



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

*Prevent. Protect. Prepare.*

Pat McCrory, Governor

Frank L. Perry, Secretary

June 9, 2015

GEN Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret  
NCFA  
2530 Crystal Dr., Suite #5000  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my unconditional support for the North Carolina Army National Guard (NCARNG) as it pertains to the vital role it plays in homeland security and domestic operations in response to manmade and natural disasters.

The NCARNG brings a depth of knowledge, talent, experience, and resources that are not available anywhere else within the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Our National Guard's capabilities have been leveraged numerous times in support of civil authorities during domestic operations. A few examples include: Hurricane Floyd, Hurricane Sandy, tropical storms, winter storms, the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, cyber protection for state government, and multiple helicopter rescue operations across the state.

The extraordinary capabilities the NCARNG possesses revolve around assigned personnel and equipment authorizations. Over the past 14 plus years, the NCARNG transitioned from a strategic reserve force to an operational reserve outfitted with modernized equipment and training. This transformation brought forth enhanced capabilities vital for the protection of North Carolinians and their property. The potential of losing force structure (personnel and equipment) is a serious concern to this department. The NCARNG is a major partner on our Emergency Management team. It is imperative that we maintain a robust NCARNG capable of meeting the needs of the state during our next emergency.

This department recognizes the need for a properly balanced, equipped and manned Total Army. As you study and assess the structure of the Army and its force mix I respectfully ask you to consider the potential impact any force structure changes and end strength cuts may have on North Carolina.

Thank you for your dedicated service as you progress with this highly important task. I look forward to the findings of your work to maintain a sustainable operational force as we continue to serve the citizens of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Frank L. Perry  
Secretary, NC Department of Public Safety

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