

Testimony before the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

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"Answering the Call: How to Meet Potential National Mobilization Needs?"

Major General Linda L. Singh, Adjutant General for Maryland National Guard

Opening Statement:

I would like to thank you for allowing me to be part of the discussion today. I must also thank all the employers that support my personnel during the times in which they are called to duty. Without their support, we would not be able to do the things we do.

In my role as the Adjutant General for Maryland, I oversee the Maryland Military Department consisting of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and the Maryland Defense Force. With almost 6,500 soldiers, airmen, civilians and volunteers, we are uniquely positioned to answer the call to serve in times of global conflict as well as responding when our Maryland citizens need us most.

This uniqueness allows us to leverage a wide range of military and civilian skills across the landscape in which we serve. In the Maryland Guard, talent management is something that we take seriously. As a result, we have built a diverse leadership team but realize that can be short lived without a diverse pipeline to draw from. Finding, recruiting, training and retaining our National Guard force is essential to meeting mobilization needs. Additionally, it is just as important to conduct challenging training to continue to prepare our members for the war-fight as well as their homeland mission. It is also equally important to ensure our soldiers and airmen are concurrently fielded modernized equipment to remain interoperable with our Active duty counterparts.

Our Soldiers are all about service and they want to train and serve to the highest possible standard. We recognize that the Soldiers and Airmen that make-up the Maryland National Guard are our most valuable resource.

The Maryland Military Department will continue to field relevant and ready forces to serve the needs of our citizens. Thank you for your support as we continue a new chapter in our long and distinguished history.