

STATEMENT BY

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VICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES ARMY

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Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Commission, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today about the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. On behalf of our Secretary, Dr. Francis Harvey, our Chief of Staff, General Pete Schoomaker, and the approximately one million Reserve and Active Component Soldiers that comprise our Army—more than 120,000 of them serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq—let me say that I look forward to relating the Army's vision and way ahead for its Reserve Components.

The Army Plan is transforming the force—Active, Guard, and Reserve—to provide the fully manned, equipped, and trained Army the Nation requires to prevail in the struggle against terrorism and against future threats. Additionally, I hope you understand where we need the support and assistance of Congress so that you can make the recommendations that permit full implementation and acceleration of The Army Plan.

The Soldiers of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve have been invaluable and equal partners with their Active Army brothers in defense of our Nation both at home and abroad. With Congressional help in overcoming funding and other challenges that existed prior to the events of 9-11, the Nation has employed the Reserve Components in significant numbers. Since 9-11, 144,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, 329,000 National Guard Soldiers, and 498,000 Active Component Soldiers have supported Combatant Commanders in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, the Balkans, the Sinai, and elsewhere. Over 120,000 National Guard Soldiers and 31,000 Army Reserve Soldiers, along with Active Component Soldiers, helped secure the homeland through key asset security, special events such as the Winter Olympics, the Super Bowl, airport security, and Air Force Base security augmentation. Last fall, more than 57,000 Soldiers from the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and active component

assisted their fellow Americans citizens in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Florida after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Nation has called and will continue to call on the Reserve Components as a key part of the operational force to meet the significant commitments of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

With this unprecedented operational pace as a baseline, I appear today to discuss the roles and missions of the Reserve Components, the changes we are making to the structure of the National Guard and Army Reserve, and our need for assured, predictable access to the Reserve Components to meet the National Military Strategy. The primary role of the Reserve Components is to serve a Nation at war and to provide the campaign quality and depth necessary to secure enduring victory. Meeting these requirements during time of war requires approximately 600,000 Soldiers (487,000 active component, 72,000 Army National Guard and 41,000 Army Reserve) on active duty today...with 245,000 Soldiers serving worldwide in 120 countries. To put this in context, at the end of the Cold War our Army had more than 730,000 troops in the active force and greater than 775,000 in the Reserve Component. This afforded us a deep well from which to draw to meet requirements. We no longer have that luxury. The contemporary operating environment requires 60 percent of our force on active duty. To meet the needs of our National Military Strategy and sustain this level of commitment the Reserve Component must be viewed as a critical part of the operational force.

The use of the Reserve Components as part of the operational force requires a change in the way we do business. Reserve Component units must be manned and equipped at the same levels as the Active Component, so we are modularizing and rebalancing the Army. The Army is involved in the most dramatic restructuring of forces since World War II. The centerpiece of this restructuring is modular transformation and an increase in the Army's operational force with the building of Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) and associated multi-functional and functional support brigades. We are rebalancing and restructuring

the composition of the Army to increase our ability to provide the right capabilities to support current global operations, prevail in the Global War on Terror, and conduct expanded homeland defense requirements while broadening the options available to civil authorities.

Specifically, the Army is building a more combat ready pool of 70 Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) and 211 supporting brigades of various types among the three components. This will enable us to maintain a continuous supply of up to 18 to 19 BCTs to meet today's global commitments. However, this level of effort depends on the availability of 4 to 5 Army National Guard BCTs to sustain this total number. Equally as important, these BCTs require a balanced complement of combat support and service support units—from all three components—to complete the deployment force packages. The Army is not reducing the size of any of its components, but restructuring capabilities to meet the needs of the Nation. Within the Army National Guard the total number of brigades remains at 106. We will collaborate with the National Guard Bureau, the Adjutants General Force Structure Committee, and select members from the Army Staff to address the right mix of capabilities within the 106 brigades. The end state of this process will be fully manned, trained and equipped forces of like structure and capability balanced between the Active and Reserve Components.

Additionally, we are rebalancing capabilities in our Active and Reserve Components to assure timely access to the right types of units and Soldiers. We have determined the types of units and skills that are in greatest demand in today's security environment – including infantry, engineer, military police, military intelligence, Special Forces, chemical, civil affairs, and psychological operations – and have identified over 100,000 positions to rebalance. We have accomplished more than half of this rebalancing, projecting its completion by 2011. To achieve heightened readiness for missions at both at home and abroad, the Army's senior leadership is committed to fully manning, equipping, and training Reserve Component forces. This will enable them to both serve as

an operational force for the Nation and, in the case of the Army National Guard, a ready force for State missions.

Our goal is to generate a continuous output of fully manned, equipped, and trained forces adequate to sustain one operational deployment in three years for the Active Component, and one operational deployment in six years for the Army National Guard and the Army Reserves. This model allows the Army to increase predictability for Soldiers, families, and employers, improve availability of forces for Combatant Commanders, and generate a continuous supply of 18 to 19 BCTs and the required support brigades, and surge up to an additional 15 to 19 BCTs in response to crises. Upon full implementation of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) model, we will be able to sustain a balanced, capable force of 174,000 of combat, combat support, and combat service support Soldiers on an enduring basis.

We remember our position at the start of the long struggle in which we are engaged. Prior to 9-11, many of our units, especially within the Reserve Components, were inadequately prepared due to equipment and personnel shortages resulting from years of insufficient modernization investment and excessive over structure. To meet Combatant Commanders' wartime needs, we pooled equipment from across the force to equip those Soldiers deploying into harms' way. This presented challenges to using non-deployed units in response to other missions such as the national response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

With the support of Congress and the Administration, we are working hard to ensure the Reserve Components are fully equipped. Continued support for Army equipment funding remains essential to fill preexisting equipment shortages. When we began this war, the program for Army National Guard equipment was \$5 billion; it is now \$21 billion across fiscal years 2005 to 2011. This funding addresses significant modularity and modernization shortfalls within the Army National Guard. All returning units – Active, Guard, and Reserve –

undergo an extensive Reset process. Reset is designed to return redeploying units to a ready status for personnel, equipment and training. Reserve Component units have 360 days to complete Reset after redeployment. Some of our recent and projected Army National Guard equipping plans include: fielding 60 M1A1 AIM (Abrams integrated management) Tanks in FY06 (ahead of other Active Component BCTs); resetting 100 percent of the 116<sup>th</sup> BCT's (Idaho) Bradley Fighting Vehicles returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom in a comprehensive National Level Reset Program which will modernize and restore their equipment to a "like new" status; replacing all M16A1 rifles by the end of FY07; replacing all 2½ Ton Trucks (M35) by FY09; and executing a new Blackhawk (UH-60M) strategy that allows ARNG to meet requirement of 710 UH-60s five years sooner (FY08). Integration of Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) and Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) into selected Reserve Component aviation brigades will significantly increase both their Homeland Defense and operational capabilities. Our plan is having success.

We also recognize the important role of the Reserve Components to serve the Nation here at home. Because the Reserve Components bear important Homeland Defense missions, we have coordinated with the Army National Guard to identify ten essential Homeland Defense capabilities critical to domestic civil support operations. Jointly we have identified a baseline equipment set used for major combat operations that have the greatest use for Homeland Defense and Homeland Security missions. These items will take top priority for fielding so the Reserve Components can perform their missions during all phases of the rotation cycle.

Finally, in order to continue to use the Reserve Components as an operational force the nation needs to review the policies which assure predictable access to the Reserve Component. Many of our policies were created during the Korean War and do not address the challenges we have today in providing trained, equipped, and manned units. In our active component we have

developed stabilization and training policies which optimize cohesion and capability in preparation for deployment. We need to look for ways to achieve this level of cohesion and capability in our Reserve Component formations as the complexity of individual deployment and mobilization history continues to challenge our force planners and places risk on tactical level commanders.

Even as we move forward with active component/Reserve Component Rebalancing, Army Modularity, Resetting the Force, ARFORGEN, and our other transformation initiatives, the American Soldier remains the centerpiece of all that we do. The American military experience of the 20<sup>th</sup> century tells us that our Soldiers' effectiveness depends upon a national commitment to recruit, equip, train, and support them consistent with their service and sacrifices. This commitment must be underwritten by consistent investment in our recruiting and retention initiatives, in their equipment and infrastructure, and in our leader development programs. Meeting these goals for our active and Reserve Component Soldiers sustains the quality and effectiveness of our All-Volunteer force.

Let me close by assuring you that our Soldiers—Active, Army National Guard, and Reserve—continue to serve magnificently. Our Army remains the pre-eminent land power on Earth composed of adaptive and innovative Soldiers, led by experienced leaders, organized into deployable elements and enabled by advanced technologies to assure domination in any scenario as directed by our nation. Soldiers of each component know we are waging a long war and they believe in their mission, the Soldier's Creed, and the Warrior Ethos. Their voluntary service is proof of their pride in each other and their leaders and of their unwavering patriotism.

Like the American Soldiers of generations past, today's warriors are distinguishing themselves with tremendous acts of courage and valor in places like Baghdad, Samarra, An Najaf, Fallujah, Tal Afar, Mosul, and Khandahar.

From the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Mexico, Reserve Component Soldiers proved they have the skills to respond wherever they are needed. The saying of the past has become the reality of the present. We truly are "One Army, One Team." Our Soldiers understand the Army's values and personify our Nation's highest ideals, demonstrated most poignantly by their willingness to sacrifice all so that others may live in peace and freedom. Our Nation must remain equally committed to them by providing the resources they need to succeed in their mission. With the continued support of Congress and the American people, I know they will succeed.