

Prepared Statement

Of

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Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)

REGARDING

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION OF THE TOTAL FORCE IN THE
EVENT OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY**

BEFORE THE

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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Selective Service Hearing: Future Mobilization Needs of the Nation

Introduction

Chairman Heck, distinguished Commissioners, it is my honor to appear before you today to discuss how the Department of Defense (DoD) would mobilize the Total Force in the event of a national emergency. The Reserve Components (RC) of the United States military are an integral part of America's national defense architecture, meeting high operational tempo demands, generating forces, as required, and providing reliable capabilities to our global Combatant Commands and national State governments. With the ability to be quickly mobilized to provide operational support abroad or deploy throughout the nation in event of emergencies, the RC is a vital component of the "Total Force."

The Reserve Component

Fighting and winning America's wars is the primary mission of today's seven Reserve Components. As the National Defense Strategy (NDS) demands greater lethality from our military, the Reserve and National Guard is focused on ensuring a greater readiness posture for future engagements. Comprising almost 50 percent of the entire military Joint Force, and delivering strategic and operational depth in support of our global and functional Combatant Commands, the Reserve Components are the principal combat and combat support reserve to all four branches of Service.

The Reserve Component of the military is composed of both Reserve and Guard forces. The Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Reserve each consist of three specific categories: Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, and Retired Reserve. The Army and Air National Guard are composed solely of Ready Reserve personnel.

The Ready Reserve includes over 1 million RC members, and is comprised of two categories: the Selected Reserve (SelRes), with approximately 800,000 personnel, and the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and the Inactive National Guard (ING), with approximately 235,000 personnel. The SelRes is comprised of units and individuals in a paid status who drill monthly and maintain readiness similar to their Active Component (AC) counterparts. The IRR and ING are not in a paid status and do not maintain the same readiness requirements of the SelRes.

Standby Reserve members (approximately 11,200 personnel) have completed all required military service, but maintain a military affiliation. They are not required to perform training or to be assigned to a unit; most have been removed from the Ready Reserve because of civilian employment, temporary hardship, or disability.

The Retired Reserve, comprised of approximately 2,100,000 personnel (AC and RC), consists of RC members who have transferred to this status after (1) qualifying for a non-regular retirement, but are not in receipt of retired or retainer pay; or (2) receiving retired or retainer pay for having achieved the requisite years of service, age of entitlement, or physical disability.

The Need for an Operational Reserve

The Department has transformed the Reserve Component into an operational model. Constituting 38 percent of the Total Military Force, RC capabilities and capacity are required to meet domestic and overseas operational requirements at a fraction of the cost of AC forces. RC structure is made ready and available to operate lethally across the continuum of military missions, and provides operational forces and strategic depth to meet rotational requirements, crises, contingencies, and support of civil authorities. Each Service's force generation plan

prepares both units and individuals to participate in missions across the full spectrum of military operations, providing predictability for Service members, their families, their employers, and for the Services and Combatant Commands.

There is only one standard of readiness in fighting America's wars. This standard is applicable to both the AC and RC, and rigorously enforced through Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) policy and Military Department regulations. Readiness demands the Reserve and National Guard to be deployable, sustainable, and fully interoperable with our Active Components. Enhancing manpower in both capability and capacity are vital in that regard. Our Reserve forces also require parity in equipping their formations through concurrent and balanced modernization and recapitalization, so that it can deliver the requisite lethality to the Joint force.

Currently, the Reserve force mobilized 41,482 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen for duty in every region of the world. Since 9/11, America activated more than 935,000 sons and daughters of our Reserve forces for overseas contingency operations. Here at home, in support of domestic, homeland defense, and humanitarian relief operations, the National Guard deploys an additional 10,000 Soldiers and Airmen on a daily basis. When mobilized and deployed, the Guard and Reserve are interchangeable with its Active Components; seamlessly integrated as full and reliable partners in our nation's defense. Through the Military Departments, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD (P&R)) delivers the Joint Military force with highly trained and experienced Citizen-Soldiers to meet mission requirements anywhere on the globe.

As the Department has placed its focus on the operational model for our Reserve forces, it has become clear that the laws, policies and procedures that govern how our leaders access and manage Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have grown into a

complex system fraught with inequities, pay and benefit disruptions, challenges with accessibility, and disconnected programming and budgeting. After numerous studies and Congressional recognition of these challenges, the Department has developed meaningful Reserve Component duty status reform legislation that simplifies the overly complex and inequitable laws, policies, and procedures. This legislation was developed in lock step with leadership from each Reserve Component and the National Guard Bureau, as well as major stakeholders such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Congressional Budget Office, and will benefit not just the Services, but also the combatant commanders and most importantly, the Reserve Component and National Guard Servicemen and women.

Mobilizing the Reserve Components

Ultimately, RC mobilization is tailorable and driven by operational needs of the mission and the NDS. The NDS states that in wartime, the fully mobilized Joint Military force will be capable of defeating aggression by a major power, deterring opportunistic aggression elsewhere, and disrupting imminent terrorist and weapons of mass destruction threats. Our RC forces are postured to provide lethal capabilities across the full spectrum of warfare, and are agile and adaptable for Combatant Commander needs.

The Department has a set series of steps required to mobilize RC forces. These procedures ensure substantial review for operational and strategic needs by both civilian and military leadership.

- Combatant Command (e.g. CENTCOM) develops a Request for Forces (RFF) and submits to the Joint Staff (JS).
- The JS validates the request and tasks the Military Departments and their respective Military Service to support the RFF.

- The Military Service determines if RC forces are required.
- If RC forces are required, the Service Secretary will submit a request to JS and Office of the Secretary of Defense, specifically the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), to activate its RC forces.
- Depending on a number of factors, including the amount of notification provided to the RC Members, either the USD (P&R) or Secretary of Defense would act on the request.

In 2001, a Declaration of National Emergency (DNE) invoked authorities in section 12302 of Title 10, U.S. Code. In response to the terrorist attacks of September 2001, then-President Bush declared a DNE in Proclamation 7463 and issued Executive Orders 13223, 13235, 13253 and 13321. These Executive Orders provided the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense with the authority to order members of the RC to Active Duty involuntarily, to waive certain statutory military personnel requirements, and to exercise certain emergency construction authority. These authorities must be extended annually in order for the national emergency to remain in effect. The DNE in Proclamation 7463 has been extended annually since 2001, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), within the Office of the USD (P&R), is responsible for this effort.

Conclusion

After 18 years of persistent combat operations, the Military Services have mitigated risk to the force and risk to the mission by establishing sound resourcing strategies that support their plans to recover and sustain readiness. Although the Reserve Component is employed as an operational Reserve, not all of the necessary funding, modernization, and prioritizations have been adjusted to meet today's requirements. While sequester certainly prolonged their timelines for readiness recovery, the Military Services have historically protected their training and maintenance accounts to maintain their pledge to never send unready forces to meet known

Combatant Commander requirements. The funding provided to the DoD with the FY 2017 Request for Additional Appropriations, and the FY 2018 and FY 2019 appropriations serve to correct systemic readiness issues that have been under resourced in previous years, as well as enable the proper investment in long term RC programs across the Future Years Defense Program to create future readiness to meet the NDS. The Department stands committed to the operational Reserve as the model for today's and tomorrow's national defense.