

Comments delivered by Candy Martin, Army Reserve Ambassador to National Commission on the Future of the Army, Killeen Texas, 9 July 2015

Thank you for allowing me to share my experiences and opinions on the Future of the Army, and more particularly the United States Army Reserve. Good afternoon. I am Candy Martin; a proud retired Army Reserve Soldier, now serving as an Army Reserve Ambassador. 40 years ago, in 1975, I enlisted as a 75B, Unit Clerk in the 374th Chemical Company in Sioux Falls SD. I quickly broke out of the AG branch and found my niche in supply and logistics. I was a TPU Soldier for more than 20 years, before I entered the AGR program. After 38 years of combined TPU and AGR service, I retired, with my last duty station at the Quartermaster School, Fort Lee Virginia, working in the Office of the Quartermaster General.

This week's visit by the National Commission on the Future of the Army provides an excellent opportunity for Texas to demonstrate the quality and impact of our contribution to the Army. As your Commission team visits not only here in the Fort Hood area, but the Conroe and Austin communities, I am confident you will have the opportunities to see our military installations and more importantly, talk with Texas Soldiers who serve our country every day.

As a Texas ambassador for the Army Reserve, I am confident that commissioners will see the value the Army Reserve provides to our Army and the total force.

More than 15,000 Army Reserve Soldiers call Texas home, working in the private sector daily and providing those civilian skills to the Army as well. The Army Reserve provides quick access to trained and ready forces, with critical capabilities found nowhere else in the Army or the Joint Force.

We have all heard the adage that Texas is big. How big? A recent study by George Mason University shows that the Army Reserve has an economic impact of more than \$1 billion in our state. In addition to the Soldiers who serve in our 328 Texas units, we support more than 10 thousand non-defense jobs in our 55 communities. We have a total military payroll of \$3.5 million and a civilian payroll of \$66 million.

Army Reserve capabilities across Texas include medical, aviation, logistics, engineering and transportation. A recent change in federal law allows these critical skill sets be made available to state and local governments during natural disasters or other emergencies. Those capabilities come in the form of FTUS, TPU, AGR, ADOS,

I would like to share a personal experience from nearly 40 years ago that illustrates the value of proper staffing. My USAR unit had one civilian GS-7, Administrative Supply Technician (AST), the only full-time support of the unit. We had three TPU lieutenants, the closest who lived 40 miles away from the Reserve center. Our next higher headquarters was 180 miles south, in Omaha Nebraska. We had an AMSA sub-shop out back and an Army Reserve School down the hall, neither of which

were anywhere in our chain of command. When the AST quit his job, our higher headquarters gave me, a Spec 4, the keys to the Reserve Center. Each day, I left my civilian job, gathered up the mail, and prepared for my daily phone call the next day with my higher headquarters. Let us not go back to the 1975 era. It was a difficult time that many who are retiring today are still trying to get retirement points straightened out! All too often we hear that we are doing more with less. In cases where we have FTUS shortages, we are doing less with less.

Today's army is part of a complex structure of global combat systems that requires expertise and experience.

Our Texas-based 75th Training Command provides such training for Soldiers, regardless of component, across the nation and around the world. Its new multi-million dollar Battle Simulations Center allows its specialized instructors to virtually conduct scenario-based simulations across the United States, resulting in travel-cost savings of millions of dollars.

Our Army Reserve Soldiers are shoulder-to-shoulder with our Active Component counterparts and proud of the expertise we bring to the table.

In 2005, I was cross-leveled to deploy with the 143rd TRANSCOM in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our mission was in Kuwait. The 143rd had deployed two Property Book Technicians. I was one of them. I was administratively detailed to the CFLCC C-4 staff and worked with the Theatre Property Asset Visibility Team. Shortly, I learned Army Material Command was merging the Theater Property Book Teams and the Installation Property Book Teams that were sprinkled around Iraq in 12 different locations. They needed someone who knew our automated property book system and could make the merge as seamless a possible to the war fighters on the ground...the 2600 hand receipt holders. I was labeled as "the guinea pig" as "Big Army" would not give up a 920A Property Book Officer to make it happen. We proved the position necessary and an Active Component Warrant Officer followed me. Had it not been for the technical expertise I gained as an AGR Soldier, property accountability could have been worse in Iraq!

While your commission visits Texas this week to view installations and talk with Soldiers about where the Army is and what it should look like in the years ahead, I am confident you will see the professionalism, dedication and skill of our Texas Citizen Soldiers. As a logistician, I am excited for BG Jones and the entire 4th ESC team and how they, citizen soldiers, will support the theater of operations.

In closing, please know, around the world and in communities across the great state of Texas, today's Army Reserve is without a doubt, an indispensable force.

Thank you