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SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

STATEMENT OF  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSEPH R. INGE, USA  
DEPUTY COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES  
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Chairman Cornyn, Senator Reed and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss homeland defense and civil support operations.

USNORTHCOM is responsible for homeland defense, sustaining continuous situational awareness and readiness to protect the United States against a range of symmetric and asymmetric threats in all domains. Day-to-day, we are focused on deterring, preventing and defeating attacks against our homeland. We also stand ready to assist primary agencies in responding quickly to man-made and natural disasters, when directed by the President or Secretary of Defense. To better serve Americans in their time of need, we are actively coordinating with other federal agencies and developing stronger working relationships with state and local partners.

USNORTHCOM conducts maritime operations to deter terrorist operations and prevent attacks against the United States and its allies. During the past year, we analyzed and disseminated to government leaders information on the global maritime environment to facilitate situational awareness and decision making. USNORTHCOM pursued and effectively garnered national and international support and strengthened partnerships to deter and disrupt terrorist activity. We also monitored threats of interest in the global maritime environment.

For land domain operations, USNORTHCOM postures and positions forces to deter and prevent attacks. Quick and Rapid Response Forces and consequence management forces are maintained at appropriate alert levels to meet potential threats. During the 2004 national election period, we provided assistance for border security, conducted airport vulnerability assessments and deployed forces trained for radiological detection at the request of the Department of Homeland Security and the direction of the Department of Defense.

Our homeland is protected from air threats primarily by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). USNORTHCOM and NORAD work closely together in defending our nation's airspace. Across the United States and Canada, armed fighters are on alert and flying irregular air patrols to identify and intercept suspect aircraft. Since September 11, 2001 as part of Operation NOBLE EAGLE, NORAD has flown more than 42,000 accident-free sorties and scrambled or diverted fighters more than 2,000 times in response to potential asymmetric threats. In addition, NORAD remains postured to defend against strategic airborne threats to the United States and Canada. USNORTHCOM is responsible for air operations within our area of responsibility such as evacuation and movement of people and high-value cargo via military airlift. In addition, USNORTHCOM has the capability to use NORAD air defense alert aircraft to conduct unilateral operations as required and directed.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has a long history of supporting civil authorities with specialized skills and assets that can rapidly stabilize and improve the situation in the wake of catastrophic events. All requested DoD support is provided at the direction of the President or Secretary of Defense and in accordance with the National Response Plan and applicable laws, including the Stafford Act and the Economy Act.

USNORTHCOM provides defense support of civil authorities primarily through our subordinate commands Joint Task Force Civil Support at Fort Monroe, Virginia; Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region at Fort McNair, Washington D.C.; Joint Task Force Alaska at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska and Joint Task Force North (JTF-N) at Fort Bliss, Texas. In addition, the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps have established dedicated Service Components for USNORTHCOM. These commands include: Army North located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Air Force North located at Tyndall Air Force Base,

Florida and Marine Forces North located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Commander Fleet Forces Command, located at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia is designated as the Navy's Supporting Commander to USNORTHCOM.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 assigns the Secretary of Homeland Security the responsibility for security of our nation's borders. USNORTHCOM's role in the border security mission is to provide support to civil authorities, principally the Department of Homeland Security. We provide such support under Chapter 18 of Title 10. When Customs and Border Protection requests the military's support, the Office of the Secretary of Defense evaluates their request, and as directed, USNORTHCOM provides the necessary support. USNORTHCOM's involvement in border security operations is always in support of civilian law enforcement agencies. Coordinated by JTF-N, our force providers continue to support law enforcement agencies in the war against illegal drugs and other transnational threats through the application of emerging DoD-unique technologies. This includes intelligence and operational support missions. Intelligence support includes employing military intelligence analysts to develop operational intelligence products that we can share with our interagency partners for their use in early cuing, warning and interdiction operations. Operational support includes detection missions using a variety of sensors that are unique to the DoD in order to improve a supported law enforcement agency's ability to detect, monitor and interdict transnational threats. Construction of roads, bridges and fences, as well as installing area lighting to improve the ability of law enforcement officers to move, identify and respond to threats crossing the border are also a part of this mission category.

In addition to assisting the law enforcement agencies that request such support, JTF-North's intelligence and operational support missions provide military training opportunities for the Title 10 and National Guard forces

that conduct them. JTF-North recruits units to volunteer for these missions by soliciting forces from all Services, both active and reserve components. Through JTF-N, USNORTHCOM employed unmanned aerial systems along the southwest border in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. While obtaining unmanned aerial system training, these flights greatly assisted in the detection and apprehension of those engaged in illegal drug trafficking in New Mexico and Arizona.

During 2005, USNORTHCOM supported the Department of Homeland Security in responding to four hurricanes. For Hurricane Katrina, we established Joint Task Force Katrina to oversee Title 10 operations for the most complex civil support mission in the history of the U.S. military. DoD provided Defense Coordinating Officers and Elements, DoD bases for mobilization centers, airlift, ground transportation assets, aerial damage assessment, satellite communications, airborne and waterborne search and rescue, subsistence, water purification, mosquito abatement and medical support. We are actively involved in efforts to compile lessons learned and incorporate them into future operations. One very important lesson we learned pertains to unity of effort and unity of command. USNORTHCOM was in charge of 22,500 active duty forces. Additionally, there were 50,000 National Guardsmen in state status (Title 32 and state active duty). Commanding and directing 22,500 active duty forces and coordinating with the National Guard the efforts of over 50,000 state status National Guard troops presented challenges. We embrace the fact that the National Guard will play a pivotal role in disasters. However, the nation should have the capability to effect unity of effort among active duty forces and state status National Guard forces when assembling and directing a large-scale, multi-state and international response to a catastrophic event. We are prepared to respond as directed by the President or Secretary of Defense.

Another lesson learned from our response to Hurricane Katrina relates to communications. We need immediate, reliable communications that are survivable, flexible and interoperable with our civilian partners. These communications must be mobile, secure and both voice and data capable.

As we act to support civil authorities in responding to natural disasters, we never lose focus on our primary mission of homeland defense. We thank the Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee for their unwavering support of NORAD and USNORTHCOM. We are grateful for all that you have done to ensure our men and women in uniform have the tools they need to keep our nation and the American people safe and free. Thank you for your time. I look forward to your questions.