

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Department of Defense Prepared Statement for Senate Armed Services Committee Personnel Subcommittee Hearing on National Guard, Reserve, and Technician Personnel Programs

OVERVIEW

Force Structure

- Ready Reserve about 1.1 million members contributes about 43% of the force:
- Total structure is about 9% of the base budget:
- Current RCs are the most combat seasoned, ever:
- Guard and Reserve can continue to provide both operational and strategic forces:

Training and Utilization Opportunities for the Military Departments

- As of 31 December 2011, 835,689 Reserve Component members (809,913 Selected Reserve and 25,776 Individual Ready Reserve) have served supporting operations since September 11, 2001:
 - Over 85,000 National Guard and Reserve men and women on active duty around the world and at home serving in missions from Afghanistan, air space and S.W. border:
- RC Utilization:
 - Supports the recent the recent Strategic Guidance:
 - Mitigates the stress on the Total Force:
 - Allows full capability in an operational capacity yet retains strategic depth:
- Innovative Readiness Training: (IRT)
 - A program utilizing required skill-sets to provide services to communities:
 - Includes infrastructure development and providing medical and dental care to medically underserved communities.
- Cyber Workforce:
 - Guard and Reserve are a ready-built force, network defense teams:
 - Private sector affinity for “Cyber Warriors:”
- State Partnership Program (SPP):
 - To establish and sustain enduring relationships with partner nations of strategic value:
 - Currently, 48 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia are partnered with 63 countries around the world.

Equipping the Reserve Components:

- no specific appropriation that provides equipment directly to the Reserve Components:
- National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation (NGREA) (\$1 billion for FY12),

Recruiting and Retaining the RC Force:

- As of December 31, 2011, the Ready Reserve had the following end-strengths:
 - Selected Reserve: 844,400
 - Individual Ready Reserve: 220,000
 - Inactive National Guard: 3,700
 - Thus far, for 2012, Reserve recruiting efforts show continued success:
- It is important that we have a military that reflects the society it defends as less than 1% of the population serves in uniform:
- To help in recruiting we work with title I schools to focus on learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics or STEM with DoD STARBASE ,a hands-on learning experience
- To reach at-risk youth we employ the National Guard Youth Challenge program:

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- Currently in 27 states and Puerto Rico; since inception, over 100,000 successfully graduated, the 22 week residential / one year mentoring course; \$16,000.00 avg.
- State Matching program 25% Federal 75%
- Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR):
 - Cornerstone of Our military recruiting since 1985:
 - The new Post-9/11 GI Bill appears to enhance our recruiting efforts
- Individual Readiness:
 - Operational Forces require changes to training schedules and funding:
 - We must enable the continued use of the RC as an operational force:
- Individual Medical Readiness:
 - Continues to be a priority to ensure availability:
 - RCs increased by 5% in 2011
 - Dental Readiness has improved to 75% except USAR 71% and ARNG 73%:
- TRICARE for the Reserve Components:
 - Several options available, time, length, single, family subsidized and non-subsidized:
 - Options provide a comprehensive and affordable health care plan for RC Service members and their families:

Member Family and Employer Programs

- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program:
 - Intent is to maximize successful transitions as service members move between their military and civilian roles and to create strong, resilient military families:
 - Provided essential readiness and resiliency training and resources to over 800,000 Service members and designees in the past three years
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) during the past year:
 - Promoted a culture where all American employers support and value the military service of their employees with ESGR as the principal advocate within DoD:
 - Briefed 153,062 employers regarding their rights and responsibilities in accordance with USERRA; fielded 29,727 inquiries, handled 2884 cases:
- Reserve Component Unemployment and Underemployment
 - High unemployment rate, & ESGR & YRRP launched an Employment Initiatives Program (EIP) in January 2011.
 - December 2011, launched a comprehensive, multi-faceted program called “Hero2Hired”, better known as H2H:
- Individual and Family Support Policy (IFSP)
 - Participating in DoD studies on Child Care Subsidy, Military Family Life Consultants, Effectiveness Tracking, Resilience Programs,
 - Monitoring Websites and Help-lines, State Liaisons, and Communication with Families:

Secretary Panetta has recently testified on the need to maintain the tremendous expertise that has been developed in the Reserve Components during the last decade of sustained engagement. The Department’s recently released strategic guidance highlights the need for our National Guard and Reserves’ continued capabilities and contributions as an agile, flexible and ready force in our national security. The FY 2013 budget anticipates the Department will continue to use the Guard and Reserve as a vital part of the operational force, and where it makes sense, as a force of first choice.