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RELEASED BY THE SENATE  
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF**

**ADMIRAL JONATHAN GREENERT**

**CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**

**BEFORE THE**

**SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**MAKING THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU A**

**MEMBER OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF**

**10 NOVEMBER 2011**

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the matter of including the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

Making the CNGB a member of the JCS adds unnecessary complexity to the principle of “unity of command”, and could confuse the intended clear and unambiguous source of best military advice to the Secretary of Defense and President.

In my opinion, the service chiefs (Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps) should continue to be held singularly accountable to the Executive and Legislative Branches of Government for the readiness and combat effectiveness of all personnel in their respective Services, and for the welfare of all their respective service members and families. I believe they are best positioned to report to the President and Congress on their Services’ readiness and preparation for military missions that support our national interests.

After 10 years of war, the Guard and Reserve are more fully integrated with our active component than ever before. Today’s synergy of effort is outstanding and unprecedented. Making the CNGB a member of the JCS could create ambiguity in the chain of command and erode this momentum.

This assessment is consistent with the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves Second Report to Congress – which recommended the CNGB not be made a member of the JCS.

Making the CNGB a member of the JCS may insert ambiguity regarding the status of the Army and Air National Guard as reserve components of the Army and Air Force and create the appearance the National Guard is a separate service. This could also introduce an inequity between the National Guard and its Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force Reserve counterparts.

I concur with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the CNGB’s advisory roles under 10 USC 1050(c) are essential and sufficient. The CNGB should continue to advise the Secretary of Defense, through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on matters involving non-federalized National Guard forces and on other matters as determined by the Secretary of Defense. Additionally, I fully support continued CNGB participation in JCS deliberations that deal with issues that affect the National Guard, and to provide insight on National Guard concerns.

I appreciate the Committee’s longstanding support of the men and women of the Navy. I look forward to continue working with the Committee as we address the challenges we face as a nation and as a service.