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Statement before the National Commission on the Future of the Army
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.

Today's global security environment is incredibly complex. American preeminence and the international order are continuously challenged. Russia, China, and Iran are all responding aggressively to this administration's inaction in Eastern Europe, Syria, Iraq, and the Pacific. Islamic Extremists continue to exploit what they perceive as a lack of American resolve from Africa to Afghanistan.

The need for a strong American military is not going away anytime soon. Our nation's security challenges will outlive the present administration, its lack of a National Security Strategy, and any actions we take now to restructure our military. The task at hand is to look down the long, dark road into the future and plan for a military that has enough flexibility to guarantee our security and secure our interests.

Our Army must be manned, structured, equipped, and trained, for a variety of threats, some of which we do not know of yet. To provide for anything less is irresponsible and it will translate to American blood on future battlefields. Unfortunately, DoD plans call for an Army in 2017 that is substantially smaller than we had prior to 9/11. This is reckless national security policy and it places us all at risk.

I will continue to stand and fight to preserve the preeminence of the U.S. Army. And I call on all of my colleagues to join me in that effort. Mr. Chairman, this commission will make recommendations on modifications to the structure of the Total Army. I strongly urge you to also to take a hard look at the Army's planned reductions.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and your Commission for holding this event today and for the important work you all continue to do.

BELL AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES

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