseeable security and capability of Navy Air Logistics. There are currently three such aircraft programed into the President's 2019 budget with procurement set to begin in fiscal year 2023. Finally, to address the short and medium term impacts of the C-130 grounding, the Navy Reserve is replacing the legacy propeller system with an upgraded system currently in use on Navy E-2 Hawkeyes. This proven system has also flown for over 5 years on Air Force C-130s, ensuring continued safety and viability of our legacy C-130T fleet until KC-130J recapitalization is complete.

The Navy is addressing much needed RC strike-fighter aircraft recapitalization requirements. The 31 F-18A + legacy Hornets assigned to Navy Reserve squadrons include some of the oldest in operation, and are unable to deploy. Significant maintenance issues limit aircraft availability as these squadrons struggle to meet their operational mission, while system compatibility limitations hamper fulfillment of their strategic reserve role. In the near term, Navy plans to recapitalize RC F/A-18A + aircraft with F/A-18C/Ds from the active duty fleet. When the AC completes the transition from legacy Hornets to Super Hornets and begins transitioning squadrons to the Joint Strike Fighter, an eventual transition of RC Hornets to later generation strike fighters will be possible. This recapitalization is directly linked to improved depot throughput and timely AC recapitalization through procurement of advanced strike aircraft. The additional 10 F/A-18s included in the fiscal year 2018 budget and 24 in the fiscal year 2019 budget request help increase the pace of this program and continued attention will help improve Navy Reserve's timeline for recapitalization.

Navy's surge capacity within the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force consists of two RC patrol squadrons operating legacy P-3C Orion aircraft. These squadrons comprise 13 percent of Navy's current Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capacity and provide Combatant Commanders with a vital asset. Previous fiscal constraints have prevented transition to P-8A aircraft for the Navy Reserve resulting in the shutdown of the two Reserve squadrons in Whidbey Island, Washington, and Jacksonville, Florida in 2023.

The overall health of the nine Navy-hosted JRICs is second to none. Each year, the Joint Reserve Intelligence Program recognizes one of the Service's JRICs that best demonstrates the core values of the program: promoting Jointness, providing flexible access to allow tenants to meet mission needs, and providing first class facilities and staff support. Since 2002, Navy JRICs have won the award nine times, with JRIC Minneapolis, MN winning in 2017. Although Navy hosts less than a third of all JRICs (9 of 28), they have won 60 percent of these annual awards.

JRIC Norfolk, VA is currently undergoing a multiyear, \$10 million renovation to bring this aging facility up to current day operational standards. In New Orleans, LA, we are executing Military Construction to build a new JRIC, repurposing an existing building, to build a state of the art intelligence facility. In Denver, CO and Jacksonville, FL the JRIC server rooms are under renovation, correcting deficiencies and increasing operational capabilities. Across all JRICs, plans are underway to modernize our security systems and networks protecting our facilities, providing secure classified facilities for Reservists throughout the country.

LEVERAGE

Civilian Skills

Many skills possessed by Reserve Sailors add invaluable expertise and capability to the total force. In some cases, RC Sailors' civilian skills have provided unique capabilities in critical mission areas not specifically cultivated in the AC. Conversely, the military training and professional development provided to Reservists make them more capable leaders in their civilian communities. Citizens who serve in the Navy Reserve strengthen the bond with the American public, while educating families, employers, and communities about military service. Whether a tradesman, first responder, executive, or licensed professional, Navy has long benefitted from the civilian experience and maturity of RC sailors. Most recently, Navy has called to serve Digital Warfare experts, Advanced IT Programmers, and Additive Manufacturing Experts, because of their specialized capabilities across critical mission areas.

Having a pool of ready civilian professionals across numerous mission areas is an invaluable strategic capability that only a Reserve force can provide. Going forward, the Navy Reserve is reevaluating and improving processes in order to more completely capture and leverage these abilities. This unique combination of civilian and military experience and skills offers diversity of thought and insight, which inspires innovation and acts as a force multiplier. There is no question that, on a daily basis, specific civilian skills are being utilized across the total force.

ENABLE

Transformation

Navy's Manpower Personnel Training and Education (MPT&E) Enterprise is undergoing a holistic, end-to-end, transformation of business processes and information technology systems. MPT&E Transformation is built around four fundamental pillars: Overhaul Processes, Modernize Information Technology Systems, Develop a Single Source of Data Truth and Comprehensive Analytics, and Create World Class Sailor Self Service. Together these pillars will improve personnel customer service, data and data reporting accuracy, auditability, and permeability between the active and reserve components.

Two information technology systems will work together to provide necessary processing, data retention and reporting: The Navy Personnel and Pay system and the Authoritative Data Environment. Navy MPT&E is also shifting to a centralized, and standardized, customer service model, which will ensure data input is faster and more accurate, while providing greater access to the metrics necessary for performance monitoring and improvement. Standup of the My Navy Call Center will include a dedicated Shared Service Center Reserve Branch, in which Reserve active duty personnel/pay transactions will be centralized. Combined, these efforts will improve and simplify Navy's support to our Reservists, thereby enhancing Reserve support to the total force.

Mobile Technology

Every Reserve Sailor's time must be focused, to the greatest possible extent, on the mission and not on administrative overhead. As such, mobile access to the myriad of Navy IT systems is a key enabler for Navy Reserve Sailors to maintain mobilization readiness and perform their mission requirements. In conjunction with Navy's MPT&E Transformation and Sailor 2025, the Navy Reserve is both consolidating and modernizing the various systems that enable and manage readiness, while improving access to those systems. Navy Reserve has taken a full-spectrum approach and has partnered with industry to produce creative and advanced IT solutions, such as allowing Sailors to conduct business using a mobile application that grants access to various Navy IT systems, a cloud-based pilot to provide Sailors 24/7 access to office productivity and collaborative tools, and expanded Navy NOSC Wi-Fi capabilities to maximize use of personal devices during drill weekends. Collectively, these solutions reduce the time and effort required to meet readiness and training requirements.

Employers

Our Nation's Reserve forces rely heavily on the sacrifice and dedication of local employers in each member's home State to support the Nation's hundreds of thousands of Reservists. Many companies provide flexible work options for both drilling and deploying RC service members. Some companies go above and beyond that which is required by law, and continue to support RC members with pay and benefits while activated, to reduce any potential pay gap during Reserve activation. For both large and small companies, this sacrifice can be considerable. Most importantly, supportive employers send a clear message to RC members that they need

not worry about their civilian jobs when called to serve. The value of this simple message cannot be overstated—an employer’s level of cooperation, support, and encouragement is directly related to the productivity and mission focus of RC members when they put on the uniform, and ensures that Reserve service remains a viable option for their employees. Employer support remains a vital component of the success of the entire RC, and Navy Reserve goes to great lengths to recognize supportive employers each year through various programs and initiatives.

FAMILIES

Not only do our Reservists’ employers enable our total force, they support the families of those Sailors who also bear a great burden. Through our robust suicide prevention and resilience programs, such as the Returning Warrior Workshop, Psychological Health Outreach Program, the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Operational Stress Control, and Navigating Stress for Families, the Navy Reserve strives to minimize stressful impacts on families, during and following mobilization.

In spite of all the world-wide pressures we face every day, our Reserve citizen sailors have become incredible managers across three paradigms—military service, civilian employment, and family stability. Please allow me to brag about a few of these great servant leaders. One Petty Officer from Allentown, PA is a Reserve crew chief, serving over 100 days a year in locations around the globe. She also works for a print media company in her hometown, all the while, raising 2 young adults. One Reserve Commander from San Diego, CA has command of a three plane Reserve squadron while growing a restaurant franchise and raising a family of five. In addition, in 2015 he volunteered as an Individual Augmentee to the Middle East. Bottom line, the sacrifices our citizen sailors make are nothing less than astounding.

SIMPLIFY

Duty Status Reform

Currently there are dozens of statutory authorities used when activating RC personnel. RC Duty Status Reform is complex and often confusing; as such, multiple studies have been initiated beginning as early as 1999. DoD has developed a proposal to reform the current RC duty status construct, and has begun working on draft legislation due to Congress in April 2019, pursuant to Section 513 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018 (Public Law 115–91).

Access

Navy has become increasingly reliant on regular and reliable access to the RC since September 11, 2001. Under the Presidential Declaration of National Emergency, the Services and Combatant Commanders have relied on involuntary mobilizations under title 10, United States Code, section 12302. However, when National Emergency declaration lapses, RC access would be limited to service performed pursuant section 12304b, which provides involuntary access only for pre-planned missions of units supporting Combatant Commander requirements. In addition, there are differences in benefits the Department provides to Reservists depending on the mobilization authority under which a member has been activated.

CONCLUSION

America’s Navy Reserve stands ready. Our proud citizen Sailors continue to carry on the tradition of supporting the Navy, Marine Corps and joint force wherever, and whenever, called to serve. The Navy Reserve will continue to ensure our warfighters have the tools needed to effectively and efficiently accomplish the mission. Through stable and predictable RPN funding and through recapitalizing our aging aircraft we will increase the overall readiness and become a more lethal warfighting force. I look forward to working with you and I thank you for your continued support.

Senator SHELBY. Lieutenant General McMillian.

STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL REX C. MCMILLIAN, COMMANDER, MARINE CORPS FORCES RESERVE, COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES NORTH

General MCMILLIAN. Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Durbin, and distinguished members of the subcommittee.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify on behalf of the Commandant of the Marine Corps about your Marine Corps Reserve.

I am honored to be here with my fellow Reserve component service chiefs. Also with me today, is my Force Sergeant Major Scott Grade and my Force Command Master Chief Ryan Strack.

I have been at the helm of Marine Forces Reserve for two and a half years, and I am pleased to inform you that your Marine Corps Reserve is thriving.

Morale remains high, as evident by the Reserve component end strength climbing to 99 percent of our total requirement. Our reenlistment rate increased over 25 percent during the past 3 years, all while the demand for Reserve support to combat commanders' requirements continue to rise.

The responsibility that we carry in Marine Forces Reserve is to be able to respond tonight and on a moment's notice with fully manned, trained, equipped, and superbly led compatible units that can instantly and seamlessly plug-in to active component formations.

The critical capabilities provided by the Marine Forces Reserve to the total Force increase the lethality of the Corps and contributes to the competitive advantage maintained over our adversaries.

At any given time, Marine Forces Reserve stands ready to provide a brigade sized element of Reserve Marines and sailors, fully trained for combat operations, ready to move, shoot, and communicate across the battlefield. And to support the active component in order to form a total force fight tonight capability, while the remainder of our force remains poised to augment and reinforce, given appropriate amounts of pre-deployment training based upon their wartime mission assignments.

I would like to leave this distinguished body with two thoughts on how continued support from Congress can result in a more lethal Reserve force.

Number one, Reserve Marines have 38 training days per year and every scheduled event is preparation for combat. Missed training opportunities are often unrecoverable in terms of personnel, materiel, and training readiness while morale and retention of the force suffers.

During the shutdown on January 20, almost 8,000 personnel across 62 units had their drill weekend canceled or reduced, resulting in lost training opportunities.

I cannot afford to lose one minute of training for our Nation's most precious assets, our young volunteer men and women that make up your Marine Corps Reserve.

Therefore, I cannot overemphasize how a lapse of appropriations negatively impacts readiness across the Reserve force, and I thank you in advance for your continued support through timely appropriations.

Number two, the Marine Corps Reserve benefits from the annual National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation. I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support of NGREA and would appreciate greater spending flexibility within this appropriation in order to procure critical shortfall items and modernize equipment systems.

I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and I look forward to your questions.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL REX C. MCMILLIAN

Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Durbin and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, it is my privilege to appear before you and provide an overview on the current state of the Marine Corps Reserve.

As the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps testified, fiscal instability, resulting from persistent Continuing Resolutions and looming and actual government shutdowns, produce the most significant risk to our readiness. Reserve Marines have 38 training days per year (24 inactive duty days and 14 annual training days). Missed training opportunities are often unrecoverable in terms of personnel, material, and training readiness, while morale and retention of the force suffers. During the orderly shutdown on January 20, 2018, two to three training days were lost. Some units had multi-day or week-long exercises which were cancelled or cut short. Ultimately, 7,793 personnel across 62 units (20 percent of Marine Forces Reserve) had their readiness impacted due to their drill weekend being cancelled or reduced, resulting in lost training opportunities.

Although these lost opportunities negatively impact the Reserve Component's ability to serve side-by-side with their Active Component counterparts, your Marine Corps Reserve has been fully engaged across the globe over the past 16+ years of combat operations—serving as an essential shock absorber and force multiplier. Our focus remains on maintaining the ability to provide manned, trained, equipped, and well-led forces capable of augmenting, reinforcing, and supporting the Active Component. With your continued support, it will further strengthen our readiness and ensure we remain ready to fight and win across the range of military operations and in all warfighting domains.

A Total Force

The United States Marine Corps remains the Nation's forward deployed, agile, Expeditionary Force in Readiness. As the Commandant of the Marine Corps previously stated, we are one Marine Corps—a Total Force Marine Corps. For approximately 8 percent of the Department of Defense (DoD) budget, your Corps provides the American people with an exceptionally capable, extremely affordable, immediately responsive, and lethal national security force. As an integral part of the Total Force, the Marine Corps Reserve plays a key role in providing that national security force.

The critical capabilities provided by the Marine Corps Reserve to the Total Force increases the lethality of the Corps and contributes to the competitive advantage maintained over our adversaries. Over the past year, the Marine Corps Reserve supported combatant commanders by providing forces focused on combat operations, crisis prevention, crisis response, and theater security cooperation. Global deployments, along with participation in Service, Joint, and multi-national exercises, develop the depth of experience of the Reserve Force, ensuring the Marine Corps Reserve is relevant, ready, and responsive to meet combatant commanders' requirements for highly trained general-purpose forces.

In 2017, more than 810 Reserve Marines mobilized supporting 28 operational requirements in five of the six geographic combatant commands. Likewise, nearly 10,940 Reservists participated in 96 training exercises, supporting requirements in 43 countries across the globe. These activations included support to U.S. Northern Command during Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria. Utilizing 12304a activation authority, Marine Forces Reserve provided the rapid deployment of 745 Marines for recovery efforts. Additionally, 196 Reserve Marines volunteered to serve as individual augmentees, providing support to combatant commanders and Service staffs. Marine Forces Reserve filled 40 percent of the total Marine Force individual augment requirements and increased its deployment by 50 percent in the last 2 years. This high quality and quantity of opportunities persist in the current year, as the demand remains high for your Marine Corps Reserve—for perspective, the Marine Corps deployed eight Reserve formations in 2001, compared to 140 Reserve formations in 2017.

In 2018, Marine Forces Reserve will continue to support the combatant commanders by mobilizing in excess of 2,500 Reservists and almost 12,000 Marines for a multitude of theater-specific exercises and security cooperation events. These operations and exercises greatly increase the Reserve Component's interoperability with the Active Component, Joint Forces, and our allies.

The demand for the Marine Corps' unique capabilities has increased, requiring more Reserve Component activations of units and ad hoc formations to produce enabling capabilities across the range of military operations. For example, Marine Forces Reserve increased the participation of Marines filling the emerging security force and advisory requirements in southwest Afghanistan. In addition, for the third year in a row, we have mobilized and will deploy a task-organized Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force to U.S. Southern Command in support of theater security cooperation objectives. Activations of whole units followed the increase of ad hoc formations. Reconnaissance and amphibious assault vehicle platoons activated for support to III Marine Expeditionary Force's requirements in Okinawa, Japan. Later this year, we will activate 2ND Battalion, 23D Marines which will also deploy to Okinawa.

Marine Forces Reserve continues to provide daily support to combatant commanders in a wide range of roles that include multi-lateral exercises, such as Saber Strike 18 in Latvia, Gulch Freedom Guardian 18 in South Korea, and Maple Resolve 18 in Canada. I anticipate Marine Forces Reserve will continue to deploy and integrate with the Active Component to meet combatant commander high-priority requirements through the use of existing mobilization authorities.

In addition to participating in operational requirements across the globe, Marine Forces Reserve supports the Total Force by dutifully executing the sensitive and crucial mission of providing casualty assistance to the families of our fallen Marines. There is no responsibility that we treat with higher regard than the solemn mission of providing casualty assistance. Inspector-Instructor and Reserve Site Support Staffs are geographically positioned to accomplish the vast majority of Marine Corps casualty assistance calls and are trained to provide compassionate and thorough assistance to families. Indeed, the majority of Marine Corps casualty notifications and follow-on assistance calls to the next of kin are made by our Marines. During Calendar Year (CY) 2017, our Inspector-Instructor and Reserve Site Support staffs performed 80 percent of the 193 casualty calls performed by the Marine Corps.

The professionalism and compassion of our Casualty Assistance Calls Officers (Cacaos) continues well beyond the initial notification. We ensure that our Cacaos are well trained, equipped, and supported by all levels of command through the combination of in-person and online training. Once assigned, the CACO serves as the family's central point of contact and coordinates with funeral homes, government agencies, and other organizations. They assist family members with planning the return and final resting place of their Marine; and ensure the filing of appropriate documents is completed so that the family receives all benefits to which they are entitled. In many cases, our Cacaos provide a long-lasting bridge between the Marine Corps and the grieving family.

Additionally, Marine Forces Reserve units and personnel provide significant support for military funeral honors for our veterans. The Inspector-Instructor and Reserve Site Support staffs, with augmentation from additional Reserve Marines, performed more than 20,000 military funeral honors, which represented 93 percent of all funeral honors rendered by the Marine Corps during CY 2017. As with casualty assistance, we place enormous emphasis on providing timely, compassionate, and professionally executed military funeral honors, although this comes with a cost to readiness—as some Marine Reserve units are executing in excess of 250 funerals per year, impacting their ability to maintain or increase readiness.

Finally, Marine Forces Reserve serves as the most wide reaching link between the Marine Corps and communities across the Nation. We are the face of the Marine Corps to the majority of the American public. With Reserve units located across the country, Marine Forces Reserve is uniquely positioned to interact with the public and communicate the Marine Corps story to our fellow citizens; most of whom have little or no contact with the Marine Corps. For example, last year Marine Forces Reserve personnel and units conducted more than 500 local and regional public engagement and community relations events across the country.

Predictability

Our Force Generation Model provides a level of predictability for force planners and our Reserve Marines, while maintaining the "train as we fight" philosophy. The Model provides our Reservists, their families, and their employers the ability to plan for upcoming duty requirements 5 years and beyond. This empowers service members to achieve the critical balance between family, civilian careers, and service to our Nation while enabling informed employers to plan for and manage the temporary absence of valued employees.

We ensure units and personnel are ready to meet any challenge by employing a Force Generation Model that rotates Marine Reserve units through a 5-year Training and Readiness Plan. At any given time, the Force Generation Model enables the

Reserves to provide combat ready units and detachments based on major contingency operation plans and the Corps' Force Management Plan. This ready bench includes Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Companies, Civil Affairs Groups, large-scale logistical augmentation, four infantry battalions, artillery and aviation capabilities, as well other critical enabler. In total, more than 4,000 Reserve Marines and Sailors are prepared to augment and reinforce Active Component forces rapidly in support of a contingency response or as part of a theater security cooperation mission.

The key element in the Force Generation Model is the consistent integration of Reserve units, detachments, and individuals into Service, Joint and multi-lateral exercises, thereby building increasing interoperability over the plan's 5-year cycle. Generally, units are assessed through a culminating Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) during the fourth year of the training cycle. Seamless integration with the Active Component in training exercises is conducted in the United States and abroad; this training facilitates the Active and Reserve Components interoperability, thus achieving success with the Total Force Marine Corps.

Personnel

Marines, Sailors and our civilian Marines are the foundation of all that we do. The resources we dedicate to sustaining and developing this foundation directly contribute to the success of our institution. The vast majority of the Marine Corps Selected Reserve's authorized end strength of 38,500 fall under Marine Forces Reserve. The Selected Reserve is composed of Marines in four categories: Selected Marine Corps Reserve Units, Active Reserve, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and service members in initial training. Embedded with these Marines are 1,800 Active and Reserve component Sailors who serve critical roles in the operational, medical, dental, and spiritual readiness of our Reserve Force. The success of Marine Forces Reserve would not be possible without continued support from the U.S. Navy.

In addition to the Marines and Sailors of the Selected Reserve, Marine Forces Reserve administratively controls approximately 65,000 Marines who serve in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). Marine Forces Reserve continues to monitor the mobilization viability of these Marines who have fulfilled their active service commitment and returned to civilian life. The mobilization potential of the IRR is monitored through the use of muster events that are conducted at multiple locations across the country. These muster events are the Marine Corps' opportunity to physically inspect these Marines to ensure they meet the requirements for mobilization. These events also provide the opportunity to address administrative issues, complete mental health and post-deployment assessments, review Reserve obligations and new opportunities, meet with prior service recruiters, and reconnect with fellow Marines. During the past year, Marine Forces Reserve conducted 33 physical muster events with 4,770 IRR Marines. An additional 48,000 members of the IRR were contacted and screened telephonically.

The Marine Corps Reserve strives to retain the very best Marines capable of fulfilling our leadership and operational needs. The option of continued service in the Reserve Component has become increasingly appealing to young Marines leaving active duty. Marines approaching the end of their current contracts, whether Active or Reserve Component, receive counseling on the tangible and intangible benefits of remaining associated with the Selected Reserve. We educate each transitioning Active Component Marine on opportunities for continued service in the Marine Corps Reserve through the Marine Corps' transition assistance and educational outreach programs.

We have concentrated on improving our personnel administration and retention programs, with the result being record high personnel readiness levels. Throughout the past year, our Marines have worked hard to initiate enhancements to our administrative processes and standard operating procedures. Additionally, we are improving the timeliness and accuracy of Reserve pay and entitlement disbursement through consolidated administration at the battalion, squadron, and group levels.

Recruiting and retaining high quality Marines remains essential to the Marine Corps' reputation as the Nation's Force in Readiness. Marine Forces Reserve enjoys high affiliation and retention rates enhanced through incentive programs, such as occupational specialty retraining, inactive duty travel reimbursement, and bonus payments. These programs remain essential to ensure we continue to meet authorized end strength and retain our most talented Marines. Your continued support to these critical programs has helped maintain our overall personnel end strength to 99 percent of the total requirement, with a grade and Military Occupational Specialty match rate of 85 percent. This high rate of personnel readiness is not only reflective of the health of the force, but directly contributes to our overall operational readiness. While we fully expect to meet our Selected Marine Corps Reserve retention and recruiting goals again this year, continued use of these incentive pro-

grams are critical to optimally align our inventory against our requirements, maintain individual and unit-level readiness, address shortfalls in staff non-commissioned officers, and fully rebuild readiness from previous force structure changes. Your continued support for incentives that promote service in our Reserve Force will ensure our ability to recruit and retain the very best service members.

Equipment

Reserve Component units remain highly interoperable with their Active Component counterparts due to the Marine Corps' Total Force approach to equipment fielding and management. Active and Reserve Component Forces are manned, trained and equipped to the same standards, facilitating the seamless employment of Reserve Component Forces to meet combatant commander requirements. Marine Forces Reserve mission essential equipment readiness levels are sufficient and capable of supporting all home station training requirements, as well as current operational deployments, with the exception of several select aviation units.

In the Reserve Component, personnel resources to identify and conduct maintenance are limited to the small full-time support staffs at each Reserve Training Center. These staffs are augmented by Reserve Marines during the monthly drill and two week annual training periods. Focusing these limited resources on the combat essential readiness reportable items constrains routine preventative and corrective maintenance on the remainder of equipment. Recent modernizations, coupled with the increase in equipment density and complexity, have compounded this challenge.

For many years, Marine Forces Reserve has mitigated risk to maintenance readiness in two ways. First, by continually refining the Training Allowance, which is the portion of the unit's full Table of Equipment kept on-hand at the Reserve Training Center. Our goal is to balance the minimum amount of equipment necessary to effectively conduct training with the amount of equipment that can reasonably be maintained within the personnel and fiscal resource constraints. Second, by leveraging Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) dollars to pay for mobile maintenance support teams from Marine Corps Logistics Command to travel to Reserve Training Centers and augment the limited organic maintenance capacity. However, as the demand for Reserve Component Forces has significantly increased—from 126 exercises, missions, and operations in fiscal year 2017 to 149 scheduled for fiscal year 2018—we anticipate increased usage, and subsequent wear and tear on both our military and individual combat equipment sets. Consequently, our maintenance requirements, demand for secondary repairable, and replenishment of gear have out-paced previous forecasts. Congressional support for our amended fiscal year 2018 Operations and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve budget request, to include OCO, is paramount to our continued success in maintaining high equipment readiness.

The top procurement priority of the Marine Corps Reserve is the KC-130J Super Hercules. The Active Component has fully fielded the KC-130J Super Hercules. However, the remaining 17 of 24 Reserve Component KC-130J aircraft are not scheduled to be fully fielded until 2026. This extended fielding timeline forces the Reserve Component to simultaneously operate the KC-130J and the legacy KC-130T aircraft over the next 8 years. These two aircraft have vastly different logistics, maintenance, and aircrew requirements, resulting in an increased outlay of resources to maintain the readiness of the Reserve Component KC-130 Squadrons.

Training

Marine Forces Reserve participates in the service-level ITX aboard Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twenty Palms, California. This exercise consists of two battalions conducting live-fire and maneuver exercises, featuring Reserve Component Forces from the Marine Air-Ground Task Force elements. This is one of the few opportunities that the ground, aviation, and logistics combat elements, under the command of a regimental headquarters, are able to come together and coordinate all warfighting actions to operate as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force under live fire and maneuver conditions. The ITX is constantly updated to challenge our Reserve Force with the most realistic training possible. Units participate based on future activation potential per the Marine Forces Reserve fiscal years 2018–2022 Training and Readiness Plan. The ITX provides all Marine Air-Ground Task Force elements an opportunity to undergo a service-level assessment of core competencies that are essential to expeditionary, forward-deployed operations. Additionally, individuals serving on the regimental command element staff receive training that ensures the ability to augment a Marine Air-Ground Task Force and/or a Joint staff. In summary, the ITX improves combat readiness, efficiency in Total Force integra-

tion, and enables more rapid activation response times at the battalion and squadron level.

Marine Forces Reserve maximizes participation in continental United States-based training events. In fiscal year 2017, Reserve Component Marines and Sailors participated in Exercise Northern Strike, a joint, combined-arms, live-fire exercise emphasizing close air support, joint fire support, and coordinated maneuver with fires. The exercise also provides highly sought after amphibious training that is executed aboard Camp Grayling, Michigan, at the Joint Maneuver Training Center. Exercise Northern Strike provides an opportunity for Reserve Marines to train alongside Army and Michigan Air National Guard forces, as well as Canadian forces, and has become an integral part of the Reserve Component training continuum. These types of exercises ensure our Marines maintain the highest levels of proficiency and readiness to integrate with the Active Component to support the requirements of the combatant commanders.

In order to preserve fiscal and materiel resources and test the limits of expected operations, we also maximize training efficiencies by optimizing the use of training simulators wherever possible. Our Reserve Training Centers employ the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainers (Isms) and other simulation to ensure Reserve Marines are trained to the same tasks, conditions, and standards as the Active Component. The Isms particularly benefit remote site locations that are distant from DoD training ranges by eliminating wasted time of traveling long distances to training areas. Additionally, with Reserve units only having 38 training days per fiscal year to train to mission essential tasks and also ensure all Service mandated annual training requirements are satisfied, it is essential for the Marine Corps Reserve to capitalize on non-traditional training methods such as online training. Expanding our use of simulators and online training will preserve valuable training time and also enable units to make the most of that limited training time during drill weekends.

Facilities

Marine Forces Reserve occupies facilities in 47 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. These facilities include 27 owned and 133 tenant Reserve Training Centers, three family housing sites, one permanent barracks, three emergency troop housing barracks, and one General Officer Quarters. Although some sites are located on major DoD installations, most are situated within civilian communities, ranging from neighborhoods to industrial and commercial districts. We continue to improve the maintenance and security of our facilities to ensure the safety of our Marines and Sailors and provide an effective training and mobilization platform to support the readiness of the Force.

Sixty-six percent of the facilities budget supports the distraintment and maintenance of existing infrastructure and operating cost of providing day-to-day facilities support. However, those operating costs steadily increase with the age of the buildings. We have improved the overall readiness of our facilities inventory through our Facilities Distraintment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) support program and maximized the impact of our budget through divestiture and demolition of excess footprint.

There has been a focused and ongoing effort to improve overall force protection at all of our sites by working with our service partners and the National Guard for joint occupied facilities. Numerous protection assessments and security engineering reports have been conducted at our facilities to assist and develop designs to mitigate protection concerns, specifically physical security. These assessments have identified physical security requirements and served to prioritize security enhancements to ensure our sites and Marines are secure in the facilities where they work and drill. We have leveraged additional funding to address these requirements and the risks are mitigated by the tactics, techniques, and procedures that each individual unit employs.

The Marine Corps' Military Construction, Naval Reserve (MCNR) program focuses on providing construction for new and enduring capabilities, as well as recapitalization of our aging existing facilities. The construction provided by the annual authorization and appropriation of MCNR funding is an important factor in advancing our facilities support mission as we optimize our force Layton throughout the Nation. Continued support for the MCNR request is essential as we divest of failing infrastructure and modernize capabilities.

The combined effects of our targeted consolidation, FSRM, and MCNR programs have steadily reduced the number of inadequate or substandard Reserve Training Centers and enabled better support to the Force. Continued support for our annual funding request for our facilities program will enable us to improve the overall physical infrastructure that reinforces the mission readiness of our units.

Health Services and Behavioral Health

Marine leaders have a moral obligation to ensure the health and wellness of the Nation's Marine Corps Reservists, Sailors under our charge, and their families. General Unfried once said "This Nation's most precious assets are the young men and women in uniform,"—we take this responsibility seriously. Every day, we strive to maintain the trust and confidence of Congress and the American people by immediately addressing any challenge to our readiness and finding solutions through our people and readiness programs.

We strive to improve medical readiness through a robust Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) Program within Marine Forces Reserve and an accurate monitoring, identification, and notification of the unit-level actions necessary to attain readiness goals. Between deployments, our Health Services priority is to ensure the DoD goal of 85 percent Total Force Medically Ready. During fiscal year 2017, Marine Forces Reserve met that goal with individual medical and dental readiness rates of 85.4 percent and 90.7 percent, respectively. Additionally, our Health Services personnel participate in Force Readiness Assistance & Assessment Program unit inspections and audits which provide oversight at unit level and the ability to monitor policy adherence and readiness.

The Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP) has greatly increased overall medical and dental readiness throughout the Force. This program funds contracted civilian medical and dental providers to units that do not have organic medical or dental support personnel and/or are not supported by a military treatment facility. During fiscal year 2017, the RHRP performed 21,762 Periodic Health Assessments; 22,354 Mental Health Assessments; 1,098 Phrase; 331 immunizations; 6,349 laboratory services; 14,055 audio services; and 17,220 dental procedures. In addition to RHRP, the Marine Corps' comprehensive behavioral health program addresses issues such as substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, combat and operational stress control, domestic violence, and child abuse prevention.

Marine Forces Reserve conducts Operational Stress Control and Readiness training at all levels. It is provided during pre-deployment training to service members of units deploying for more than 90 days, as well as all commands in garrison. The purpose of this training is to provide the requisite knowledge, skills, and tools to assist commanders in preventing, identifying, and managing combat and operational stress concerns as early as possible.

The Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery supports behavioral health through various independent contracted programs, such as the PDHRA and the Psychological Health Outreach Program (PHOP). The PDHRA places an emphasis on identifying physical, behavioral, and mental health concerns that may have emerged since returning from deployment. During CY 2017, Marine Forces Reserve successfully raised current completion totals to nearly 37,100 PDHRA screenings. The PHOP addresses both post-deployment behavioral health concerns and crisis-related interventions through contractors with various social work-related backgrounds via a wide array of referral services in the community to include follow-up with service members. These programs provide a pathway to identify Marines, Sailors, and their families that are in need of behavioral health assistance, and an avenue to seek behavioral health assistance.

Signs of operational and combat stress can manifest long after a service member returns home from deployment. This delayed onset of symptoms presents particular challenges to Reservists who may be isolated from vital medical care and the daily support network inherent in active duty units. Encouraging Marines to acknowledge and vocalize mental health issues is a continuing challenge facing our commanders. We address the stigma associated with mental healthcare through key programs, such as the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP). Further, we market all of our behavioral health initiatives and programs through our Marine Forces Reserve portal Webster and during key Marine Corps forums throughout the year. Your continued support of our behavioral health programs is greatly appreciated.

Marine Forces Reserve Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) focuses on reducing illegal drug use and prescription drug misuse within the Reserve community. Marine Forces Reserve relies profoundly on its drug-testing program, which acts as a powerful deterrent against drug use. Each Reserve unit conducts monthly random, yet, compulsory drug testing that ensures systematic screening of all Reservists for the presence of drugs. The DDRP staff provides quarterly and on demand education and awareness training on the dangers of misusing and abusing prescription drugs and information on the proper disposal of old, unused, and outdated medications. Additionally, the DDRP increases leaders' awareness on the dangers of abusing prescription drugs through annual substance abuse supervisory level training.

Suicide prevention is a high priority for the Marine Corps. Marine Forces Reserve focuses its suicide prevention efforts on six initiatives: in-theater assessments,

PDHRA, PHOP, Care Management Teams, Marine Intercept Program (MIP), and Unit Marine Awareness and Prevention Integration Training (UMAPIT). The in-theater assessments target Reservists who may be exhibiting or struggling with clinically-significant issues during a deployment. These Marines are evaluated by appropriate medical authorities for possible treatment with follow-up decisions made prior to the return home. The PDHRA program specifically seeks to identify issues that emerge after Reservists have returned home from deployment. The PHOP secures treatment referrals and provides essential follow-up treatment and case management for our service members to receive appropriate behavioral health services. MIP is an evidence-informed targeted intervention for active duty service members who have had an identified suicide ideation and/or suicide attempt. MIP includes a series of telephonic voluntary caring contacts in which a counselor reaches out to the Marine and assesses for risk, encourages use of a safety plan, identifies and addresses any barriers to services. The MIP counselors then incorporate these caring contacts into the counseling process. These services are also provided to our Reserve Marines through the PHOP. Lastly, UMAPIT provides mandatory face-to-face annual training for every Marine and Sailor in our command and is based on evidence-informed practices to raise awareness of common risk factors and warning signs associated with behavioral health issues.

Additionally, our Reservists and their family members are able to access Marine Corps installations' behavioral health programs through Marine Corps Community Services while they are on active-duty orders. When not on active-duty orders, Military Resource provides counseling, resources, and support to Reserve service members and their families anywhere in the world. The Marine Corps DSTRESS Line is another resource available to all Reserve Marines, attached Sailors, and family members regardless of their duty status. DSTRESS is a 24/7/365, Marine-specific crisis call and support center, providing phone, chat, and video-telephone capability for non-medical, short-term, solution-focused counseling and briefings.

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

Sexual assault is a complex problem that is often interrelated with other readiness challenges, behavioral health issues, and destructive behaviors. Marine Forces Reserve remains focused on executing solutions to address the continuum of destructive behaviors, with the goal of eliminating sexual assault within our ranks. To accomplish this goal, Marine Forces Reserve has expanded the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR) to seven full-time employees who provide supportive services across the geographically-dispersed force. In addition to the Force-level Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), each Major Subordinate Command within Marine Forces Reserve has a SARC who manages their commanding general's SAPR Program from the headquarters office in New Orleans. Together with the Arcs, two professional civilian victim advocates are available to support service members and adult family members located at all 160 sites who may need SAPR services. Marine Forces Reserve continues to increase victim services, improve victim response capabilities, and emphasize prevention.

The SAPR staff trains up to 160 new Uniformed Victim Advocates (Vas) each year during week-long courses held at the Marine Corps Support Facility, New Orleans. After training and credentialing through the DoD's Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program, uniformed advocates are appointed by their commanders to serve in this collateral duty billet at their respective Reserve Training Centers. Each SARC provides continuous support and guidance to the geographically-dispersed Victim Advocates within their MSC. In total, Marine Forces Reserve's SAPR Program maintains a roster of more than 300 Vas within the Reserve Component.

Reserve members can report an assault at any time and do not have to wait to be performing active service or inactive duty for training to initiate their report. Service members are eligible to receive timely access to SAPR advocacy services from a SARC and a UVA regardless of when a reported incident of sexual assault took place, to include those that occurred prior to service or while not in a drilling status. They also have access to a Victim's Legal Counsel regardless of the duty status of the individual if the circumstances of the reported offense have a nexus to the military service of the victim.

Vas respond to service members regardless of their activation status, as well as adult dependents who make a report of sexual assault. With the support of their SARC, Vas screen for potential safety issues and provide required safety updates, offer ongoing supportive services and referrals, and maintain a data base of nationwide resources for victims of sexual assault who may not reside on or near an installation. The Arcs and Vas collaborate with providers who are local to the sites to create a network of support and response capabilities for the Reserve Component across the Nation.

Another essential aspect of the response protocol is the 24 hours a day, seven days a week Support Line that is advertised to service members and their families via written and digital media and during all SAPR classes and briefs. The Support Line is manned by the professional SAPR staff members who serve as a readily accessible resource for those who need anything from immediate assistance to those with questions about how to make a report. Marine Forces Reserve also actively publicizes the DoD Safe Hellene which offers the crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. The DoD Safe Hellene is available 24/7 worldwide with “click.call.text” user options and can be used anonymously for confidential support.

Our prevention strategy is holistic and integrated with other programs that support the eradication effort, such as the Equal Opportunity Program, Family Readiness, Spiritual Readiness Initiatives and Behavioral Health. Marine Forces Reserve emphasizes setting the example of discipline and respect at all levels of command by encouraging a positive, retaliation-free, command climate. Leadership is encouraged to actively engage with our Marines and Sailors to learn what we can do to further support a positive environment that is free from attitudes and behaviors that are incompatible with our core values. All Marines and Sailors are required to receive SAPR training every year to ensure widespread knowledge about the program to include both prevention and response information. Preventative education plays a role as all non-commissioned officers receive “Take a Stand” bystander intervention training and all junior Marines participate in the “Step Up” bystander intervention training each year.

Marine Forces Reserve is committed to preventing sexual assault while responding with the highest quality of supportive services and advocacy to those who need it.

Quality of Life

We are committed to ensuring quality of life support programs that are designed to help all Marines, Sailors and their families, whether they are deployed or on the home front. Reserve Marines and their families deserve the very best support in return for their sacrifices. They are dispersed throughout the country and away from the traditional brick and mortar support systems of our major bases and stations. Therefore, we strive to provide awareness of, and access to, the numerous support programs available for their benefit. Marine Corps Community Services and unit Family Readiness Officers provide a vital link to ensuring support reaches those who need it.

Marine Forces Reserve tracks the submission of medical service treatment records to ensure Reserve Component Marines receive timely access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare services. Working across all 160 sites, we aggressively target our performance for submission timeliness to ensure our Marines will not be delayed in their submission of VA disability benefit claims once they have separated from the service.

Marine and Family Readiness Programs remain flexible, constantly adjusting to meet the needs of our Marines and their families. The result is a ready and resilient Force, well equipped to achieve success. This heightened state of resiliency is primarily achieved by providing robust, relevant and standardized training to our unit commanders, Family Readiness Command Teams, Marines and their families. Our Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) program offers non-clinical primary and secondary preventative education and professional training to support service members and their families throughout mission, life, and career events—ultimately enhancing unit mission readiness. MCFTB training events are delivered both, in person and through interactive Weimar, at Marine Corps units across the United States. During fiscal year 2017, Marine Forces Reserve conducted 194 training events at which 6,821 Marines and family members received valuable information to prepare for upcoming deployments, thrive during a deployment, and achieve a positive post-deployment reintegration experience.

A key component to our quality of life and resiliency is the religious ministry support provided by the 220 Religious Ministry Team (RMT) members consisting of Navy Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists who are integrated into our support structure. As Uniformed Members, Remits support Marines and their families across the full spectrum of military life including combat and humanitarian engagements. 123 RMT personnel are embedded in 46 Marine Corps Reserve units and 97 are in Navy Reserve religious support units that directly support Active Component Marine Corps units. Of those, 14 are mobilized in support of combatant commanders across the globe. This support includes developing the Commandant's spiritual readiness initiatives, providing divine services across the spectrum of faith communities, advising on spiritual and ethical matters, and pastoral care in a safe, confidential

environment. One signature program is the Chaplain Religious Enrichment Development Operations (CREDO) program. The CREDO program provides two transformational workshops: the Marriage Enrichment Retreat and the Personal Resiliency Retreat. These events equip Marines, Sailors, and their families with practical relationship and communication tools that strengthen marriages and individual resilience while on the home front and during deployments. The PRR curriculum also helps Marines and Sailors set personal goals, make good decisions, deal with stress, and live lives with greater purpose and satisfaction. During fiscal year 2017, ten Marriage Enrichment Retreats were conducted with 290 participants and two Personal Resiliency Retreats were conducted with 26 participants.

The Marine Corps Personal and Professional Development programs continue to provide training and educational resources to service members and their families. The Transition Readiness Program implements a comprehensive transition and employment assistance program for Marines and their families; the program emphasizes a proactive approach that will enable Marines to formulate effective post-transition entrepreneurship, employment, and educational goals. Transition Readiness is a process that occurs across the Marine for Life Cycle, not an event that occurs at a single point in time. Additionally, the Marine For Life Network provides education and awareness briefs to Reserve Marines and their family members during IRR Mobilization Exercises, with the intent to link them to employment, education, and community resources in support of their overall life goals.

Our Simper Fit program remains fully engaged in partnering with our bases and stations to provide quality, results-based education and conditioning protocols for our Marines and Sailors. The High Intensity Tactical Training program includes hands-on, science-based strength and conditioning courses, online physical fitness tools, mobile applications for service members to access anywhere, recorded Weimar, as well as instruction on injury prevention, nutrition, and weight management. Our Marines' and Sailors' quality of life is also enhanced through stress management and esprit de corps activities, such as unit outings and participation in competitive events. These programs are crucial to unit cohesion and camaraderie.

The YRRP is an invaluable partner with the Marine Corps Unit, Personal, and Family Readiness Program at every command level. Since its inception during 2010, the YRRP has held more than 850 training events for more than 39,000 Marines, Sailors, and family members. In fiscal year 2017, 123 YRRP training events were conducted with 1,958 participants. The YRRP is a tool for commanders to remain engaged with the challenges and issues facing Marines, Sailors, and their families. The YRRP continues to thrive. Marine Forces Reserve, with the assistance of our Marine Corps Team Building, local and national resources, has many methods for program delivery that are sustainable in any fiscal or deployment climate. This includes local unit events, Weimar which can be delivered nationally, mail-outs, social media, and personalized briefs designed to meet the individual needs of the service member and family.

We continue to be supportive of Military Resource, which provides our Marines, Sailors, and their families with an around-the-clock information and referral service via toll-free telephone and Internet resources. Additionally, Military Resource provides information on subjects such as parenting, child care, education, finances, deployment, and relocation.

Our Marines, Sailors, and their families, who sacrifice so much for our Nation's defense, should not be asked to sacrifice quality of life. We will continue to be a faithful advocate for robust Family Programs and Services that evolve and adapt to the changing needs of our Marines, Sailors and their families. The combined effect of these programs and services are critical to the readiness and retention of our Marines, Sailors, and their families, and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Supporting our Wounded, Ill, or Injured Marines and their Families

The Marine Corps ensures the availability of full spectrum care to all wounded, ill, or injured (WII) service members, whether they are Active or Reserve, through the Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR). Marine Forces Reserve ensures Reserve Marines' unique challenges are addressed through a WWR Liaison Officer who provides subject matter expertise and special coordination with the WWR staff.

The WWR staff includes the Reserve Medical Entitlements Determinations Section, which maintains specific oversight of all Reservists requiring medical care for service-incurred and duty-limiting medical conditions. Reservists facing complex care and recovery needs have access to WWR's network of 45 Recovery Care Coordinators who provide one-on-one transition support and resource identification for WII Reservists and families often living long distances from military installations. WWR also has medical advocates at the regimental staff who are available to assist Re-

servists in need of medical care coordination and advocacy. District Injured Support Coordinators and Field Support Representatives dispersed throughout the country also coordinate with Reserve units to ensure we keep faith with all Marines.

Marine Forces Reserve will not forget the sacrifices our Marines have made for this great Nation; and we will continue to work with the WWR to establish resources and programs that address the unique and ongoing needs of our Reserve population.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges facing us in today's strategic environment, the Marine Corps remains our Nation's crisis response force and will continue to be most ready when our Nation is least ready. When our Nation calls, the American people expect quick, decisive action from Marines—both the Active and Reserve Components. As part of the Marine Corps Total Force, the Marine Corps Reserve must remain manned, trained, and equipped to provide lethal forces to the Active Component to respond across the operational spectrum from disaster relief to full scale combat operations. Despite today's unstable operating environment being further complicated by budget uncertainty, it is essential for us to remain engaged in current operations, maintain our warfighting readiness, and reset our equipment—while also taking the necessary strides to modernize the force. With your continued unwavering support, we will make pragmatic decisions on how to best balance our available resources between current commitments and future readiness requirements.

Semper Fidei!

Senator SHELBY. Thank you, General.

SOUTHWEST BORDER OPERATIONS

The President's recent decision to send National Guard forces to the southwest border continues the trend of previous administrations to deploy Guardsmen to border security operations.

General Lengyel, can you describe the current plans for mobilization, expand on the operational supports that these troops will provide, and discuss how it differs from past efforts?

General LENGYEL. Yes, Chairman. Thanks for the opportunity to talk about the southwest border operation that is currently ongoing.

As you mentioned, on April 4, the President signed a proclamation and he directed the Secretary of Defense to assist the Department of Homeland Security with providing security on the border. He provided that mission to the Department of Defense, since the authorized use of the National Guard as a force to provide and assist the Customs and Border Protection agency with the requirements that they have on the border to do border security kinds of things.

On the 6th of April, we were able to ascertain the first initial amounts of requests that came from Customs and Border Protection. They said, "We request National Guard troops under command and control of their governors," also called Title 32 Command and Control, "Go to the assistance of the Customs and Border Protection in the individual sectors along the southwest border."

That deployment began on the 6th of April with movement from Texas and Arizona, and a few planners from New Mexico. They began to move and posture their assistance for the Customs and Border Protection agency.

As of today, we have had an additional request for assistance, a second request for assistance from the Customs and Border Protection. As we speak here today, there are a total of 965 National Guard soldiers, airmen and soldiers, mostly soldiers, on the border

providing assistance to Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security.

The Secretary has authorized up to 4,000 total members of the National Guard to do this and he has authorized it to endure, at this point, until 30 September. That is the length and duration that we are, so far, authorized to support the CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) in this endeavor.

With respect to funding from this issue, the funding the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) has been directed to look across the Department to find funds to pay for these Title 32 resources, who are under the command and control of their governors in the States, providing support to the Customs and Border Protection.

What they are not doing is any direct civilian law enforcement operations, and they are not doing any direct contact with migrants, unless when they are to be explicitly authorized by the Department of Defense, and that has not yet occurred.

So the missions that they are involved in are primarily things that enable Customs and Border Protection agents to leave non-direct border security jobs, and go to the border, and provide border security. They are doing things like maintenance, communications, transportation, the operation of, perhaps, heavy equipment, analysis, trend analysis in using some intelligence and surveillance, and some aviation assets to assist in those endeavors.

So primarily, that sums it up. As of today, 965 soldiers and airmen are on the border. Long term through the end of the fiscal year, and up to 4,000 is the top number under command and control of their governors.

CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVES

Senator SHELBY. The demand for cybersecurity professionals paces the current inventory, as I understand it, both in the military and in the private sector. The Reserve component's reputation as citizen soldiers provides a deep connection, perhaps, to private sector cyber experts who draw upon civilian acquired skills from industry and their daily work in academia.

I will pose this question to General Luckey. Could you share with the subcommittee, General Luckey, the initiatives that you are pursuing to help recruit the most talented, the best and the brightest individuals with the particular cyber skill sets that are going to be required in the future to protect us?

General LUCKEY. Chairman, thanks very much for that question.

As I touched on briefly in my opening remarks, there are a couple of things that are going on currently in the Army Reserve and in concert with a lot of other different agencies and entities out there working—to answer your question—with more capability.

We are already, as I think I talked about earlier, re-missioning and re-tasking certain capabilities and moving some force structure to places where we have identified, what I call, digital key terrain, whether it be in Silicon Valley, whether it be in Boston, whether it be in other locations across the United States.

We are identifying, as we go, different places where moving force structure enables us to take our unique flexibility and agility to move force structure at essentially no cost because we are not actually moving people. We are just moving the billets to go and recruit

talent against those billets. So we have done that in certain locales. We are continuing to do that.

As I noted in my remarks, we are partnering with DIUx, we are partnering with MD5, and we are working very closely with the Army as it begins to flesh out its future command to make sure that we are completely integrated and synchronized.

At the end of the day, part of this is a talent management challenge for us and a massive opportunity. Senator, as you may know, I already retasked the 75th Training Command, which is now the 75th Innovation Command in Houston, Texas, to take this on and operationalize getting us to a better place in terms of capturing and in some cases actually assessing talent across America, primarily in the private sector, whether it pertains to cyber, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and things of that ilk.

So eventually, I am going to owe this committee a report on where we are in terms of operationalizing this capability. But I will tell you today, in addition to the 10 cyber protection teams that we are on track to adopt and fully operationalize on the timeline previously determined.

We are also moving well down the path to operationalizing our ability to assess talent and to retain talent in the Army through the Army Reserve in these critical skills.

Senator SHELBY. Senator Durbin.

Senator DURBIN. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

COST OF GUARD AT BORDER

General Lengyel, following up on the Chairman's question, what is the average daily cost of a Guard member at the border?

General LENGYEL. Sir, I would have to give you a specific for one Guard member on the border.

Senator DURBIN. It could be any kind of range that you think is accurate.

General LENGYEL. I think it is the same as what he would be paid anywhere else doing any other job. There is no difference in the cost of having him on the border.

Senator DURBIN. What would that be?

General LENGYEL. It depends on the rank, sir.

Senator DURBIN. Okay. Let me just ask you, Operation Jumpstart cost \$1.2 billion for 6,000 National Guard members over 2 years.

Do you have any estimate as to what this operation is going to cost?

General LENGYEL. Sir, it is difficult to estimate because I do not know how many of that 4,000 the number will actually grow to and beyond how long it will stay. I really could not hazard a guess yet on the total cost of this operation.

Senator DURBIN. Can I conclude from your statement earlier that your current 2018 O&M (Operations and Maintenance) budget could not cover these costs?

General LENGYEL. That is a true statement, sir.

Senator DURBIN. You said you have to look around the Department of Defense.

General LENGYEL. The Department of Defense should work with in the Department to find funds to pay for this mission, sir.

Senator DURBIN. There have been some comments by some observers on the statewide scene that we are diverting National Guardsmen from their traditional responsibilities, and duties, and readiness at home.

There was an article in the "Albuquerque Journal" where State Representative Bill McCamley said, "We are going into forest fire season. The big percentage of the State is in drought right now and if National Guard folks are continuously rotated down to the border for a problem that does not exist, are they are going to be available for a real problem when it happens?"

What is your answer?

General LENGYEL. Vice Chairman, I would say that we have 450,000 men and women in the National Guard and on the border today are 1,000. We could sustain that level without impacting State missions, because they are under the command and control of the governors.

If required right now—we have not had to go outside the four border States to serve the requirements by CBP—but if we do have to, and if this is enduring in nature, we may have to go find some folks because these are citizen soldiers and airmen. They have jobs and other lives. We will have to rotate them in.

We will go to places where governors have an excess of capacity to deal with emergencies in their State, and those people should volunteer and move to the border, and do the mission.

WATER CONTAMINATION

Senator DURBIN. This question is for all witnesses.

I was educated, informed, and a little bit surprised by this last appropriations conversation in the Senate of how many of my colleagues came forward to discuss water contamination caused by perfluorinated chemicals in firefighting foam. It was the number one issue my Senate colleagues asked me for help with this year.

General Lengyel, I understand the Air National Guard has a unique set of problems when it comes to paying for the cleanup of these chemicals that has to be addressed by authorizers.

How large is this, admittedly, major public health crisis of water contamination as a problem for the National Guard? Do you know how much it will cost? How long it will take? And do you need new authority to tackle it?

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir. It is a problem.

I cannot give you a total number of what it may take to mitigate it. There are many, many installations, as you know, that have the potential to have PFOS and PFOA in their water systems.

So the first thing we had to do is inspect them, determine if there is a determined amount in the water. If there is, and the Government is determined to be liable, then we are going to have to find a way to mitigate that. So we are going to make the water safe to drink for the communities.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FUNDS IN DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION ACCOUNT

Senator DURBIN. The Department of Defense has identified 401 active installations where there are one or more areas with known or suspected release of these chemicals.

Under OSD's (Office of the Secretary of Defense) guidance, the services are conducting preliminary assessments and site inspections, and cutting off exposure where they can. Currently, 90 installations are above the EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) lifetime health advisory.

I also understand that you are seeking an NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) provision to allow the National Guard to qualify for use of funds in the Defense Environmental Restoration Account. Right now, only active duty can use these funds.

Could you explain?

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir. The determination was made by General Counsel in the Department of Defense that said State-run facilities were not eligible to access the DERA (Defense Environment Restoration Account) account.

If we had to spend money to mitigate these PFOA issues, we were going to have to use Air National Guard or Army National Guard Operations and Maintenance money to do it, and obviously, we do not have that money in our account. So we had access, like the active component, to the DERA account.

Senator DURBIN. What my colleagues have told me is that the use of this fire retardant, this foam, has resulted in a public health hazard and a danger to water supplies in the area of these installations.

I cannot tell you how many of them came to me from all over the United States saying, "We need cleanup money right now because of the danger to our community."

Do you sense this is a matter of some urgency?

General LENGYEL. I do, Senator. Yes, I do.

We owe it to the public to make sure that we inspect these facilities and determine if they have a problem. And if they have one, and we are liable for it, then we need to mitigate it.

MASSIVE SPENDING INCREASE

Senator DURBIN. I would like to ask just one general question.

We have decided, on a bipartisan basis in Congress, to make a massive investment in our military for readiness; some \$80 billion over the budget for this year and a similar amount next year. We do not know what happens in the third year. If it reverts back to sequestration levels, it will be a dramatic cut.

I am sure we all share concern that we do not have enough resources going into our national readiness and defense, but I share an equal concern that we are putting too much in too fast, and that we may look back with regret as to how it is being spent.

I talked with Secretary Mattis about this. He sent out letters, I think, for all to consider about his own concerns.

Tell me how you and your colleagues here are addressing this concern about spending this massive investment so quickly and wisely.

General LENGYEL. Yes, Senator. Well, I think that our direction is to spend it on readiness of the Force, to make sure it is a lethal Force; actually, everything inside the National Defense Strategy as this operational reserve that we are all a part of now.

Our Active components rely on us to be there and to be ready to defend the Nation in our interests around the world. That is the number one priority that we are doing.

The services have needs to recapitalize and modernize, that we have been underfunded because of budget uncertainty and draw downs over the past years. I say that with some certainty that we have appropriate places to increase the lethality and modernize the Force to spend that money appropriately.

Senator DURBIN. We will be watching one another closely. Thank you.

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir.

Senator SHELBY. Senator Hoeven.

Senator HOEVEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thanks to all of you for being here and more importantly, for what you do.

General Lengyel, even though I also am a member of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, this particular project would fall under that. I do want to express my appreciation for the budget request and your support for a military readiness center in Fargo for an important project, and I thank you for that.

RECRUITMENT OF PERSONNEL

For each of you, though, I would ask recruiting; how are we doing on recruiting? For example, pilots. I know we have an incredible challenge getting enough pilots and the commercial sector too is looking for pilots.

We have innovative programs, for example, in Grand Forks at the University of North Dakota, we train a tremendous number of pilots, at the John D. Odegard School for Aerospace and Aviation.

And so, starting maybe on the Air Force end, but for each of you, recruiting and maybe start with the pilots, do we have to get creative in looking for other solutions to help there? For example, maybe partnering with some of our universities on pilot training or some of those kinds of things. And so, General Lengyel, you or General Miller, maybe start.

General LENGYEL. Senator Hoeven, thank you for that question. And like the Air Force, our Air National Guard is experiencing issues with maintaining all of our pilots that we need to fill up our force as part of the Air Force.

Like General Miller had mentioned, full time pilots, we are able to maintain full time pilots in the active and guard, the AGR status, the Active Guard Reserve status. Technician, full time pilots are harder.

Part-time pilots, we are able right now to retain a huge number of our part-time pilots. As people leave the active component and go into the airlines, they tend to want to fly in the Guard and Reserve as well, so part-time pilots are good. Some of our full-time pilots, though, are harder to maintain.

It is, for the first time, becoming a problem in the Army. Army aviation, Army helicopter pilots are now being recruited actively by the airlines and given fixed wing courses to become fixed wing pilots. So that will become a draw on the Army National Guard as well.

Senator HOEVEN. Customs and Border Protection has responsibility for 900 miles of border out of Grand Forks, all the way from the Great Lakes out through most of Montana. They fly helicopters. They fly fixed wing. They fly unmanned assets, UAS.

They have a program that we just started with them, called Pathways where they partner with the university so that as young people go through their pilot training, they also work for CBP, and then they come out, and they have that pilot education.

So again, I am looking for innovative ways to get after this challenge.

General MILLER. And Senator, our Chief and Secretary are beginning to work in building those relationships with the aviation universities, and discussing this at a national level. As we all know, this is a national problem. There are just not enough pilots being produced for all of us.

Senator HOEVEN. And it seems for Reserve and Guard, there would be a particular opportunity here.

General MILLER. There is and we are partnering with them. The Air Force is 2,000 pilots short across all three of the components, and we all have our deficit number that we are going after.

For us, for the Air Force overall, we are not concerned right now about the number of people coming in the pipeline because there are people lined up to come in the Air Force to fly airplanes.

The issue for us right now is, as the budget has decreased for the past 10 years or so, we have brought down that institutional capacity to train the pilots.

We have them lined up. We can get them coming through the door. It is just, how do we get them trained quickly? Because we have brought that institution brick and mortar down and that capacity down, so we are increasing the capacity. We need to go from 1,200 a year to 1,400 a year as a start.

The other aspect of that is the absorption piece. Once they are produced out of UPT, out of pilot training, they then have to get that experience level. We, in the Guard and Reserve, accept those pilots, those youngest pilots, and we absorb them into our units and experience them as quickly as we can.

It is not a capacity issue coming to the door. It is how do we train them? How do we absorb them? And get them as quickly as we can up to a high level fighter pilot or mobility pilot to get out there.

We are working over those issues. Our Chief and Secretary are working directly with industry and the airlines, and we have had meetings, two meetings over the last year to discuss that.

What am I doing specifically in the Air Force Reserve? On the full-time side, my issue is the full-time side. I need to create a full-time status and it is called Active Guard and Reserve, and that status allows an airline pilot to be an airline pilot for a couple of years, come back and be full-time with us for a couple of years, and then go back to the airline. So it allows them the opportunity to go back and forth with return rights.

The current full-time status I have right now is an Air Reserve technician. It does not have return rights. Once an Air Reserve technician goes to the airlines, they do not have return rights back to be full-time, if they choose.

So we are working with MNR, PNR up in the building. We are working with the Guard and we are trying to adjust certain AGR, certain words that are in the law to expand that use. So we are getting on that.

Senator HOEVEN. Flexibility and capacity are two things you are getting into. We should be able to maybe come up with some things to help.

General LUCKEY. Senator, if I may, since the Army was mentioned here.

I would just note from a pilot perspective, right now we are at about 94 percent strength in my pilots both from rotary and fixed wing. So at least in the near time, I am not only concerned about the stress on the Force. I do note, General Lengyel's point and concern, and I am not suggesting that I am dismissing it, because I am not. Where I sit right now, I think we are, from an operational perspective, I think we are in pretty good shape.

From a recruiting perspective, I would tell you the accession of new soldiers into the Army Reserve is not my fundamental challenge from a manning the force perspective. The bigger challenge fundamentally is maintaining a good stream of AC to RC migration over time.

From a qualifications perspective, from a grade perspective, my concerns are really much more my mid-grade. Both of my non-commissioned officers and commissioned officers, making sure I continue to get some good lifeblood coming off of active duty into the Army Reserve.

I know my colleagues in the Guard, to some extent, look at that same trend line as one that could be potentially problematic if I am not continuing to be able to get the flow from the active component.

Myself, and I know many of our colleagues, all came from the active components of the various services of the United States military before coming into the Guard or Reserve. And that is obviously a trend that I would like to see continue over time.

Senator HOEVEN. I would ask Admiral McCollum and General McMillian.

Admiral MCCOLLUM. Yes, Senator. For the Navy Reserve, we have learned, and I am sure like my other colleagues, when a pilot has an airplane to fly and when there is a career path for that pilot, they are at their best position for retention.

In that regard, that is why recapitalization, in our case, of aviation assets is important. We can offer retention opportunity for those pilots exiting active duty and we have had very little issue capturing that return on investment, which is, at about an eight or nine year pilot, very significant in the \$7 or \$8 million return on investment.

If we do not continue that investment in recapitalization, we see we might lose that opportunity to retain some of those. But the part-time pilots, we are not having an issue with.

General MCMILLIAN. Senator, thank you. As I said in my opening statement, we are at 99 percent manning across Marine Forces Reserve. I am fairly comfortable with where we are with both our Reserve pilots and the Active Components that support Reserve operations.

Where I do have a gap is in my crew chiefs, particularly in MV-22's and in Huey's, and we are manned at about 55 to 65 percent. It takes a little bit of time to grow a crew chief, and so we are putting effort into recruiting more. We are trying to capture crew chiefs that are leaving Active duty, as General Luckey said, and bringing them over to the Reserves.

If we can grow them on our own, so to speak, it takes a little bit of time. But that is where my challenge is, sir.

Senator HOEVEN. Thank you.

Senator SHELBY. Senator Leahy.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you.

Thank both you, Senator Shelby and Senator Durbin for holding this hearing. I think it is extremely important.

Chairman Shelby, I welcome you as the chairman of the full committee. You and I have discussed our capacity as it exists, and I look forward to working with you on the fiscal year 2019 appropriations. I think we are going to have a vigorous schedule and one that will help everybody involved.

The witnesses here, the last two decades, we have relied on our National Guard like never before in missions that go way beyond our domestic borders, as you know. I know firsthand from the members of Vermont's own Air Guard and Army Guard the sacrifices these men and women make every day. I am very proud of what they have done.

I was proud to be there when they announced training side by side, as full members of the 10th Mountain Division. I talked to former Senators like Senator Dole, who served in that. I am proud they are going to be the first Guard unit in the country to fly the F-35. We know what it means to support our Guards and Reserves.

So General Lengyel, let me ask you. The Associated Unit Program has been a tremendous success, I think, around the country. Vermont, the home of the Army Mountain Warfare School, the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team has trained as a full member of the 10th Mountain Division. I have watched as they have done some of their training. It is not easy.

VALUE OF SPECIALIZED RESERVE TRAINING UNITS

Can you explain the value, to both an Active Duty Unit and a National Guard Unit, of being associated like this, especially when doing specialized things like mountain warfare?

General LENGYEL. Senator Leahy, thanks for that question.

I cannot say enough good things about the Associated Units Pilot Program. The fact that our Active component and Reserve components, in our case, the Guard here at the 10th Mountain with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are training together, planning together, working together, and some day will be flowing together. It makes us a better, stronger, total force for our Nation.

The Mountain Warfare School, we were very lucky this year, as you remember, the avalanche. Six soldiers in that Warfare School put them in the hospital. Luckily, nobody perished, but some severe injuries. It shows just how dangerous and what kind of training is required to do that kind of operation.

Senator LEAHY. Yes, this is not classroom training. This is out there—

General LENGYEL. No, it is real.

Senator LEAHY [continuing]. In all kinds of weather.

General LENGYEL. Commanders in these units, sir, because of the Association Report have better access to ranges, better interoperability with their active duty counterparts. Which means, when they deploy, when we go to fight our wars, we will be more lethal. We will be a better deterrent force. We will be a better war fighting force. It is a very good thing.

CIRCUMSTANCES FOR NATIONAL GUARD TO ACT AS LAW ENFORCEMENT

Senator LEAHY. Let me ask you about a different type of thing, and Senator Durbin has gone into this, the Defense Department memo that Secretary Mattis signed, explains that the National Guard personnel will not perform law enforcement activities or interact with undocumented immigrants or other people detained without his expressed approval.

What are the circumstances where the Department of Defense would authorize the National Guard to engage in law enforcement activities on the southern border? I do not know of any precedent for this. I am asking, what circumstances?

General LENGYEL. Well, sir, in this case, they have been expressly prohibited from doing it. And so, I can tell you that Texas, as National Guard members on State active duty have, in the past, in that particular status augmented the Texas Highway Patrol, the Border Security Police, and the Customs and Border Protection agencies and have in the past.

Not in this operation currently undergoing, but other times. Because we are members of the National Guard, Posse Comitatus does not apply to us. We can do law enforcement duties.

But there is no intention on this particular case. The intention, as I mentioned in my prior remarks, was that we would free up badge-carrying law enforcement officials to go to the border and actually do that.

USE OF NATIONAL GUARD FACILITIES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT DETENTION

Senator LEAHY. Well, let me ask you sort of a related question. Has DHS asked for the assistance or service related to the detention of undocumented immigrants? I ask that because you also have, the Guard has facilities. Have they asked for any of those facilities be made available for detention or functions?

General LENGYEL. No, sir. I am not aware of any requests for facilities or participation in any kind of detention operations of any kind along the border.

Senator LEAHY. They have to have special authority for that, would they not?

General LENGYEL. Well, we have been prohibited from doing those kinds of activities, sir, as a result of the proclamation. So right now, there is no intent for the National Guard to do any of that.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

Senator LEAHY. Let me go to a different thing.

In recent years, and you and I have discussed this privately before, some of this, but remarkable work has been done to advance our understanding of the way traumatic experiences impact the brain. And every one of you knows what that is like.

We have had the work of researchers at the National Center for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), I know this sounds parochial, but it is headquartered in Vermont with other leading institutions. I think we are creating a field of personalized medicine for mental health. You and I have talked about this.

What steps are you taking, or would you like us to take, to get ahead of this? Because it seems to be a continuous problem. It is not one that is going to disappear.

General LENGYEL. Senator, thank you.

The care, and welfare, and wellbeing of the men and women in uniform are all of our most important tasks to maintain. We cannot do any of our war fighting roles without them.

The ability to leverage, perhaps, like in the language of last year's NDAA, to do a study. We commented on the study with OSD to: how will we better assess the total warrior resilience and fitness of our force?

In the National Guard, we have done several things to do this. Your support for some additional Title 5 Technicians to be Directors of Psychological Health could be of assistance along those lines.

To use broader experience like agencies such as give an hour and access to healthcare for soldiers and airmen, TRICARE for some of our members can give them proper access to psychological health providers that we need to help.

So thank you for your continued support in this area.

Senator LEAHY. I look at all the services represented here, is it safe to say that there is no service that does not have a concern about PTSD? The Marines are concerned about that, are they not, General?

General McMILLIAN. Yes, sir. We are concerned about PTSD. I would like to say it is not as prevalent now as it was during the height of OIF and OEF. We scaled that back just a little bit.

I will tell you what our major concern is and continues to be, though, which is related to it, are suicides. Within Marine Forces Reserve, we had 12 suicides last year. This year, we are up to 5, not quite at that 50 percent mark for the calendar year. We work hard to mitigate that.

But what we are finding on the Reserve side of the house is that the majority, probably 90 percent of our suicides, occur not in a drilling status; it is those 28 days of the month when we do not see them.

So we work hard through our leadership. We pride ourselves in our leadership to maintain close and enduring contact with all of our Marines, whether they are in a drill status, but particularly, when they are off duty. And so, we try to stay connected to them to try to dig out personal issues that they have and try to mitigate them rapidly.

What we have found out is that all of our suicides in that off-duty arena are tied to relationship issues, legal issues, job issues, financial issues. So we try to talk to them about that during our drill weekends and when we do see them, and try to mitigate those, sir.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And all the rest of you, if you have suggestions for me or for us in this area, please, let me know because I am concerned about both the Guard and Reserves, but in the full time services. I think there is a bipartisan commitment here in the Appropriations committee to help.

General MCMILLIAN. Yes, sir.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator SHELBY. Thank you, Senator Leahy.

Senator Moran.

ATEAM REPAIR AUTHORITY

Senator MORAN. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

Let me direct this question to General Lengyel.

General, you know this because we have had numerous conversations, but the ATEAM provides world class maintenance and repair for Army tanks, and engines, and transmissions.

As you know, they provide high quality work that has significantly contributed to the increased readiness of the Army National Guard, armored brigade combat teams in 12 States, and they are the engine repair team of choice for several key foreign military partners.

We discussed last year in this same hearing, and though you conveyed your support for ATEAM, you instructed me to speak to General Perna, the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, on the topic of special repair authority for ATEAM to continue doing its work.

I reached out to General Perna at your suggestion. In June, we had a conversation and he provided his formal position and recommendations that would follow the ATEAM to continue work on previously overhauled National Guard engines and existing FMS customers at the discretion of the NGB.

Then later in October, he and I met and he reiterated that the ATEAM does not need a special repair authority to conduct their work for Army Guard or foreign partners. We also learned that Army regulations removed that requirement for this authority.

General Lengyel, when we spoke a few weeks ago, you mentioned things were running smoothly with the ATEAM and you remain supportive of their efforts. However, since that meeting, I learned that the ATEAM again faces hurdles that threaten their ability to carry out their maintenance work for the Army Guard, and particularly their foreign partners that are explicitly seeking ATEAM support for their tanks.

The program, again, seems to be in jeopardy because of what seems to me to be a bureaucratic machination that no single entity takes responsibility for the mission.

You have a Four Star who is sending work to ATEAM believing that they have what they need to do to conduct the work. And yet,

another Four Star at headquarters that disagrees, and your staff maintains that ATEAM cannot do the work.

These different opinions and interpretations are putting the program at risk and threaten to derail contractual obligations that we have with our foreign partners. I worry that this will continue to unravel unless it is resolved.

And so, General Lengyel, General Perna does not believe ATEAM needs a special repair authority to continue conducting their work and he also believes that they continue to work with foreign partners at your discretion.

Can you please explain to me how you are going to reconcile and resolve the situation so that ATEAM can continue to enhance the readiness of the Army Guard and continue to do its work for our foreign partners?

General LENGYEL. Senator, yes, sir. And I do need to tell you that when I came and saw you last week, I was not aware of what my staff perceives as two issues. One is the special prepare authority, and two is utilization of Title 32 technicians to perform duty on non-National Guard and non-DOD equipment.

Those are two problems that I only became aware of as a large contract to do international work came to the ATEAM. They did not have an appropriate warrant to execute the contract, so they came to the National Guard Bureau to get that warrant.

As my staff looked into it, they identified those two specific problems, special repair authority and Title 32 technician issues with respect to doing FMS kinds of work, Foreign Military Sales kinds of work.

I will promise you that within the next week, we will find out. I will talk to General Perna myself. I do not know what the, disconnect is. I hope we do not need special repair authority. I agree that the ATEAM provides good work, maintains a higher state of readiness for the Army. If he allows us to continue to do that work, I am happy to continue to do that work from the National Guard.

The Title 32 issue is another issue with respect to how we use our Title 32 technicians and that requires, again, some work on my part to determine the way ahead here.

Senator MORAN. So General Perna, assuming that I am telling you his accurate position, and you determine that to be the case, then that would resolve one of the two issues?

General LENGYEL. It would.

Senator MORAN. And then, we still need to work through the Title issue?

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir.

Senator MORAN. And what do you foresee in that regard?

General LENGYEL. I have to find out, how are we doing? Why can we not do Title 32 technicians to do FMS?

I do know that on the Air side, we have some Title 32 technicians that train Foreign Military Sales cases with respect to F-16 training pilots. But training is a different category than regular and routine maintenance.

So I can only promise you Senator, that I will look into this, and I will come to your office, and tell you what I find out.

Senator MORAN. Thank you, General Lengyel. I look forward to that. It may be our fifth meeting on this topic and I look forward to its resolution—

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir.

Senator MORAN [continuing]. In a favorable way toward the ATEAM.

RESERVE TRAINING SUSTAINABILITY

Let me ask a broader question. I know that you all have deep respect and gratitude for families and employers. You have stated before that you recruit individuals, but retain families.

I know that there is a lot of discussion lately about the role the Reserve component with Guard and Reservists deploying so frequently and participating in significantly more training days per year. Just the current operations tempo is such that we all have to have concern over sustainability of this whole Reserve force. My question is a general one.

What request do you have of us, as members of Congress, to help you accomplish, to help us accomplish this? General Luckey.

General LUCKEY. Yes, Senator. Senator, if I may, just to reiterate, I think, a point I touched upon in my opening statement.

I think the most helpful thing that the senior leadership of the United States could do, in my opinion, for all of the Reserve components and Guard of all the Armed Forces is continue to support us at the strategic level.

Messaging with, as I said, I think, in my opening remarks, your voice to your constituents, and your jurisdictions, and your States, and cities and towns with the influencers that are out there across America. How critical the sustained support of employers, whether they are from the private sector or other aspects of the public sector, academia.

Continued support of employers is, for us, to share the best talent in America with the Armed Forces of the United States and the Reserve components thereof. And to make sure they understand that they are part of a strategic partnership that is ultimately underpinning the national security fabric of the United States.

It has been said in this room, and it has been said many times in this place, that you have a more engaged operationally efficacious Reserve force, whether Guard or Reserve, at any time in the history of the United States of America, in my opinion.

The way we sustain that—because I share your concern, Senator—the way we sustain that level of effort and readiness, ultimately, is going to hinge on the ability of employers to understand they are partnering with us to share this talent with America in respect to making sure we ensure the national security of the United States. That is the key.

Senator MORAN. General, I take from your answer that you believe the place to focus our attention is employers and their continued commitment to employing Guard and Reservists.

General LUCKEY. Yes, sir.

Senator MORAN. Okay. I will not have time to ask this question, but General McMillian talked about suicide. I would be interested in knowing if there is evidence that suggests that the current tempo, the deployment and readiness requirements of our Guard

and Reserve, has had a consequence in regard to Guard and Reserve suicide? And what the difference is between Guard and Reserve circumstances and the active military?

General LUCKEY. So I note the time, but I would just say, I personally do not think the linkage is between deployments. I think it goes back to what General McMillian said earlier.

One of the things we are focused on in the Army Reserve is looking particularly at financial stressors on families driven by potential issues with employment relationships. Did the overtime increase the stress on the family and on the soldier in our case? I am concerned about that being an accelerant or a potential motivating factor in some sort of self-destructive behavior.

Senator SHELBY. Senator Tester.

Senator TESTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank the Generals and the Admiral for being here today.

I want to welcome Chairman Shelby to the head of the Appropriations committee. We look forward to working with you.

FOREST FIRE EQUIPMENT IN MONTANA

General Lengyel, I just want to visit a little bit about a thing called fire buckets that we need in Montana. We burned 1.25 million acres of land last year in the forest fire season. The equipment is critical. You have said in the past, you supported it. I assume that is that same way.

When can we expect those buckets in Montana?

General LENGYEL. They are on the way, sir. Buying those buckets and you will have them this summer, I think.

Senator TESTER. They are in the mail. Okay, good. And then we have, this is a Military Construction, Veterans Affairs project also, but the apron for the C-130's up at the Air Guard unit on Gore Hill. I appreciate your push for that.

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir.

AMP 2 MODERNIZATION

Senator TESTER. As far as AMP 1 modernization, it is supposed to be done April 1 of 2020. Hopefully, you are looking at AMP 2. Could you give me a status of that?

General LENGYEL. Yes, Senator. AMP 2 is in the program. I think it is on course to be completed 2028. So it is out there and needs to be done. We need to watch it. We have a lot of old C-130's that need AMP 2.

Senator TESTER. And do you already have priority as to where you are going to start with the AMP 2?

General LENGYEL. Senator Tester, we do not, that I am aware of.

Senator TESTER. Okay. Well, I would just hope and I anticipate you will meet the deadline of April 1, maybe even exceed it, and you can seamlessly pop right into AMP 2 modernization.

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir.

CHEMICAL CLEANUP

Senator TESTER. Thank you. I want to follow up a little bit on the Ranking Member's questions on the chemical cleanup because

of the firefighting chemicals. And I really do not know the answer to this question.

Are these chemicals used exclusively on bases in the foam or are these chemicals used out in the forest too?

General LENGYEL. Sir, I believe they are used in airports to put out fires all over the country, including civilian airports and the like. It is not just a military thing.

Senator TESTER. And in the forest too?

General LENGYEL. In the forest, I do not believe they are used in the forest.

Senator TESTER. Okay, so I guess the question I have, if this is an issue that is a big issue, which I do not doubt the Ranking Member's assessment of it.

Why are we not looking for benign firefighting chemicals, such as the ones used in the forests?

General LENGYEL. Right.

Senator TESTER. Why are we not looking for those? Because if we are creating a problem with this, we need to stop the problem where it is being caused.

General LENGYEL. Well, I believe that over time, they will transition to a safer version of this fire retardant.

Senator TESTER. Because my understanding is they are out there.

General LENGYEL. Yes.

Senator TESTER. Okay.

General LENGYEL. Yes, they are.

Senator TESTER. I hope that would be done sooner than later because if we have a solution to a problem, we ought not to be creating more of a problem.

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir.

BUDGET FOR ARMY NATIONAL GUARD READINESS

Senator TESTER. Okay. The National Defense Strategy focuses on preparing for the possibility of a near peer threat. The President's budget request reflects that.

The Army National Guard is designated to protect the units as focused readiness units with additional training requirements. Meanwhile, they still have the traditional State requirements and Federal requirements, counterdrug, border protection requirements now.

In your view, is the Guard receiving an adequate portion of the DOD resources to properly address all of its commitments that I have talked about?

General LENGYEL. Senator, we are receiving enough training. Our training readiness in the Army National Guard has increased over the last several years. We are now doing four combat training center rotations.

Senator TESTER. Okay.

General LENGYEL. We have enough dollars to do focused readiness units and to train our urgent units, which are some of the heavy brigades, and field artillery brigades, and striker brigades that require extra, additional training.

Senator TESTER. Yes.

General LENGYEL. The Air National Guard has enough funds to maintain required training for those events.

MORE NATIONAL GUARD REQUIREMENTS AFFECTED RECRUITMENT

Senator TESTER. So as we see the training and operational requirements stack up, have you been able to assess what the impact is on any individual Guardsman, more training days, more deployments? Has it affected your recruitment?

General LENGYEL. Well, I can tell you that it will have an impact on some soldiers' ability to serve. I mean, there is clearly, in many of the units I just mentioned, a higher required level of sustained readiness, and that is the key.

As General Luckey had mentioned earlier, it is finding that balance between what we can endure and sustain in our force for our business model to maintain a ready Force that can be ready fast enough to deploy when the Nation needs it. The world is different.

So there will be some people that have to change into a different part of the United States Army that does not require that level of training. There will be some people that will adapt and do it, and be able to train at a higher level yearly. And there will be some people who just get into the National Guard now and that is just the way it is, and they do not know any different.

Senator TESTER. So as we ask more of the men and women of the Guard, are we doing enough to make up for the time away from their families, their communities, and their career? I am talking specifically about things like TRICARE for units with high operational tempos, retention bonuses, and incentive pay.

General LENGYEL. There is a requirement to help sustain our Force over time, I think, for increased bonuses and increased incentive pay to help retain our Force.

I think a sustained level of funding and budgets, as we talked earlier in this hearing, about the devastating effects that cancelling drill weekends on soldiers, and airmen, and sailors, and Marines who actually plan to go to a drill weekend, and then show up, and are told to go home.

That devastates the ability to maintain these talented Americans who desire to serve in the Reserve component.

NATIONAL GUARD AT THE BORDER

Senator TESTER. One last question. You said that the Guardsmen that are currently being used on the southern border, 965 of them, are being drawn from the four border States. You talked about 450,000 people being in the Guard and said that it is not going to have an impact.

Have you done an analysis on the impact to those four border States? The 965, what percentage is that of the total folks that serve in Texas, California, New Mexico, and Arizona?

General LENGYEL. So Texas is the biggest National Guard in the country. There are 20,000 folks just in Texas.

Senator TESTER. Okay.

General LENGYEL. I have spoken with every adjutant general in the four border States, only three right now are actually providing. California has yet to put anybody on the border.

Senator TESTER. Okay.

General LENGYEL. But they may in the future. All TAG's, all The Adjutant Generals, have told me that right now, at this level of effort, they can sustain this inside their States.

Senator TESTER. That is what I needed to know. And the last thing, and you answered it, I think, in previous questions, so you do not have to answer this, but the rules of engagement are clear on the southern border.

General LENGYEL. They are clear.

Senator TESTER. Okay. Thank you.

Senator SHELBY. Senator Udall.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, Chairman Shelby and also welcome to the committee. It is going to be a pleasure working with you on this, on the full Appropriations committee and the SACD (Senate Appropriations Committee on Defense) committee.

The Department of Defense established new policies for maternity leave as part of the Force of the Future initiative in 2016 and it authorized 12 weeks of fully paid maternity leave after normal pregnancy and childbirth.

However, this does not take the total Force into consideration. Under the current law, Reserve component members in Reserve training status are required to attend unit training assemblies—that is the weekend drills—in order to receive points towards credible military service.

If the female service member does not perform duty within the allotted timeframe, the service member is in jeopardy of not receiving credit for their military service and points towards retirement.

MOTHERS OF MILITARY SERVICE ACT

I introduced an amendment with Senators Rounds, Boozman, Murray, and Heinrich last year to the NDAA which I plan to reintroduce as a standalone bill as well to fix this problem. It is called the Mothers of Military Service or MOMS Leave Act would ensure that female service members of the Reserve component receive points for six unit training assemblies towards their retirement after normal pregnancy and childbirth.

There are approximately 153,802 women in the National Guard and Reserves who are currently not entitled to be paid maternity leave. The National Guard Association of the U.S. has given full support to fix this problem, yet I have received pushback from the Department of Defense stating, in essence, that this proposal is too expensive. I believe this is outrageous considering the record amount of money this committee has approved for DOD in recent years.

Are you aware of any issues with the legislation that would cause the Guard to object to the Congress advancing it this year?

General LENGYEL. Sir, I am not aware of any reason to object.

Senator UDALL. Would you agree that taking care of our female service members after childbirth is an important effort to ensure retention of female Reservists and Guard members, and also an important job for any leader?

General LENGYEL. Senator, I would.

Senator UDALL. And can I count on our support inside the Pentagon to address this issue and help make this legislative fix?

General LENGYEL. Senator, you can.

Senator UDALL. Thank you very much.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD NEW MEXICO FLYING SQUADRON

One of the Air National Guard's capstone principles was to allocate at least one unit equipped with wing and flying squadron in each of the 54 States and Territories. Currently, of the 50 States, 4 do not own their own aircraft including New Mexico.

The New Mexico delegation has made several proposals to bring back a flying mission to the New Mexico Air Guard. I asked last year whether there was a plan in place to ensure New Mexico will be unit-equipped with a sustainable and viable mission in the near future. I mentioned that the CV-22 mission was one possible option for the 150th ANG.

Last year, I led a letter from the New Mexico delegation to Secretary Wilson urging the transfer of the HH-60G's to the 150th ANG.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to include the full letter in the record.

Senator SHELBY. Without objection, it will be included.

[The information follows:]

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 28th, 2017

The Honorable Dr. Heather A. Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force
Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Wilson,

We write to express our strong support for the New Mexico Air National Guard to receive Legacy HH-60G aircraft that the Air Force is planning to divest, as it fields the Combat Rescue Helicopter (CRH). The 58th Special Operations Wing (SOW) at Kirtland Air Force Base is currently scheduled to receive the first CRH in Fiscal Year 2020 and is expected to deliver the legacy HH-60Gs to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.

The 58th SOW has presented two challenges to our offices regarding the transition to the CRH - manpower and hangar and training space. We are fully confident that the New Mexico Air National Guard can provide quality, timely, and cost-effective solutions with its available personnel and infrastructure.

- **Manpower.** The 58th SOW anticipates a shortage of manpower as initial instructors are transitioned to the CRH while their mission requirements remain to produce aircrew in the legacy HH-60G PAVE Hawk. They have indicated it will require attention and a coordinated effort across the Air Force and they will work with the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Air Combat Command to ensure there is adequate manpower in place not only to train in legacy systems but also to spin up the CRH.
- **Hangar and Training Space.** The squadron tasked with providing graduate level helicopter training will be heavily tasked as they may train in up to four different helicopters (CRH, legacy training for the HH-60G, UH-1N training and potentially its replacement, the UH-X program). The 58th SOW has also identified the hangar and associated building where the CRH training will take place is not of adequate size to accomplish this future growth and will not be adequate to support the new requirements. Furthermore, office and classroom space on the flight line where the new aircrew members will be trained is undersized and will need renovations and additions to ensure a successful and seamless transition for the 58th SOW.

Transferring HH-60Gs to the 150th SOW will satisfy one of Air National Guard's Capstone Principles of ensuring each state's Air National Guard have a unit equipped wing and flying

squadron. It will also guarantee there is not a disruption in pilot production, which is critical given the Air Force's pilot shortage while also alleviating the stress on the 58th SOW to train in both the legacy and new helicopter airframes. The President's FY18 Basing Plan indicates the CRH conversion will take approximately 10 years with the Air National Guard being the last to receive the CRH. As you look at the feasibility of this transfer, you will find the 150th SOW has the infrastructure to support the HH-60G and, with a minimal increase in authorized personnel, can support training and maintenance of the airframe.

As you know, the New Mexico Air National Guard has a long legacy of service to our nation, and you have previously agreed during testimony before the U.S. Senate that you would also like to see the Tacos in a flying mission again. Transferring the HH-60G mission to the NMANG will serve a force multiplier and continue the important mission of training combat rescue airman. We strongly urge you to consider assigning the HH-60G mission to the NMANG.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Steve Pearce
United States Representative



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Representative



Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States Representative

Senator UDALL. What is the current status of getting a flying mission back to New Mexico? Is there any reason why New Mexico, a border State with excellent flying conditions and mountainous terrain, perfect for training, should be without a flying mission?

Senator LENGYEL. Senator, I would love for there to be an opportunity to put an aircraft unit equipped flying mission in every State.

I tell you, the 150th is flying a lot of airplanes associated with the Active component Air Force, with the Active duty Air Force, and doing a great job for our country and for our Air Force. But I am not aware at this time of any planned build of a unit equipped flying mission in the State.

Senator UDALL. Okay. We are going to keep pushing for one, and we hope that you will find a way to do this. The flying you mentioned is also very important.

BORDER DEPLOYMENT FOLLOW UP

I want to follow up on what Senator Durbin and several other members asked about in terms of the border deployment.

We have seen the National Guard deployed to the border before, most recently in 2010 when there was a significant spike in cartel activity and violence on the border. The Guard was able to go down and act as a force multiplier, as you have talked about, General, and helped the CBP address an actual threat to safety along the border.

But today, the facts on the ground just do not support what the President has called for. Sheriff Vigil of Dona Ana County, one of our largest counties, which is on the border in New Mexico, met with Attorney General Jeff Sessions last week. Sheriff Vigil says the border is not experiencing the crisis the Trump Administration claims and he says building a wall and sending in National Guard troops would be a waste of money.

The Police Chief in Sunland Park, he is right down on the border, has a view of the border fence from his office. He says they have very little immigration-related crime. Sunland Park was just named the second safest city in New Mexico.

Sheriff Vigil says, and I agree, that smart border technology would be a much more effective and efficient security investment.

General Lengyel, prior to the President's announcement 2 weeks ago, had the White House consulted with you, or anyone in your leadership, to discuss the possibility of sending National Guard troops to the border?

General LENGYEL. Senator, prior to the 4th, no one consulted with me about sending people to the border.

Senator UDALL. And what is the specific reason the White House has given for the need to deploy the Guard to the border?

General LENGYEL. To assist the Department of Homeland Security and the Customs and Border Protection with the security at the border, which is a national security issue.

Senator UDALL. Well, the President's announcement talks about, I believe his quote, or his tweet, or whatever it was, said, "Until we can have a wall, we are going to be guarding our border with the military." So that suggests that he did not get his wall, so that the reason for doing this is kind of a supplement to that.

Would you agree with that?

General LENGYEL. Sir, the National Guard is there because Customs and Border Protection have identified areas where they can be assisted by the deployment of National Guard troops to help them secure the border.

Senator UDALL. Thank you very much, General. Really appreciate all of you here and appreciate your service.

Senator SHELBY. Senator Daines.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank you all for appearing before this committee today and for your selfless service to our great Nation.

As the son of a Marine from the 58th Rifle Company, Billings, Montana, I am mindful of the unique challenges our citizen soldiers face. These young men and women balance the commitments of both a civilian and a military career, while also raising families and being leaders in their own communities.

Roughly, 4,550 Guardsmen and Reservists from the Army, Navy, the Air Force, and Marines call Montana home. It is my great honor to represent them here in the United States Senate.

DEFENSIVE CYBER TRAINING IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

Last October, I sent a letter to Secretary Mattis concerning cyber attacks on civil networks, and the unique capability the National Guard brings to bear under Title 32 authority.

A third of this subcommittee joined me and we together, we increase funding for defensive cyber training and growth in the National Guard.

General Lengyel, it is good to see you again.

Can you provide a brief update on the National Guard's efforts to grow cyber capability, particularly where it could help address risks to the homeland under Title 32?

General LENGYEL. Yes, sir.

So we are a robust part of the Army and the Air Force Cyber Mission force. We have 11 cyber protection teams in the Army National Guard. We have 15 cyber operation squadrons in the Air National Guard. All of that force trained in order to do our Federal mission is available in State active duty status for Title 32 inside the State when they are not on mission.

Right now, we have one cyber protection team on mission, Title 10 at Fort Meade, and we have two cyber protection teams who are on mission as part of the Air Force cyber mission force.

Additionally, every State, Senator, as you know, has a defensive cyber operations element in their State. It is a small cadre, about the size of 10 people. Just recently, the State of Washington has conducted a great pilot program to use this to help protect critical infrastructure inside the State.

So more broadly, me and the NGB are looking to start a pilot program to three additional States to use in an active duty status and a Title 32 status defensive cyber operations element in this emerging mission field.

Senator DAINES. Yes, I appreciate your efforts there, General Lengyel. It is clear this is one of those areas that is only going to increase in terms of activity, and we need to continue to grow our capabilities.

I want to also recognize the soldiers of the 189th Aviation Regiment who deployed last fall in harm's way and those are the 495th Combat Support and Sustainment Battalion who are prepared to deploy later this year. We certainly wish them well and look forward to their safe return home.

FULL-TIME SUPPORT IN NATIONAL GUARD

General Lengyel, considering the amount of training it takes to make a soldier or airmen deployable, and the limited number of training days available, does the Guard have enough full time support to maximize the training value for every drill weekend?

General LENGYEL. Senator, my biggest task is for this new operational National Guard that we are, is we have to be resourced with the appropriate level of full-time people inside our formations, so that when the part-time soldier or airmen come to work, they have equipment that works. They have training planned and operationally ready to go into the field immediately and do their war-time training tasks.

So the short answer is, I believe, we do not. Right now we have currently, part of our Force, there is about 16.5 percent of our Force is full-time. In order for me, I believe, to have the Force ready enough so that we can be a part of this ongoing operational Force that we are, we need about 20 percent of our Force to be full-time.

So over time, we need to grow the number of full timers in our units across the Nation.

NATIONAL GUARD AIRCRAFT SHORTFALLS

Senator DAINES. As follow up, as Congress and the Administration work together to rebuild our military, I understand that some Army National Guard aviation units are still experiencing significant shortfalls. In fact, Guard Apache units are operating at 75 percent of their equipping requirement. Blackhawk units are planned to fly their oldest UH-60A models well into the next decade.

My question for you, General, how is the Department addressing these shortfalls?

General LENGYEL. So as it relates to readiness, you are exactly right. You mention the Apache issue.

We have, as a result of the National Commission on the Future of the Army, a recommendation that we maintain four battalions of Apaches inside the National Guard. They recommended—at least initially based on the financial and fiscal situation in fiscal year 2016—that they have 18 aircraft in each battalion to do it.

Also in that same Report, it does suggest that should the Department find additional resources, that they would grow those battalions to 24 aircraft in each one.

As it stands now, when we deploy an Apache battalion, and we have one deployed, we have to take from the remaining three National Guard battalions' aircraft to make sure they have their full complement to deploy.

So, as you can see, if we are going to deploy one battalion at a time, we might be able to make that do. But if we ever needed to deploy multiple battalions, it is high risk to us being able to do the mission with just 18 aircraft in each battalion.

UPDATE ON READY FORCE

Senator DAINES. Lieutenant General Luckey, last year, you introduced this subcommittee to the Ready Force X construct, which you described as the Army Reserve's driving force for manning, equipping, training, and deploying key capabilities.

The 89th Quartermaster Supply Company out of Great Falls, Montana and the 823rd Movement Control Detachment out of Missoula are part of that Force.

The question is, can you provide us an update on Ready Force X? How is it improving the readiness of our operational reserve?

General LUCKEY. Senator, absolutely. Thanks for the question.

I would say what it is really doing, as I said in my opening statement, is enabling us to see the current status from a readiness perspective of certain formations, identify in space and time when they need to be fully mission capable from a combat perspective, and how much time does it take us to get from steady state where we

are able to completely and responsibly deploy that capability into combat?

Since I met with you last year, I will tell you that we have done a significant amount of analytics and put a significant amount of both funding and, in particular, key training events and time into training specific formations to a higher degree of readiness.

That said, I do not want to leave here without making it very clear. This is not about turning a third of the Army Reserve into a fight tonight type capability. That is not what RFX is.

What it really does is it enables us to see ourselves, to understand and appreciate risk, and then to identify for senior leadership, both in the Department of Defense and beyond, how much time is it going to take us to get to where we need to be to put those capabilities into combat.

When I sat here before you last year, we looked at about 300-some-odd formations. Frankly, we have now more than doubled the number of formations that we are looking at where we are doing very rigorous analytics. Those capabilities that you just mentioned that are in Montana, I will just say, those are critical enabling capabilities for the Army. Not just for the armies or the Army to be able to be placed in an integrated fashion into the total Force very quickly into combat.

My responsibility as the leader of this team is to make sure I am identifying how much time is it going to take? Frankly, readiness for us is about more than just money. Time is a big component of what we need to be able to get these capabilities straight, get them deployable, and to make sure we are letting senior leaders know how much time we need to do that.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, General Luckey.

General LUCKEY. Yes, sir.

Senator DAINES. I am out of time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Senator SHELBY. Thank you.

Senator Baldwin.

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thanks to each of our witnesses today for your service and for your presence.

EQUITABLE BENEFITS NATIONAL GUARD VS. ACTIVE

In the last few years, Congress has taken a number of key steps towards reaching benefits parity between Active and Reserve components. I have eagerly supported those efforts, but there is certainly more work to do.

I will soon be introducing a bill to correct current inequity in law and in DOD policy that precludes the awarding of retirement points for distance learning.

Such a prohibition disproportionately harms members of the Reserve components who hold civilian jobs and cannot attend military-related educational programs in residence.

For example, my office was contacted recently by an Army Reserve officer from Wisconsin who is attending the Army War College via distance learning.

In addition to her military and civilian jobs—unlike her Active component counterparts who attend in residence and as full-time students—she will not be awarded points towards her retirement.

I believe this is simply unfair and hinders the Reserve component's ability to recruit and retain talent.

My question to each of the witnesses is, do you support fixing this inequity? Why do we not start with you, Lieutenant General Miller?

General MILLER. Thank you, Senator, for that great question.

In the Air Force Reserve, we give credit for completed distance learning, one point for the completion of a course up to 130 points per year. Pay is not part of that and I know there has been a lot of discussion about the pay end of it. But for the Air Force Reserve, we do provide that.

Senator BALDWIN. Okay.

General LUCKEY. Senator, thanks for the question.

Without necessarily conceding any inequities, what I would say is that in addition to supporting and agreeing with our contention that we should be much more expansive in how we look at leveraging technology because, frankly, there is a lot of training that could be done online.

And to give some sort of credit, both as a matter of professional development and readiness of the Force, give some credit for the time soldiers are spending doing that, I think, makes sense. I just think it is intuitively a smart thing to do.

Whether it should be limited to one component of the Army or one component of the services, or whether that is just a way we should, if you will, leverage emerging technologies, I would leave that for others to decide. I am very supportive of it.

The reason I am making the statement the way I am is, frankly, looking at other ways to increase this conversation or increase the scope of this conversation to go beyond just what we regard as classic professional military education, but actually other aspects of training that we need to get done. But frankly, the time is better spent, in many cases, letting soldiers, at least in our case, do that on their own time in different environments.

So that when we are together—as General McMillian had said earlier about getting the collective training experience and maximizing the opportunity to use those hours when soldiers, in our case, are together—to get the unit readiness that we need to sustain the force and be able to deploy quickly.

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you.

General LENGYEL. Senator Baldwin, I agree with General Luckey. I think that Reservists balance their civilian lives and their military lives all the time.

There are many, many times and many things they do that they do not get paid or compensated on retirement points for things like school. If we can find ways to get them retirement credit, I would fully support it.

Senator BALDWIN. Great, thank you.

Admiral MCCOLLUM. Senator, a Reservist is at their best when things are good with their employer, and with their family, and in a good place with their uniformed requirement. Readiness generation being the predominant indicator of a Reservist being in a good spot is generating readiness.

We focus on what are the enablers? Things like distance learning, as you mentioned, and the capability to do that. Mobility and technology is one such activity.

Recently, we introduced to the Reserve Force the ability for a Reservist to use their own personal devices and plug-in a device simply to hold their CAC Reader and it gives them authentication, which will preclude them from having to come into the Reserve center to be able to do that requirement. If we can authenticate that they have done that requirement, we can give them credit.

Previously, it was the auditability of a member accomplishing that requirement. Enablers such as this allow us to be able to do that auditability and give them credit.

But in large, we support that, especially if it is in line with the readiness and it puts them in a good spot with their employer, their family, and their service requirement.

General MCMILLIAN. Thank you, Senator. A great question. This is what drives me are those 38 days that General Luckey and I have alluded to.

I cannot think of anything more difficult than to get our young volunteer men and women ready for combat. The worse thing we could actually ask them to do in 38 training days throughout a calendar year. So I need to do at-home, online training for the basic elements of the training that we do.

I am fully onboard with the points, but I will tell you young Captain McMillian in 1990 and the Sergeant McMillian of the day, and the Lance Corporal McMillian, and the Gunnery McMillian have a hard time looking out 20 years where the points will have a benefit. We need to get paid.

But I think it has become too complex now as a Commandant, we would call the next generation Marine Corps to be ready for combat without putting in that extra effort in between drills.

I need my Marines on drill weekend to be out in the dirt, moving, shooting, communicating, and putting rounds downrange. I need them to prepare for that at home, online, with points and pay.

Thank you for the question.

Senator BALDWIN. All right. Thank you.

We will be consulting as we finalize this bill, and I hope my colleagues join me.

AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

One quick, final question before my time runs out.

General Lengyel, I am extremely proud of the men and women at the 115th Fighter Wing located at Truax Air National Guard Base in Madison, Wisconsin. It has been a true honor to partner with them in their successful pursuit of the F-35 mission. It is my understanding that the Air Force's environmental review process is underway.

Can you please provide a status update and an overview of next steps?

General LENGYEL. Yes, ma'am.

As you are probably aware, the squadron was recently chosen as a preferred alternative to locate the F-35. Congratulations to Wisconsin. It was a rigorous competition to look at the place, cost,

ranges, airspace, affordability to do it and Truax came out as Ops 5 and that is a great thing.

I believe it is 2023 is currently the program for when the airplanes are supposed to arrive or begin operations in the F-35.

I am not specifically aware of the environmental, the issue you mentioned, but I will check, and I will come to your office, and get back to you.

Senator BALDWIN. Very good. Thank you.

General LENGYEL. Yes.

Senator BALDWIN. I will submit an additional one for the record, but mostly just to follow-up on that last point, but thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

Senator SHELBY. We would ask that all Senators' questions be answered in a reasonable time, perhaps 30 days. Some Senators were not here today because they were in competing committees.

[The following questions were not asked at the hearing, but were submitted to the Department for response subsequent to the hearing:]

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO GENERAL JOSEPH L. LENGYEL

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

Question. I have heard from a number of my Kentucky National Guard constituents who are concerned about noticeable delays in Army National Guard promotions. Can you please provide an update on efforts to help ensure officers are promoted in an appropriate and timely manner?

Answer. The Army National Guard (ARNG) is aware of the increased processing timelines for the Federal Recognition Process. The ARNG Unit Vacancy Promotion Federal recognition processing timelines increased from an average of less than six months to over 7 months due to a manpower issue at the Army's Director of Military Personnel Management's (DMPM) Office in the summer of 2017. To help reduce processing time, the ARNG is now able to electronically transmit promotion packets to the Army. DMPM and the ARNG continue to monitor promotion scroll processing times. The ARNG and DMPM are working closely to ensure ARNG Officers without any derogatory information are federally recognized within the standard timeline of approximately 180 days.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR SUSAN M. COLLINS

DEPLOYMENT TEMPO OF KC-135 CREWS AND MAINTAINERS

Question. The 101st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) in Bangor, Maine, the "MAINEiacs," continues to deploy and operate at very high rates. The 101st ARW handles over 1,000 transient aircraft a year, and provides air refueling planning for coronet missions of joint and allied fighter aircraft moving from the continental United States to locations overseas. I am concerned that the operational tempo has stressed the force considerably and affected its readiness and training. Are you comfortable with the current deployment tempo of KC-135 crews and maintainers? What can be done to effectively sustain and maintain readiness of workhorse units like the 101st in Bangor?

Answer. While the operational tempo remains high across our KC-135 community, the Air National Guard (ANG) deployment ratio is gradually decreasing. From 2014 to 2017, KC-135 units like the 101st Air Refueling Wing, averaged a 1:4 mobilization-to-dwell ratio. The mobilization-to-dwell ratio in fiscal year 2018 was 1:5 for KC-135 aircrews and maintainers.

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Question. With the assistance of the Maine National Guard through the State Partnership Program, Montenegro has worked hard to reform its military and to strengthen the rule of law to come into compliance with NATO requirements. Montenegro officially joined NATO last summer, which will promote stability in the Balkans and increase American and European security. How can Congress support the National Guard and the State Partnership Program to build relationships and improve our national security at home and abroad?

Answer. The State Partnership Program (SPP) and the National Guard enjoy outstanding support from Congress. The security cooperation reforms in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2017 created many opportunities for the National Guard and the SPP. For example, the reforms enable better integration of the SPP into the DoD security cooperation enterprise, thereby strengthening the National Guard's contribution to U.S. national security interests.

SPP funding has been flat for many years as dozens of partner countries have been added. As a result, SPP activities for each partner have been reduced. The full program requirement is about \$29 million and would permit the level of state and partner activity that existed before adding new partnerships.

NATIONAL GUARD COUNTER-DRUG PROGRAM

Question. The National Guard's Counter-Drug Program has been very successful in supporting law enforcement agencies and community based organizations to counter illicit drug activity around the country. In fiscal year 2018, the National Guard Bureau received \$236.4 million for this program. This year's budget only requests \$117 million. Are you concerned that this decrease in funding may negatively affect our communities and the counter-drug mission?

Answer. The President's fiscal year 2019 budget request for the National Guard Counterdrug Program is in line with recent requests. In fiscal year 2018 the President's budget request was \$116.4 million, but with Congressional support the program was appropriated \$236.4 million. An additional \$25 million was appropriated for the Counterdrug Program Training Centers. The additional funding provided by Congress has permitted a more robust Counterdrug program.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR STEVE DAINES

NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

Question. A top priority for me in Congress is to stop the tragic methamphetamine epidemic that is destroying lives across Montana. I am proud of the work the Montana National Guard has done through the Counterdrug Program to augment Federal, State, and local law enforcement where resources are scarce—particularly the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which does not have its own criminal analysts.

General Lengyel, as the Guard dedicates resources within the counterdrug program, how does it balance the availability of existing resources in each State and municipality, to ensure large rural areas aren't left behind?

Answer. A Counterdrug Coordinator in each of the 54 States and territories determines how best to assign support to requesting agencies, in accordance with the governor's State counterdrug plan.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU STRUCTURE

Question. In December 2012, the National Guard Empowerment Act became law, adding the Chief of the National Guard Bureau as a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in order to provide an institutional change so the Nation could have use of a structurally enabled operational reserve. What structural or institutional barriers both within the Bureau and the Department remain to achieving that objective, and what legislative proposals are needed to lift those barriers and ensure the National Guard Bureau has equal standing?

Answer. Since the National Guard Empowerment Act became law in 2012, there are several areas, both in policy and statute, which could be addressed to better enable the Guard to be an operational reserve. The Chief of the National Guard, as both a four star general and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has real and perceived responsibility for activity in the National Guard of the States and activity in National Guard Bureau. These responsibilities should be examined and be better

supported with commensurate authority. To ensure the National Guard is a structurally enabled operational reserve with the necessary resources, the Nation will need a cadre of senior National Guard leaders of an appropriate rank represented at the appropriate levels in the Army, Air Force, Joint Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Combatant Commands. Additionally, it is time to ensure that the most readiness enhancing National Guard programs are set at funding floors necessary to ensure Guard forces deliver the lethality required in the warfight, and the rapid response pivotal in the homeland.

HURRICANE RESPONSE

Question. Among your many roles as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, you are the statutory advisor to the President on the use of the National Guard in a non-Federal role. How many times did you brief the President on National Guard response related to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria?

Answer. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) did not brief the President, but the National Guard Bureau was involved in the key discussions within DoD and with DHS related to the hurricane response.

Question. What portion of the All-Hazards Support Plan developed between the National Guard Bureau and several States was utilized?

Answer. NGB utilizes the All-Hazards Support Plan to guide internal staff activities in support of the States at the onset of emergent all-hazard events and is a tool CNGB uses to fulfill the statutory responsibility of advising on the non-Federalized National Guard. The plan helps organize NGB's response so its staff can best support the impacted State, territory or district and guides the sharing of information with Federal response partners. To inform all activities associated with response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Nate and Maria, NGB followed Appendix 2 "hurricane" to Annex C "operations" of the All-Hazards Plan. The purpose of this plan is to guide NGB in the preparation and execution of its response to a hurricane making landfall within the United States and/or its Territories. Appendix 2 describes the ends, ways, and means by which NGB will support a response following a catastrophic hurricane event and inform Federal partners through supporting actions, capabilities and anticipated timelines.

Question. What recommendations would you have for better coordinating Federal and non-Federal responses to disaster and emergency efforts?

Answer. After each disaster, the National Guard reviews its performance and determines where it can improve for the next response. After the 2017 hurricane season, NGB reviewed and republished hurricane plans and improved coordination between Federal and non-Federal entities. However, the reimbursement of supporting States remains a challenge to better coordinating future response efforts. Faster reimbursement or up front funding to States willing to provide needed support would address some States' concerns. For example, 37 States have balanced-budget amendments that constrain their ability to provide support, and some States simply don't have the ability to initially absorb the associated costs and wait for likely reimbursement. The solution may be found in legislative or policy changes that would involve FEMA as well as the DoD.

Question. When several States requested of the President Federal response funds under Title 32 of U.S. Code to continue the deployment of their National Guard personnel to assist Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands with recovery, the President referred their requests to the Department of Defense. The DoD ultimately denied the requests, in part, over concerns that the Department would not be reimbursed under the Stafford Act. The Department of Defense suggested that States should apply for reimbursements directly from the Department of Homeland Security. However, the DoD is using the same section of U.S. Code to authorize payments for deployments on the Southwest Border without a clear estimate of total cost for these operations, without identifying which funds for training will be shifted to cover the cost, and without knowing whether the President will ask Congress for additional funds to replace those shifted. Why can risk of a loss of training funds be accepted for the border mission, but not for responding to Americans who are facing the results of a natural disaster?

Answer. Hurricane response and the current border mission present very different situations. States have the lead for hurricane response, which the Federal government supports with partial reimbursement funding after the requisite Federal declaration. The Federal government acts to support State hurricane response. The border mission, by contrast, is a federally conceived effort to support the Federal Customs and Border Patrol by providing Federal funding to obtain State National Guard support for the Federal border security mission.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN

NATIONAL GUARD TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLE MODERNIZATION

Question. General Lengyel, you have made progress building a balanced array of combat and enabling forces, increasing the National Guard's overall interoperability with the Joint Force; however, I'm concerned that recent administration budget requests have not kept pace with your tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization requirements. I note, for example, that the fiscal year 2019 President's Budget request contained no funding for recapped heavy TWVs for the Army National Guard. In fact, the fiscal year 2019 budget request zeroes out funding for the HEMTT recap program for fiscal year 2020–fiscal year 2023 and only provides funding for 19 PLS recaps for the Active component in fiscal year 2021. As a consequence, the Army National Guard, like all of the Reserve Components, increasingly relies on the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation to build readiness and sustain forces compatible and integrated with the "Total Force." While NGREA has enabled the Army National Guard to slowly and partially fill critical requirements, as a planning tool, it is unpredictable as it falls outside normal appropriations and limits the ability to forecast. So we can better understand your equipping challenges, what are your current and anticipated TWV unfunded priorities?

Answer. The Army National Guard's Tactical Wheeled Vehicle unfunded priorities are within the Palletized Load System and Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck fleets. The Army National Guard has modernized 55 percent of the Palletized Load System fleet and would require \$226 million to complete modernization of the fleet. The Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck fleet is 59 percent modernized and would require \$398 million to complete modernization.

Retirement Credit for Distance Learning

Question. It is my understanding that an ambiguity in current law (Section 12732(a) of Title 10) regarding the awarding of retirement points has resulted in inconsistencies across the Services related to the treatment of distance learning. The specific language in question entitles a service member to one retirement point for each day "while attending a prescribed course of instruction at a school designated as a service school by law or by the Secretary concerned."

It is my further understanding that individual Services are interpreting this language differently in regard to whether distance learning qualifies. Adding to the confusion, I have heard that there may exist a 2013 DoD Instruction that prohibits the awarding of retirement points for distance learning. Such a prohibition disproportionately harms members of the reserve components who hold civilian jobs and cannot attend military-related educational programs in-residence.

I will soon be introducing a bill to address this uneven treatment of distance learning and give the Secretaries of the Military Department clear statutory authority to award retirement points for distance learning.

My multipart question for each witness is:

- Do you support awarding retirement points for approved distance learning?
- Does your Service currently award retirement points for approved distance learning?
- If so, under what statutory authority and under what DoD and Service regulatory authority?
- If not, why not, and please include any statutory or policy prohibitions against doing so?

Answer. The National Guard is supportive of awarding retirement points for approved distributed learning courses as authorized in chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code and in Department policy contained in DoDI 1215.07, most recently updated in 2016.

The Air National Guard (ANG), in accordance with DoDI 1215.07, authorizes the award of retirement points for distance learning programs when a Guardsman is in a pay status. Air National Guard Instruction (ANGI) 36–2001, Section 1.8, authorizes unit commanders to issue written authorization governing training, regardless of pay status, and Section 1.8.6. awards Extension Course Institute points for approved courses, including distance learning programs.

The Army National Guard authorizes the awarding of retirement points for pre-approved distance learning programs only when a Guardsman is in a pay status. This is in accordance with DoDI 1215.07.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES D. LUCKEY

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY

TRAINING AND FORCE GENERATION

Question. Under the Ready Force X, concept you aim to have the individuals and units of the U.S. Army Reserve deployable as an operational reserve on a much shorter timeline than previously envisioned. How do you intend to prepare and support employers and families, such as those of Rutland's 424th Vertical Construction Company, for the increased operations tempo for their soldiers?

Answer. Maintaining higher unit readiness requires additional participation and commitment by all unit members. This may cause friction and stress within the Soldier's Family, as well as uncertainty for civilian employers. To mitigate the friction, the Army Reserve has policies in place and programs to support the needs of the force. Employers are our partners in national security and the Army Reserve is making a concerted effort to inform them about the possibility of increased training and a reduced deployment timeline for some units in hopes of easing their concerns and maintain their support. For Soldiers and their Families, service to the Nation requires a delicate balance between being ready enough to be relevant, but not so ready that it negatively affects their ability to maintain good, rewarding civilian employment.

The Army Reserve offers the following programs to promote readiness and prepare Soldiers and Families to deal with military separations:

- Strong Bonds is a Chaplain-led relationships and skills training. This program targets single Soldiers, couples, and Families. Strong Bonds enhances unit and individual readiness by building Soldier and Family relationships, readiness, and resiliency. Enhancing these skills prior to Family separation provides Soldiers and Families a foundation for dealing with the uncertainties of shorter notice separations.
- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a congressionally-mandated, Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their Families, and communities by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. YRRP events connect Soldiers and their Families/designated representatives to resources and support before, during, and after deployments. Provisions have been put into place by which these events can be hosted to meet the unique timelines and needs of units identified as deployable on a shorter timeline.
- The Army established Comprehensive Soldier Family Fitness (CSF2) to increase the resilience and enhance the performance of the Army Family—Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and their Family members. The program places emphasis on ways to sustain personal readiness and enhance performance by learning coping skills. Instruction on ways by which these skill enhancement classes can be incorporated into the unit are provided to both command teams and the volunteers supporting Families.
- Family Readiness Groups are Department of the Army authorized, command sponsored organization of Soldiers, civilian employees, Family members and volunteers designed to provide activities and support that encourage self-sufficiency among its members by providing information, referral assistance, and mutual support. The formation of these grass-roots support groups provide a means by which Family members of Soldiers who are deployable on shorter timelines can support one another and solve problems at the lowest level.

Finally, the Army Reserve has Fort Family Outreach and Support Center, which is a toll-free call center that provides live, relevant and responsive information, as well as community-based solutions, to support Army Reserve Soldiers and Families. Fort Family is available at 1-866-345-8248.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN

ARMY RESERVE JLTV PROCUREMENT

Question. General Luckey, I understand that you were able to use NGREA money from last year to purchase JLTVs that will be delivered in the fall. I'm glad to see that because I was concerned with the original Army acquisition plan that wouldn't have provided the vehicles to the Reserve until 2024. Can you tell me why it's important for the Army Reserve to field the JLTV and what your acquisition plans are moving forward?

Answer. The Army Reserve appreciates continued congressional support for NGREA funding. The appropriation affords invaluable flexibility and decision space to close equipment modernization gaps for critical enabler capabilities.

The ability to fully integrate with the total force to project power across all domains remains the primary goal from an equipment modernization and readiness perspective. This drives the need to accelerate fielding of modern platforms that offer the same standards of protection, lethality, mobility, and communication systems as the forces being supported. The JLTV provides a significant force protection and mobility upgrade over the legacy light tactical vehicle fleet that enhances global deployment to non-permissive threat environments. As such, the Army Reserve will continue to seek a modernization strategy that prioritizes concurrent fielding for our early entry and theater opening formations.

The Army Reserve is scheduled to begin fielding base funded JLTVs in 2024. The purpose of our NGREA investment is to establish a set of 60 platforms at Regional Training Sites to conduct individual and crew training of both operators and maintainers. This strategy will enhance the readiness posture of Army Reserve Soldiers and our ability to meet rapid deployment time horizons to combat situations utilizing the JLTV platform.

ARMY RESERVE TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLE MODERNIZATION

Question. General Luckey, you have made great progress providing operational capability and strategic depth to the Total Army and the Joint Force. However, it appears that recent administration budget requests haven't kept pace with your tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization requirements. This is concerning because insufficient funding can widen capability gaps that in turn jeopardize the Army Reserve's ability to support the Joint Force. I note, for example, that the fiscal year 2019 President's Budget request contained no funding for recapped heavy TWVs for the Army Reserve. In fact, the fiscal year 2019 budget request zeroes out funding for the HEMTT recap program for fiscal year 2020–fiscal year 2023 and only provides funding for 19 PLS recaps for the Active component in fiscal year 2021. As a consequence, the Army Reserve increasingly relies on the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation to build readiness and sustain an Operational Reserve Force compatible and integrated with the "Total Force." NGREA has enabled the Army Reserve to slowly and partially fill critical requirements, but as a planning tool, it is unpredictable as it falls outside normal appropriations and limits the ability to forecast. So we can better understand your equipping challenges, what are your current and anticipated TWV unfunded priorities?

Answer. One of my top priorities is to ensure Army Reserve Soldiers deploy with the most modern equipment in the Army inventory that offers maximum survivability, mobility, lethality, and battlefield sustainability. Fielding current generation platforms enables seamless support, while providing necessary interoperability and compatibility with the total force. We remain grateful for the continued congressional support of NGREA and other above base resources, which profoundly affects equipment modernization efforts across our tactical wheeled vehicle fleets. With that support, the Army Reserve has allocated \$625 million in above base funding to modernize tactical wheeled vehicle fleets over the last 6 years, to include 100 percent of ground ambulance platforms.

As an enabler centric force, tactical wheeled vehicles represent one of the Army Reserve's most common combat systems. In fact, over 43 percent of the Army's transportation assets reside within the Army Reserve structure. Limited resources and competing priorities forced Army leadership to make difficult decisions leading to a 50 percent armor capable procurement cap for most fleets. The incremental application of NGREA has allowed the Army Reserve to surpass the 70 percent armor capable mark across most heavy and medium vehicle fleets. However, unfunded requirements to increase armor capable variants for line haul tractors (40 percent), bridge transports (44 percent), and light tactical platforms (30 percent) exceeds \$5.3 billion.

Senator SHELBY. Senator Durbin, do you have anything else?

Senator DURBIN. I really do not have any follow up questions.

Senator SHELBY. Okay.

Senator DURBIN. But I will think of one.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECESS

Senator SHELBY. The Defense subcommittee will reconvene in closed session this Thursday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m., to receive testimony from the intelligence community.

Until then, the subcommittee stands in recess at the call of the chair. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 11:41 a.m., Tuesday, April 17, the subcommittee was recessed, to reconvene at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 19.]