

STATEMENT BY

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U. S. COAST GUARD

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL

SELECTED RESERVE STRENGTH AUTHORIZATION

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SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, IT IS A DISTINCT PLEASURE TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY. THIS IS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY AS CHIEF, OFFICE OF RESERVE, U.S. COAST GUARD, TO PRESENT MY VIEWS ON THE STATUS OF OUR FORCE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE COAST GUARD IS NOT A LARGE FORCE IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF PEOPLE. IT IS, HOWEVER, A MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OUR COUNTRY'S PREPAREDNESS FOR DEFENSE. IN THE EVENT OF WAR, SOME NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE MATERIAL NEEDED WILL BE TRANSPORTED THROUGH PORTS.

IT IS IN SUPPORT OF THIS TREMENDOUS LOGISTICS EVOLUTION THAT THE COAST GUARD AND ITS RESERVE MAKES ITS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION, THAT IS, ENSURING THE SECURITY OF THE PORTS OF EMBARKATION AND DEBARKATION FOR THIS MASSIVE SUPPLY LINE. IN PORT SECURITY, OUR PEOPLE PERFORM SUCH TASKS AS EXPLOSIVE LOADING, FUEL TRANSFER SUPERVISION, MARINE FIREFIGHTING COORDINATION AND SECURITY PATROL. WHILE THE RESERVE PROVIDES 75% OF THE COAST GUARD'S PORT SECURITY FORCES, IT IS NOT IN PORT SECURITY ALONE THAT THE COAST GUARD RESERVE SERVES UPON MOBILIZATION. THEY AUGMENT MANY OTHER AREAS INCLUDING ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE, AIR STATION, SEARCH AND RESCUE UNITS AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES.

UNLIKE THE OTHER RESERVE COMPONENTS OURS IS NOT A FORCE DEPENDENT UPON TECHNOLOGICAL SOPHISTICATION. THE COAST GUARD RESERVE IS PEOPLE INTENSIVE AND OUR BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS ARE NECESSARILY DIRECTED TO THIS END. MAJOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT. THROUGH OUR AUGMENTATION MODE OF TRAINING, WHERE RESERVISTS HONE THEIR MOBILIZATION SKILLS WHILE SUPPORTING PEACETIME MISSIONS OF THE COAST GUARD, WE USE THE ACTIVE FORCE EQUIPMENT FOR OUR TRAINING. THIS IS THE SAME EQUIPMENT THAT WE WILL USE UPON MOBILIZATION.

TO ACCOMPLISH OUR VARIOUS WARTIME TASKS, PRESENT MOBILIZATION PLANS CALL FOR A TOTAL REQUIREMENT OF 24,000 PERSONNEL. AT LEAST 15,500 OF THE REQUIRED PERSONNEL ARE NEEDED FOR OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF STRATEGIC MOBILITY. BECAUSE THESE PERSONNEL MUST BE ON BOARD, TRAINED, AND ORGANIZED IMMEDIATELY UPON MOBILIZATION, THEY MUST COME FROM THE SELECTED RESERVE, WHOSE CURRENT AUTHORIZED STRENGTH IS 12,000.

IN 1981 THIS SUBCOMMITTEE TOOK A STEP TOWARD RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM WHEN IT AUTHORIZED A STRENGTH INCREASE FOR COAST GUARD RESERVE FROM 11,700 TO 12,000. THOUGH A SMALL INCREASE IN NUMBERS IT WAS VIEWED AS AN INCREMENTAL STEP TOWARD INCREASING THE EARLY RESPONSE MOBILIZATION POSTURE. SINCE THAT TIME THE BUDGET PICTURE HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY. WE HAVE ALL HAD TO ADAPT OUR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO THE AVAILABILITY OF THAT SCARCEST OF RESOURCES -- THE DOLLAR. THE PICTURE HAS IMPROVED, SOMEWHAT, FOR COAST GUARD RESERVE.

FUNDING FOR FY 1983 EFFECTIVELY RESTORED A FULL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR A SELECTED RESERVE OF 12,000. IT ALLOWS FOR ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 2,500 INACTIVE DUTY RESERVISTS OVER FY 1982; IT RETURNS NON-PRIOR SERVICE RECRUITING TO A LEVEL WHERE OVER 700 SUCH PERSONNEL CAN BE RECRUITED TO SPECIFIC SKILL SHORTAGES; AND IT PROVIDES THE OPTION OF RESTORING ENLISTMENT AND REENLISTMENT INCENTIVES. IN SHORT, WE CAN NOW RECRUIT AND TRAIN TO OUR CURRENT AUTHORIZED STRENGTH LEVEL OF 12,000.

THE ADMINISTRATIONS REQUEST FOR FY 1984 IS FOR A COAST GUARD SELECTED RESERVE STRENGTH OF 12,000. IT WILL PROVIDE FOR TRAINING AND MAINTAINING OUR FORCE LEVEL AT THAT OF FY 1983.

A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES ARE UNDERWAY IN COAST GUARD THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO OUR RESERVE PROGRAM. FOREMOST IS THE UPDATING OF COAST GUARD MOBILIZATION PLANS. FROM THIS WE WILL CONTINUE REFINING OUR PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR AN ORDERLY GROWTH TO MEET OUR NATIONAL SECURITY OBLIGATIONS. IN ADDITION TO UPDATING OUR MOBILIZATION PLANS, WE ARE INCREASING OUR EFFORTS TO RECRUIT BOTH PRIOR SERVICE AND NON-PRIOR SERVICE PERSONNEL; GREATER EMPHASIS IS BEING DIRECTED TO MATCHING INDIVIDUAL SKILLS TO MOBILIZATION BILLET REQUIREMENTS AND WE ARE DEVELOPING A MORE AGGRESSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR OUR RESERVISTS. AT THE HEART OF THE LATTER IS INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN MOBILIZATION EXERCISES.

I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY IN THIS PAST YEAR TO BOTH OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EXERCISES. I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO STATE THAT OUR EFFORTS IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL. COAST GUARD RESERVE CONDUCTED OR PARTICIPATED IN 57 MOBILIZATION EXERCISES IN FY 1982. OVER 3,000 COAST GUARD RESERVISTS, 25 PER CENT OF OUR FORCE, TOOK PART. THIS IS A 150 PER CENT INCREASE OVER FY 1981.

THESE EXERCISES REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT CORNERSTONE FOR PROVIDING THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO TEST OUR MOBILIZATION AND OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS AND TO INTERFACE WITH THE OTHER SERVICE COMPONENTS. I AM CONVINCED THAT SUCH "ROLE-PLAYING" HAS RESULTED IN A BETTER TRAINED, HIGHLY MOTIVATED

CADRE OF RESERVISTS. IT HAS CERTAINLY HEIGHTENED THE ABILITY OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE TO RESPOND IN ANY EMERGENCY. IT ALSO PROVIDES SOME HANDS ON EXPERIENCE THAT HELPS US SHARPEN UP OUR MOBILIZATION PLANS, IDENTIFYING BOTH STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT MANY, MYSELF INCLUDED, ARE OF THE OPINION THAT, DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR, THE COAST GUARD RESERVE REPRESENTS THE BEST INVESTMENT IN THIS NATION'S DEFENSE. YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAM WILL ENSURE ITS SUCCESS.

I WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.