

STATEMENT BY

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INTRODUCTION

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Visclosky, and distinguished Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the invitation to appear before you today. It is an honor to testify on behalf of more than 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers.

America's Army Reserve is a life-saving and life-sustaining force for the nation. We have emerged from eleven years of war as an integral and proven component and command, leveraging unique capabilities in service to America.

A GREAT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Ready and direct access to a high quality, all-volunteer, operational Army Reserve for the Army and joint missions at home and abroad is essential to the Total Force and the nation. As the Army's Federal Operational Reserve Force provider, the Army Reserve provides a cost effective way to mitigate risk to national security, comprising almost 20% of the Total Army for only 6% of the current budget. The Army Reserve is a federal force under federal control, ready and accessible 24/7 with unique capabilities not found in the Regular Army, the Army National Guard, and in some cases, our sister services. We are a streamlined force – with the lowest ratio of full-time support to headquarters per capita (less than 1%) in the Army.

The Army Reserve is the Army's one-stop shop for assured access to trained specialized individuals and units – efficiently managed by a single command – seamlessly integrating and generating essential assets and capabilities across the nation and globally to complement and enable the total Army and Joint Force.

The Army Reserve needs continued support from Congress to remain the great return on investment for America's Total Force and the American taxpayer. The Army Reserve possesses unique skill sets, maintaining key support capabilities, such as logistics, transportation, engineer and civil affairs - as well as intelligence and medical assets.

AN OPERATIONAL FORCE

In order to maintain our operational proficiency, it is vital to invest in the training and readiness of our Army Reserve force. The nation cannot afford to give up the readiness gains achieved since the events of September 11th. Since 2001, an annual average of 24,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been mobilized and seamlessly integrated to support the Total Force.

The Army Reserve is a complementary force for the Active Army and provides a significant portion of the Total Army's capability in combat service and combat service support. These enablers are organized into streamlined and deployable units. Its Citizen-Soldiers embody the warrior mindset and spirit and are essential to the Army's ability to support the Joint Force, both in contingent and combat-effects missions. We take great pride in the demonstrated competence and professionalism of Army Reserve Soldiers and units, which are globally engaged in multiple campaigns across a full range of military operations in support of the Total Force. We are the only Army component that is a single command - the United States Army Reserve Command. This structure allows for immediate access to - and use of - Army Reserve Soldiers and units for missions at home or abroad.

Since the majority of our Soldiers are traditional drilling reservists, they hold full-time civilian employment in the public and private sectors, which keep their technical and managerial skills sharp at minimal cost to the defense department. We have a worldwide organization of 205,000 Soldiers and 12,600 civilians. As a community-based force, the Army Reserve maintains a strong connection to America's industrial base and its people.

The Army Reserve's combat support and combat service support capabilities, which include the majority of the Total Army's significant expertise in legal, information support, police, human resources, finance, chaplain, and training operations, are necessary to enhance and sustain the Army's ability to conduct a full range of military missions worldwide in order to Prevent, Shape and Win.

By aligning Army Reserve Theater Commands with Army Corps, Army Service Component Commands and Combatant Commands as part of the Army's Regionally Aligned Forces, Army Reserve Soldiers and leaders are executing critical planning and implementation to ensure the Department of Defense's global requirements are fully supported. This alignment will provide critical staff planning and support, ensuring the unique capabilities of the Army Reserve are maintained and used.

The way ahead for maintaining an operational reserve will involve progressive readiness for the Army Reserve, which means having the right level of readiness at the right time. The Army's force generation model offers a balanced, cost-effective approach to training and mobilization that allows for the predictability that our Soldiers, Families and their civilian employers need and deserve.

MODERNIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

In partnership with the Army, the Army Reserve has made great strides in filling its equipment shortages since 2001, increasing its equipment on hand from 75% in 2001 to 86% today. In addition we now have 88% of our Critical Dual Use (CDU) equipment on hand. This is equipment that is used for both the warfight and domestic support operations.

In regard to equipment modernization, however, the current uncertain fiscal environment significantly challenges our ability to modernize our equipment for unit training and employment as a part of the operational force. Our equipment modernization level currently stands at 65% and fiscal constraints that impede our ability to improve this will adversely impact Army Reserve readiness.

The Army Reserve is now an operational force supporting planned and contingency operations at home and abroad. This requires investment in equipment, training, and sustainment. However, we face a major challenge in modernizing our equipment for unit training and employment as a part of the operational force which impacts the Army Reserve's readiness.

As of December 2012, the Army Reserve has 86% of its needed equipment, but only 65% has been modernized (brought to the current standard of design). To maintain our readiness, we need to improve modernization levels for critical equipment. We received \$285M in the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) funding during FY 2011 and FY 2012. Priority should remain on resourcing the Army Reserve with modernized equipment for unit training and employment as a part of the operational force, and to fully equip the Army Reserve to meet the needs of the Army.

SIMULATIONS

In a new modernization initiative, the Army Reserve is using more simulation technology to save time and money. The Army Reserve funds simulations to meet the requirements of the Army Reserve Training Strategy (ARTS). Related costs include:

- Combat Simulations - \$6M: purchases war gaming suites at the Company/Detachment level for Virtual Battlespace Training 2 (VBS2);
- Constructive - \$36M: purchases distributive simulation capability equipment to support multi-echelon and geographically-dispersed training;
- Live - \$23M: purchases Home-Station Instrumentation Training Systems (HITS) and supporting radio systems for Combat Support Training Exercise and Warrior Exercise execution on Army Reserve funded installations; and
- Virtual - \$17M: purchases portable weapons systems training capability.

DISASTER RESPONSE

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 recently expanded the Army Reserve's role as part of the Federal Force, giving us the flexibility to provide specialized capabilities for domestic disaster relief including critical lifesaving, property preservation and damage mitigation support. The new mobilization authority for Defense Support of Civil Authority (DSCA) allowed us to activate specialized capabilities to assist in the Hurricane Sandy relief effort by providing three tactical water distribution units, which operated six 600-gallon-per-minute water pumps to help alleviate flooding. The core competency of the Army Reserve lends itself readily to such missions. The Army Reserve is also part of the Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear

(CBRN) Response Force, maintaining mission-ready Soldiers and equipment available for deployment in the event of a national emergency or disaster.

THE PROJECTED IMPACT OF FUNDING REDUCTIONS

Under an extension of the current continuing resolution (CR) and “Sequestration”, the Army, and by extension, the Army Reserve, will be forced to make dramatic cuts to its personnel, its readiness, and its modernization programs. This will negatively impact Operational Tempo, Medical Readiness, Equipment Readiness, Depot Maintenance and Sustainment, and Restoration and Modernization.

Disruptions to the cyclic progression of training, which were developed for the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) model, will jeopardize the Army Reserve’s ability to produce validated, technically and tactically proficient Soldiers who are available for missions. If there is no change in the CR and sequestration is not turned off, it will be challenging for us to perform annual health exams and dental readiness treatments for non-deploying Soldiers.

Depot Maintenance will suffer, as it will be difficult to afford to maintain more than 40% of ARFORGEN-critical equipment. Disaster Relief and Homeland Defense missions will be negatively impacted as already aged equipment continues to age unattended. Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM) will be degraded, causing subsystem failures to impact facility readiness in support of Soldier training. Reductions will also cause the deferment of other repairs that will lead to less-functional operating environments.

Sequestration will complicate the FY 2013 Military Construction, Army Reserve (MCAR) program because reductions will force project delays and deferment of other projects. Sequestration and the CR will also have a long-term impact on the out-year Military Construction. Cascading projects from FY13 (\$305M) will force reprogramming over the next 3-4 fiscal years.

A full-year Continuing Resolution that does not reallocate funds where they are needed would reduce and delay contract support necessary to perform daily operations, exercises, and other services contracts. It would potentially defer or reduce accessions, and cause the AGR personnel end-strength objectives to drop below 16,261, adversely affecting unit readiness. Moreover, a full-year CR would make it challenging for Troop Program Unit (TPU-part-time) Soldiers to meet statutory Annual Training requirements, and perform the obligatory amount of Battle Training Assemblies. High priority programs such as "Strong Bonds" will be cut back.

CLOSING

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support to our Army Reserve Soldiers. Complex demands for the future at home and abroad require continued reliance on the Reserve Component. The global fiscal environment brings growing security challenges to our nation and our coalition partners, necessitating a balance between identifying efficiencies and the continued engagement of a ready, agile and adaptable force. We need Congress' support to preserve the hard-earned skills of our battle-tested Soldiers as we continue to make strides toward Army Reserve Vision 2020. The Army Reserve remains a great return on investment for America, providing an indispensable and versatile mix of enabling capabilities to Army 2020 and Joint Force 2020.

We have the best Army Reserve in history. With your help we can keep it that way as we protect and serve America. Twice the Citizen, Army Strong!