

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY

STATEMENT

GEN(RET) Thurman and Members of the Commission:

My name is Bill Parry and I am currently the City Manager of the City of Gatesville, TX which borders North Fort Hood; we are keenly aware of the Mobilization mission performed there by MG Colt and his 1st Army Division West team. Prior to my current job, I was the Executive Director of the Heart Of Texas Defense Alliance.

I know you are aware the Commission recommendation could influence or impact the assigned Active Component strength at Fort Hood which may have a direct economic impact in Central Texas, as well as a significant indirect impact statewide.

You have a synopsis of that data in the packet along with the source document from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Using the Regional Economic Modeling Inc. REMI model, the Comptroller's data indicates the reduction of 1,000 Soldiers at Fort Hood results in a corresponding loss of nearly 1,500 jobs statewide, a direct payroll loss locally of nearly \$75 million annually, and over \$40 million statewide.

If that reduction triples to 3,000 fewer Active Component Soldiers, the statewide loss exceeds \$1 billion annually.

The communities of Central Texas are well aware of the impact Fort Hood contributes to our cities and counties economies. I am more concerned that Soldiers and their Families who have invested in our communities – such as purchasing a home with the expectation they would be able to sell it upon receiving change of station orders if they choose to do so, will be the most impacted negatively by these reductions. I ask for your consideration of this issue which may occur as the result of your decisions on the future structure of the Army.

Thank you, and I would be glad to answer any questions.