

**As Prepared**

**Chairman CW Bill Young – Opening Statement**

Subcommittee on Defense

National Guard and Reserve Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Hearing

*Witnesses: General Craig R. McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Lieutenant General Harry M. Wyatt III, Director, Air National Guard; Lieutenant General Jack Stultz, Chief, Army Reserve, and Commanding General, US Army Reserve Command; and Major General Raymond W. Carpenter, Director, Army National Guard (Acting)*

March 30, 2011

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This morning, the Committee will hold a hearing on National Guard and US Army Reserve readiness. We will focus primarily on near term readiness issues related to personnel, training and equipment repair, reset and battle loss replacement.

Because the senior services have consistently underfunded the reserve components, Congress has provided funding for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment account for over thirty years. And, at times, this funding has made all the difference in the ability of units to perform critical missions.

We are pleased to welcome several distinguished general officers as witnesses. From the National Guard:

- **General Craig R. McKinley**, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the first four-star Chief of the National Guard.

And he is accompanied by:

- **Lieutenant General, Harry M. Wyatt, III**, the Director of the Air National Guard
- **Major General Raymond W. Carpenter**, the Acting Director of the Army National Guard

Additionally, we are pleased to welcome the Chief of the US Army Reserve, **Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz**.

General Stultz will discuss Army Reserve requirements and help the Committee to better determine their needs.

Generals, welcome. We are eager to hear your testimony on better determining the needs of Guardsmen and reservists deployed around the world.

These officers are very well qualified to answer the questions of the Committee. Thank you all for testifying before the Subcommittee today.

Gentlemen, the Committee is concerned about the readiness of the National Guard and US Army Reserve. Your soldiers and airmen have performed magnificently in Iraq, and are performing with distinction in Afghanistan, and in many other hot spots around the globe. The Committee would like to commend the soldiers and airmen of the Guard and Reserve for their dedication throughout these years in Iraq and Afghanistan. We look forward to your testimony.

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The Subcommittee stands in recess until tomorrow, Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am when we will hold a hearing regarding the Air Force fiscal year 2012 budget request.