

UNCLASSIFIED

STATEMENT BY

**MAJOR GENERAL RAYMOND W. CARPENTER
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

BEFORE THE

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND LAND FORCES**

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ON

ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS

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Opening Remarks

Chairman Abercrombie, Ranking Member Bartlett and members of the subcommittee I wish to thank you for the opportunity to share information on the Army National Guard's equipment posture.

Army National Guard Current and Projected Equipping Levels & Shortfalls

The Army has made great progress toward improving equipping levels within the Army National Guard (ARNG) and in modernizing existing equipment. The historic fill rate for the ARNG has been about 70 percent (much of it not modernized). Fill rates declined to approximately 40 percent of equipment available to the Governors in 2006, due to cross leveling equipment to support immediate deployment requirements. As of September 2008, 76 percent of the ARNG Modified Table of Organization and Equipment the equipment is on hand, 63 percent of that equipment is in units which are not mobilized and is available to Governors. From 2006 to the present Department of the Army dedicated unprecedented levels of resources to ARNG equipment procurement and modernization. Army National Guard units are now being equipped to the same standard as their active duty counterparts. Moreover, if funding for ARNG equipment procurement and modernization is executed as planned in the current Future Years Defense Program, the ARNG of fiscal year 2015 will approach a 90 percent equipment-on-hand level and will be the best-equipped ARNG force in history.

Despite these successes, work still needs to be done to modernize the National Guard truck fleet, procure and field additional battle command equipment as requirements for these systems evolve and mature, and improve fill levels for a number of Combat Service Support items such as water purification systems, generators, material handling equipment, and field feeding systems, tactical ambulances, aviation ground equipment and battle command systems. All of these systems are considered “Critical Dual Use” items’, they are critical to both domestic and war fighting missions. Improving modernization and level of fill for these Critical Dual Use items is a top priority for the Army National Guard and National Guard Bureau leadership.

It is also important to note that a significant quantity of “Critical Dual Use” equipment, while it may have been issued to ARNG units, is chronically unavailable to Governors in the States and Territories due to continuing rotational deployments. Many States have expressed concern about the resulting shortfalls of equipment for training and for domestic emergency response operations. The Army and Army National Guard continue to work together to refine requirements for Critical Dual Use equipment and to ensure that the States and Territories can adequately protect the lives and property of American citizens following a catastrophic event. The national average of Critical Dual Use equipment available to the Governors is 65percent.

During 2008, the Army has also made significant improvements to its equipment procurement and distribution processes to provide transparency and accountability of resources from request for funds through delivery of equipment to the unit level. The Army will demonstrate these improvements to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in

July 2009, when it fulfills its first quarterly reporting requirement on this topic. However, even with these marked improvements, work is still needed to automate many of the Army's process changes.

Army National Guard Reset

The ARNG home station reset program continues to improve the readiness and availability of returning combat equipment in an efficient, cost effective manner. The continued funding of this program is crucial to the restoration of unit readiness following combat operations. For fiscal year 2010, we will be seeking funding to restore the equipment from 15 Brigade Combat Teams and 131 other units from nearly every State and Territory. Most importantly, all of this work is done within the State, ensuring that the equipment is available to the Governor when needed. The benefits of the reset program will be lost if it is not funded beyond the last unit redeployment.

FY09 Budget Impact on the Army National Guard

In recent years the Army has made an unprecedented level of investment in Army National Guard equipment. While subject to change, the Army has programmed \$23.9 billion for ARNG equipment for fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2013 to procure new equipment and modernize equipment currently on hand. We appreciate that support and also the strong interest of the Congress and the Department of Defense in closing the gap between our domestic requirements and the available equipment in our armories and motor pools.

Future Army National Guard Equipment Needs

Despite the level of funding programmed in the current Future Years Defense Program, ARNG equipping and modernization issues will remain. For instance, the ARNG is currently scheduled to receive about 21,000 of its 30,000 Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTVs) by fiscal year 2015. Legacy vehicles are difficult and expensive to maintain and non-deployable to current theaters of operation. Other post-fiscal year 2015 shortfalls include the Critical Dual Use items as listed earlier.

I'm sure you have many concerns and relevant questions with respect to the fiscal year 2010 defense budget. I will do my best to answer your questions on the current state of Army National Guard equipment. Once the President's budget is released, the Army National Guard leadership will address any additional issues.

Closing Remarks

To remain successful while accomplishing missions in homeland defense and in overseas contingency operations the Army National Guard must have modern equipment available. Procurement of new equipment is essential to continue as an operational force of the 21st century, while functioning as an integral part of the Army. In spite of the challenges the Army National Guard currently faces, the Army and the Congress continue to demonstrate their commitment to equip our organization. The mission of the Army National Guard is to provide combat ready units in support of the National Military Strategy; to meet this challenge, the Guard must be equipped 100 percent of its Modified Table of Organization and Equipment and Table of Distribution and Allowances equipment requirements based on the Army's modular force design. I

appreciate the constant support of the Congress during the past years. Without your support the Army National Guard would be limited in its ability to meet fielding, equipping, training and war fighting needs. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and invite your questions and comments.