

BG Logan Testimony -- 29 May 2015

Commissioners COL (Ret) Lamont and CSM (Ret) Chandler,

--- Aloha and Good Morning ---

I'm Brigadier General Arthur "Joe" Logan, The Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement before you today.

As TAG, I serve as the "Commander" of the Hawaii National Guard, and our Commander-in-Chief is Governor David Y. Ige, whom you met this morning. I am speaking to you today on behalf of my Governor and on behalf of the Soldiers of the Hawaii National Guard.

I have almost 37 years wearing the Army Uniform, and have been a member of the Reserve Component my entire career. I enlisted into the USAR and after 3 years transferred into the Hawaii Army National Guard where I continue to serve. The first 21 years of my career were executed while I was a traditional or part-time Soldier and had a career as a Police Officer in the Honolulu Police Department. I started full-time with the HIARNG in 2000 and have ordered into every part-time and full-time status a Guardsmen could be placed into while serving in the Guard. I am now a State employee serving the Governor and citizens of the State of Hawaii.

I am extremely elated that the Congress of the United States authorized the National Commission on the Future of the Army. And, because my last name is Irish, I am a diehard optimist and therefore I believe that this Commission will do its “due diligence” and take an honest and unbiased look at the composition of the 3 components of the Army, (Active, Guard, and Reserve).

The composition of the 3 components should be determined by identifying the current and future threats affecting the world today. Not just threats utilizing land forces, but, those in cyberspace as well.

Not to give you a history lesson, but, more so, to lay a foundation; The National Guard is this Country’s oldest military, a “militia” dating back to December 1636, and was the military of choice to protect the colonists through the next 139 years until Congress created the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, in 1775.

This well established foundation ensures that when you call out the National Guard, you call out America. I have heard several Senior Leaders in the Department of the Army indicate that the Army cannot fight without the Guard and if you want America

to buy-in to sending forces into a potential conflict you must call up Guard.

If I could simplify the charter of this Commission it would be to decide what the Army Force Structure mix is that is the Best for the United States. Not what's best for the Active Army, the Army Guard, or the Army Reserve, but, what our Nation needs to ensure that all Americans are safe and secure, because this is what the American public expects from its military. I hear it every time I am in uniform, in public, and a US citizen walks up to shake my hand and says, "Thank you for your service and keeping us safe." It is that heartfelt "thank you" that keeps Soldiers of all components serving.

I fully support the Total Force Policy that the Army Senior Leadership often refers to, but, I am not convinced that their actions always follow suit with their words. I can recall numerous actions during my deployment to OEF-Afghanistan in 2007-2008 where I had to remind Active Duty senior leaders that I am a Guardsmen and would not stand for disparaging remarks.

It is my understanding that there are several myths about the National Guard regarding accessibility, affordability, and capability or readiness when called upon by its Nation. Let me provide you my take on why these are myths.

ACCESSIBILITY:

The Hawaii Army National Guard is an integral part of the local landscape of Hawaii and a key partner with our Active Duty counterparts. Hawaii is unique due to our isolation in the middle of the Pacific. This fact has fostered a unique relationship of partnership and cooperation with local, county, state, and federal partners, including USARPAC and USPACOM.

The HIARNG has had a very long and continuous relationship with USARPAC. Prior to 9/11 HIARNG units were round out to USARPAC forces such as the 25th Infantry Division and participated in numerous annual exercises and training opportunities in support of USARPAC requirements.

The Hawaii National Guard over the past 13 years of continuous deployments remain committed to advancing the mission of USARPAC and USPACOM. HIARNG ensures it is nested to USPACOM and USARPAC security themes and messages as it executes its State Partnership Program lines of efforts in Indonesia and with Guam National Guard in the Philippines. The HING also works with USPACOM/USARPAC in partnership building with nations such People's Republic of China including Taiwan, Singapore, and Korea.

I can honestly say that GEN Vincent Brooks at USARPAC is the quintessential Army Officer that espouses the Total Army Policy and his organization follows his lead. GEN Brooks is a

multi-compo thinker, and always incorporates the Guard and Reserve in exercises, training events, and Theater Security Cooperation Programs.

The HIARNG has always met every deployment requirement and remained a contributing partner to the USPACOM/USARPAC exercises and other training opportunities.

AFFORDABILITY:

The National Guard is extremely affordable to the Nation. In peacetime the National Guard budget is ~\$16B annually, while the Active Duty Army is about ~\$180B annually. The Guard is ~30% of the total force but less than 10% of the total force budget. During wartime and you mobilize National Guard forces, they are usually paid with Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding, which is funding added by Congress over and above the peacetime annual Army budget.

CAPABILITY/READINESS:

The dual mission of the Guard to provide trained and ready Soldiers and units to the State for disaster response and to the Federal Government for mobilization and deployment into a theater of war ensure that it remains capable and ready.

These two missions allow the National Guard to turn the readiness, training, and expertise from conducting its federal mission into execution of its state mission. The same skills learned in mission command at the warfighting level are the same required to mission command for a state response. The same can be said for warrior tasks and those tasks required during disaster support.

At home the unique laws of Title 32 U.S. Code and our Soldiers civilian skills allow the National Guard greater latitude to operate against the complex and ambiguous threat environments. These same civilian skills provide a flexible and adaptable Soldier with a different perspective from the strategic to the tactical level of warfighting when deployed under their federal mission.

I am sure if you ask the 53 Adjutants' General you will get somewhat varying responses but each of the bottom line themes will be the same as to accessibility, affordability, and capability/readiness.

The National Guard continues to be the premier organization that enhances the Total Force Policy and will always continue to provide trained and ready units and Soldiers in support of its State or the President.

Thank you for taking on this arduous task and God Speed.