

**RECORD VERSION**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**BEFORE THE**

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**ON ARMY ACTIVE AND RESERVE FORCE MIX IN REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND THE FUTURE YEARS  
DEFENSE PROGRAM**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Chairman Levin, Ranking Member Inhofe, distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to represent the more than 200,000 Soldiers, Civilians, and family members of the U.S. Army Reserve. On their behalf, I would like to thank the Committee for the steadfast support you have provided to them, especially during the past twelve years.

## **AMERICA'S OPERATIONAL RESERVE FORCE**

The Army Reserve is America's dedicated operational federal reserve of the Army – a premier provider of trained, equipped, ready and accessible Soldiers, leaders and units to the Total Army, the Joint Force and our combatant commanders worldwide.

Since September 11, 2001, more than 275,000<sup>1</sup> Army Reserve Soldiers have been mobilized and seamlessly integrated into the Active Army and the Joint Force. Today, more than 19,000 still serve in direct support of Army Service Component Commands and Combatant Commands across the globe, including nearly 4,000<sup>2</sup> Soldiers in Afghanistan.

Yet, while we are no longer in Iraq and could soon be out of Afghanistan, we face a world, as Secretary Hagel recently described it, that is growing ever more "volatile, ...unpredictable, and in some instances, ... threatening to the United States."<sup>3</sup>

Continued regional instability, violent extremism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and any number of other factors, would seem to predict that the future global security environment is likely to be even more complex and potentially dangerous

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<sup>1</sup> 275,542 since September 11, 2001, as per G-3/5. Source: HQDA system "MDIS" Mobilization Deployment Information System.

<sup>2</sup> From G-3/5: as of March 11 2014, 18,990 AR Soldiers were on duty in support of ASCC/COCOMS, and 3951 AR Soldiers were in Afghanistan.

<sup>3</sup> "We are repositioning to focus on the strategic challenges and opportunities that will define our future: new technologies, new centers of power and a world that is growing more volatile, more unpredictable and in some instances more threatening to the United States."

than it is today. And so we must be prepared to meet the threats and challenges of the future.

## **ARMY RESERVE CAPABILITIES VITAL TO MISSION SUCCESS**

Never before in the history of our Nation has the Army Reserve been more indispensable to the Army and the Joint Force, and the reason is the critical skills and capabilities they bring to the fight – skills often acquired through Soldiers' civilian careers and honed in service to our Nation.

We not only provide professional skills and capabilities vital to the success of the Total Army and the Joint Force – but we also provide capabilities not found anywhere else in the Active Army, the Army National Guards, or our sister Services. Most, if not all, of those capabilities are vital during major combat operations but also vital during times of local and national emergencies affecting the homeland.

Those capabilities include theater-level transportation and sustainment, pipeline and distribution management, railway and water terminal operations as well as other high demand career fields such as doctors and nurses, lawyers, engineers, and cyber warriors. Put simply, Army Reserve Citizen-Soldiers add the operational flexibility and strategic depth so essential to the Army's ability to Prevent, Shape and Win across the full range of military operations in which our Nation is, and will continue to be, engaged.

A significant portion of the Army's technical enablers – including 90 percent of civil affairs, 65 percent of logistical units; 60 percent of doctors, nurses and other health professionals; 40 percent of transportation units; 35 percent of engineers; 24 percent of military police, as well as quartermaster and ordnance units – are provided by the Army Reserve. As a single command with an authorized end strength of 205,000 Soldiers and 12,600 civilians arrayed under a variety of theater commands, the Army Reserve has the flexibility to quickly tailor or task-organize for any mission in sizes ranging from individuals to large formations.

Indeed, steady demand for Army Reserve capabilities has introduced a new paradigm of reliance on the Army Reserve as an essential part of our national security architecture.

As a dedicated reserve force under federal control, the Army Reserve is an indispensable Total Army partner that is ready and accessible 24/7. It provides direct and immediate access to high-quality, operational Soldiers, leaders and units for both planned and emerging missions. Our focus to support the Army's Regionally Aligned Forces ensures that Army Reserve Soldiers and leaders will be ready to support the Department of Defense's global requirements.

### **DEFENSE SUPPORT OF CIVIL AUTHORITIES (DSCA)**

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), with the enactment of section 12304a of title 10, United States Code, Congress provided the Department of Defense with new Reserve Component access authority that allows Soldiers to be involuntarily mobilized for up to 120 days to assist our fellow Americans in the U.S during domestic emergencies, when Federal Assistance is requested by the Governors. The same life-saving and life-sustaining capabilities so essential to missions abroad make the Army Reserve an optimum force for preserving property, mitigating damage and saving lives here at home.

In fact, key capabilities in high demand during a major disaster, such as an earthquake or hurricane, are prominent in the Army Reserve and nearly all Defense Support of Civil Authorities response missions could benefit from the Army Reserve's unique capabilities and core competencies. In addition to those already mentioned, Army Reserve capabilities also include aviation lift, search and rescue or extraction; quartermaster units (food, shelter, potable water, heated tents, etc.); protection of key infrastructure; supply; civil affairs; public affairs; public and civilian works; as well as a significant portion of full spectrum engineer capability – with some capabilities almost exclusively within the Army Reserve.

Our Expeditionary Sustainment Commands deploy to locations devoid of infrastructure and quickly open seaports and airports, while our logistics and supply chain personnel are experts at moving supplies into affected areas.

Army Reserve aviation units include medical evacuation helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft that can provide quick transportation in a disaster response area, and heavy lift helicopters that can rapidly move relief supplies, equipment and construction material into devastated areas.

Our Engineer units include search and rescue teams, debris removal capabilities, horizontal and vertical construction and bridge construction capabilities. We even have a prime power company, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, that provides commercial-level electrical power to affected areas.

We also provide 100 percent of the Army's Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs), and nearly 50 percent of the Department of Defense's EPLOs, who maintain communications between the Department of Defense, federal, State and local governments, and nongovernmental organizations to coordinate assistance between all parties during emergency response events. They serve as subject matter experts on specific capabilities, limitations and legal authorities and keep track of Army Reserve capabilities in their States and regions.

Thus, the same trained and ready forces that provide indispensable and immediately accessible capabilities for operations abroad, today stand ready to support domestic emergency and disaster relief efforts at home.

## **A GOOD RETURN ON AMERICA'S INVESTMENT**

The Army Reserve provides all of these capabilities, and nearly 20 percent of the Army's trained Soldiers and units, for just six percent of the total Army budget.

We are the most efficient and cost-effective reserve component and the lowest ratio of full-time support to end strength in the entire Department of Defense – about 13 percent. With our unique structure of combat support and combat service support, or technical enablers, the majority of our Soldiers are traditional Army Reserve Soldiers, with full-time jobs in the public and private sectors that keep their technical skills sharp at little or no cost to the Department of Defense.

For many missions supporting a Combatant Command's Theater Security Cooperation Strategy such as Build Partnership Capacity, it makes sense to leverage the capabilities of the Army Reserve, especially since Congress increased direct access to our capabilities with the enactment of section 12304b of title 10, United States Code, in the FY 2012 NDAA. So, in this era of constrained fiscal resources, using the Army Reserve is a particularly cost-effective way to mitigate the risks while simultaneously maintaining an operational reserve.

In addition to the return on investment the Army Reserve provides to the Army and the Department of Defense, there is also a return in the form of a positive economic impact to States and communities across the U.S.

Each year the Army Reserve invests billions in local communities, in the form of payroll to local Soldiers and Army Reserve civilian employees; utilities and other services to municipalities; civilian contractors and administrative support; as well as professional, scientific and technical services in areas like environmental clean-up and protection – which in turn generates tens of thousands of new food industry, service-related, and other non-DoD jobs, creating new income for families and a positive economic climate for State and local communities.

## **A NEW GENERATION OF ARMY RESERVE LEADERS**

For these and many other reasons, the Army Reserve that some people still recall from the 1990s is long gone. As my predecessor testified three years ago to the Senate Appropriation subcommittee, "I have seen the Reserve of the future and it is now."

Today's Citizen-Soldiers are highly educated and professionals in their civilian careers. They are our doctors, lawyers, academics, scientists, engineers and information technology specialists on the leading edge of their fields – a new generation of Soldiers who grew up with technology in their hands, practice it in their professions and leverage it while in uniform. Today, 75 percent of the doctorate degrees in the Total Army and half of the master's degrees are found in the Army Reserve. Our Soldiers' education and skills are invaluable to the civilian career fields in which they work, but they are also invaluable to the Army Reserve.

Physically and mentally fit, and fundamentally resilient, Army Reserve Soldiers are America's steady state, operational reserve force. In times of crisis or national emergency, the Army Reserve can respond quickly to our Nation's call. A ready Army Reserve not only offers the Nation an insurance policy, but it can provide an opportunity to create a "Soldier for Life" when Soldiers leave active service due to downsizing. Transitioning these Soldiers to the Army Reserve helps the Army keep faith with them and their families who have a propensity to serve. Becoming a "Soldier for Life" preserves the taxpayer's investment in training them and offers new military career tracks that may bridge the transition for Soldiers and their families.

Offering a continuum of service option supports the Chief of Staff of the Army's recent guidance to leverage the unique attributes and responsibilities of each component and preserves the operational experience gained from more than twelve years of war while continuing to prepare Soldiers and units for future challenges.

## **FY 2015 BUDGET AND BEYOND**

In his February 24 preview of the FY 2015 budget, Secretary Hagel echoed the Chief of Staff of the Army's concern for the future, citing the need to ensure a "highly ready and capable Army, able to dominate any opponent across the full spectrum of operations."

To achieve the balance between the budget caps and military strength, the Secretary said, we must reduce our structure by FY 2017 in all three components. The Army Reserve will reduce from our current end strength of 205,000 to 195,000.

While "the changes would result in a smaller Army," the Secretary said, the reductions "would help ensure that the Army remains well-trained and clearly superior in arms and equipment."

General Odierno's directive for an Army Reserve end strength of 195,000 Soldiers by 2017 is an acceptable risk to sustain a ready and operational Army Reserve. It preserves the combat tested experience of today's generation that will be used to train the next generation and keep us prepared for the future.

Conversely, if the Budget Control Act remains unchanged for FY 2016 and beyond, and the Army Reserve is directed to significantly lower its end strength by another 10,000 Soldiers, it would negatively impact our ability to provide technical enablers, skills and capabilities vital to success in many missions.

## **AMERICA'S ARMY RESERVE: A LIFE-SAVING, LIFE-SUSTAINING FORCE FOR THE NATION**

Whether it is providing trained and ready forces for combat missions, contingency operations abroad, or saving lives and protecting property at home, today's Army Reserve is America's life-saving, life-sustaining force for the Nation.



For more than 12 years, through two major conflicts and numerous contingency operations, the Army Reserve became a full partner with America's active duty forces. We now have more combat veterans in our ranks than at any point in recent history, and many thousands more preparing to serve if called.

Indeed, I can say, without hesitation, that we have, quite literally, the best Army Reserve in history. In the future, they may be needed more than ever.

Thank you for the steadfast support Congress has always provided our Army Reserve men and women who have served our country so selflessly during the past 12 years, and continue to do so every day.