

**UNCLASSIFIED  
STATEMENT BY**

**MAJOR GENERAL TERRY L. SCHERLING  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU JOINT STAFF**

**BEFORE THE**

**HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS,  
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

**FIRST SESSION, 110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

**ON**

**THE NATIONAL GUARD'S SUPPORT OF  
CIVIL AUTHORITIES DURING DISASTERS**

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**NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION  
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THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

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Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as you examine the National Guard's military support to civil authorities during disasters. We meet at a trying time in our history, when our Army and Air National Guard are partnered with our active component Army and Air Force in combat operations. You can be proud that the citizen-soldiers and airmen of your Army and Air National Guard are ready to answer the Nation's call to arms. The National Guardsmen who are mobilized and deployed overseas are superbly trained and equipped. They serve shoulder to shoulder with active duty counterparts; all of them unquestionably the best trained and best equipped American fighting force in history. But over the past four years, the pace of these combat operations has been intense and not sustainable. The needs of the war fight have driven us to raid the shelves of our garrison force. While our combat soldiers continue to be superbly equipped when they arrive in the combat theatre, the equipment we bring there gets used up, blown up or left behind. We've seen the readiness of our units here at home declined over time, to the point today where it severely limits our ability to fill our homeland security mission, that of the Department of Defense's first responders to a domestic disaster.

The good news is that the most challenging parts of our country's homeland security military response force are already in place. In your National Guard today we have the best educated, best trained, most experienced population of Guardsmen in history. Last week the Army National Guard celebrated reaching the end strength goal of 350,000 troops. The really difficult problems: that of attracting quality recruits, seasoning them and keeping them, have been solved. Now we need to turn our attention to giving them the tools they need to train and stand ready to do the job we need them to do, at home and abroad.

I have with me today two of the brightest examples of the national treasure that is your National Guard; Master Sergeant Regina Stoltzfus of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and Sergeant First Class William Edgar of the Mississippi National Guard. They have served with distinction in both the Federal and State missions of the National Guard. Master Sergeant Stoltzfus, while deployed to Balad, Iraq as the first sergeant of a communications squadron, served shoulder to shoulder in the combat zone with active Air Force airmen. We often hear that it is impossible to tell the difference between Guardsmen and active troops serving together in combat but we know that force wide you can tell the difference – Guardsmen often perform better. Sergeant Stoltzfus, for example, was recognized as the top first sergeant in Iraq during her deployment.

Sergeant First Class William Edgar is employed full time by the Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug program. But he still trained for his federal mission and has deployed twice to Afghanistan. During his last tour, he was awarded the Army's Bronze Star during his last combat tour in Afghanistan. When back in Mississippi, Sergeant Edgar has supported the local, state and federal law enforcement community of the U.S. in their fight against drugs as an intelligence analyst detailed to the Mississippi office of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency, and now at the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy as the supply sergeant. That school, one of four in the U.S., provides no cost training to law enforcement officers in military specialty skills that they later leverage in the fight against drugs.

The contributions of Sergeant Stoltzfus and Sergeant Edgar to the security of our nation, both at home and overseas, reflect great credit upon our National Guard and I'm proud that they could join me here today as representatives of the 460,000 National Guardsmen that stand ready to respond to America's call at home and abroad.

## **Guard Homeland Security Capabilities**

The National Guard's role as our premier homeland security military responders is the product of a deliberate transformational effort. The Guard has identified ten of our core group military skills that are most applicable to our homeland security mission. I share with you now each of those ten capabilities, which have, like Sergeant Stolfus and Sergeant Edgar, a dual application to both the overseas war fight and the homeland security mission.

### **Joint Force Headquarters – Command and Control**

The Guard has stood up a Joint Force Headquarters command and control element in every state and territory to provide 24/7 connectivity to speed the response to domestic emergencies. The deliberate planning skills of the military are integrated into each state's emergency plans through frequent joint planning sessions and exercises with our civilian emergency management and emergency response officials. The Guard has built a capability to train military and civil first responders for a variety of homeland disaster scenarios.

### **Civil Support Teams**

Every state and territory also now has a full time 22 man WMD civil support teams trained to detect, identify and assist the civil emergency response to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high yield explosive event. These teams train and respond every day in communities throughout America. In the event of a more severe incident, the Guard has twelve (soon to be seventeen) more robust CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages; prepared to respond with specialized equipment and technical rescue and decontamination skills that will save lives in the aftermath of an attack or natural disaster.

### **Maintenance**

The manpower intensive requirement to maintain and repair essential emergency equipment is critical to a sustained emergency response. The Border Patrol reports a 10% improvement in the utilization rate of their vehicle fleet since Guard mechanics began to support their operation.

**Aviation**

Guard aircraft bring mobility in the vertical dimension over difficult terrain and speed of movement in the fourth dimension of time in emergency response scenarios where time means lives.

**Engineer**

Heavy equipment and construction units of the Guard are currently making infrastructure improvements along the Southwest border that will improve the efficiency of the Border agents long after the Guard troops have returned home.

**Medical**

The deployable emergency medical capability of the Air National Guard is one of the most intuitive homeland security needs of our nation. The Guard has a quick response, self sustaining medical capability.

**Communications**

In addition to the self sufficient military communications capability of our units, we've fielded a civil / military interoperable communications capability in every state and territory that enables civil responders to communicate with their military counterparts.

**Transportation**

As we saw in Hurricane Katrina, the military has the capability, unique in the homeland, to move great quantities of people and equipment.

**Security**

The National Guard leverages several specialized military skills to the security needs of our nation. We have critical infrastructure protection teams that are analyzing the vulnerabilities our civil, military and cyber high value assets. Every US state and territory has a reaction force trained and ready maintain civil security, in addition to the military police and security forces resident in the Guard. The Air Guard maintains fighter jets ready to respond on a moment's notice to threats in the airspace over America. We present programs to reduce the demand for drugs in our schools and communities and continue our support of domestic law enforcement operations with our counterdrug program. The counterdrug program supports law enforcement with observation and analysis of

criminal activity and training of law enforcement officers. In June 2005, that effort became the model for our support to the Border Patrol when we deployed 6000 Guardsmen for Operation Jumpstart to the Southwest border. The Guard State Partnership Program reaches outside America's borders to developing countries and builds personal bridges that improved our security situation at home.

### **Logistics**

The military has a unique ability to sustain operations in an austere environment. The military specialty of reception, staging, onward movement and integration is employed in every major domestic response scenario and is essential to get resources to the citizens in need.

### **The National Guard's equipment needs**

The biggest obstacle the Guard faces to performing the missions described above is a critical shortage of equipment.

As documented in a GAO report, the Army National Guard has on-hand only 40% on average of its equipment requirement across the nation. This will slow our response to disasters and terrorist incidents in the homeland, as equipment may need to be brought into an affected area from further away.

Without this needed equipment, 88 percent of the Army Guard units based in America, available to their Governors for an emergency, report "not combat mission ready" which can roughly be equated to the ability to respond to a domestic emergency.

For the first time, domestic based Air National Guard units are now reporting not combat ready as well. Because of flux in the structure of the Air Guard, many units are in transition between their old and yet to be defined future mission. The period of uncertainty leaves 45% of Air Guard units lacking the gear needed to train for and perform their combat mission.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Chairman, as Sergeant Stoltzfus and Sergeant Edgar have so proudly demonstrated, your National Guard is fully up to the task of answering the call to duty, both at home and abroad, if only given the tools to do so.

I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before the committee today and welcome your questions.