

READING VERSION

STATEMENT BY
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CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE
BEFORE THE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION SUBCOMMITTEE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST SESSION, 100TH CONGRESS
GUARD AND RESERVE PROGRAMS
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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIRWOMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

IN THEIR FY 1988 POSTURE STATEMENT, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY, ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESERVE COMPONENTS' UNPRECEDENTED ROLE IN THE MISSION OF TODAY'S ARMY, AND PROCLAIM THAT "THE RESERVE COMPONENTS' MATURING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND PERFORMANCE FULLY JUSTIFY THEIR ROLE AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE TOTAL ARMY." I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY REPRESENTING THE MORE THAN 600 THOUSAND CITIZEN-SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY RESERVE, AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE TOTAL ARMY.

TODAY'S ARMY RESERVE IS THE BEST ARMY RESERVE OUR NATION HAS EVER HAD. IT IS MORE READY AND BETTER TRAINED THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN. IT IS ALSO BETTER LED AND BETTER MANAGED THAN EVER BEFORE.

SELECTED RESERVE

THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE READINESS EQUATION ARE PERSONNEL, TRAINING, AND EQUIPMENT. I WILL ADDRESS EACH BRIEFLY.

AT THE END OF FY 86 THERE WERE MORE THAN 284 THOUSAND (PAID DRILL STRENGTH) MEMBERS OF THE ARMY RESERVE ASSIGNED TO TROOP PROGRAM UNITS. THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO GO TO 292 THOUSAND BY THE END OF FY 87.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST WILL PROVIDE AN INCREASE IN FY 88 OF APPROXIMATELY 5,100 PAID DRILL STRENGTH, OVER 1,800 FULL-TIME RESERVISTS IN THE AGR PROGRAM, AND OVER 4,100 INDIVIDUAL MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEES ASSIGNED TO ACTIVE COMPONENT ORGANIZATIONS. THIS GROWTH WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN WARTIME REQUIREMENTS AND PEACE TIME TROOP PROGRAM UNIT STRENGTH TO ABOUT 11 THOUSAND.

THE ARMY RESERVE IS ENJOYING SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING HIGH QUALITY YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTO ITS TROOP PROGRAM UNITS. IN FY 86, 90.8 PERCENT OF THE NONPRIOR SERVICE PERSONNEL ENLISTED INTO THE ARMY RESERVE BY THE US ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND WERE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES. (BY WAY OF COMPARISON, FIVE YEARS AGO, THAT FIGURE WAS ONLY 48.1 PERCENT.)

US ARMY FORCES COMMAND, WHICH COMMANDS THE BULK OF ARMY RESERVE TROOP PROGRAM UNITS, IS EMPHASIZING STRENGTH MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT ITS CHAIN OF COMMAND. ONE SIGNIFICANT AID IN MAINTAINING OUR UNIT STRENGTH IS OUR ABILITY TO OFFER A VARIETY OF INCENTIVES SUCH AS BONUSES IN THE SELECTED RESERVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE INCENTIVES, INCLUDING THE GI BILL. AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM PAYS A VARIABLE BONUS TO PERSONS ENLISTING IN THE ARMY RESERVE IN SPECIFIC CRITICAL SKILLS OR HIGH PRIORITY UNITS. EXPERIENCE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT SOLDIERS WHO ENLIST FOR AN INCENTIVE REMAIN IN THE ARMY RESERVE LONGER THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT. THE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOT ONLY HELPS BUILD A STRONGER, MORE READY MILITARY FORCE, IT HELPS BUILD A STRONGER, MORE PRODUCTIVE AMERICA. EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON EDUCATION ASSISTANCE WILL BE RETURNED MANY-FOLD.

THE BONUS AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS COMPLEMENTARY INCENTIVES. THEY ARE AIMED AT DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHOM WE MUST ATTRACT, AND THUS, HAVE DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES. NEITHER ONE IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OTHER - BOTH ARE NEEDED. IF WE ARE TO MEET OUR SELECTED RESERVE ENLISTMENT GOAL FOR FY 88 OF 79 THOUSAND, THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF THE

SELECTED RESERVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS INDICATE A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE. THIS MEANS WE MUST WORK ALL THE HARDER AND INCREASE OUR EFFORTS TO REACH POTENTIAL ENLISTEES AND INFORM THEM OF THE OPPORTUNITIES ASSOCIATED WITH SERVICE IN THE ARMY RESERVE.

TRAINING

THE READINESS OF THE ARMY RESERVE IN GREAT PART IS A FUNCTION OF ITS TRAINING. THE TEMPO AND QUALITY OF ARMY RESERVE TRAINING HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT TRAINING GREW FROM 12 UNITS/CELLS IN FY 1976 TO NEARLY 2,600 UNITS/CELLS WITH MORE THAN 16 THOUSAND PERSONNEL IN FY 1986. IN FY 1987, NEARLY 25 THOUSAND ARMY RESERVISTS WILL TRAIN OVERSEAS. WE WILL TRAIN NEARLY 5,500 ARMY RESERVISTS IN EXERCISE BLAZING TRAILS IN HONDURAS THIS YEAR, IN ADDITION TO NEARLY 2,200 IN EXERCISE TEAM SPIRIT IN KOREA; APPROXIMATELY 2,500 MORE WILL PARTICIPATE IN REFORGER IN GERMANY.

THE SENSE OF MAKING A REAL WORLD CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IS GREATLY STRENGTHENED WHEN RESERVE SOLDIERS TRAIN IN THE FIELD OVERSEAS. FOR INSTANCE, ARMY RESERVE UNITS COMPRISE ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THIRD ARMY - THE ARMY ELEMENT OF CENTRAL COMMAND. SIXTY PERCENT OF THE PERSONNEL AT THIRD ARMY HEADQUARTERS ARE RESERVISTS. IN THE SUMMER OF 1985, THE RESERVISTS OF THIRD ARMY PARTICIPATED IN EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR IN EGYPT AND OTHER MIDEASTERN COUNTRIES. THIS SUMMER, 2,600 RESERVISTS WILL

PARTICIPATE IN BRIGHT STAR. THIS KIND OF TRAINING EXPERIENCE IS FREQUENTLY CITED BY RESERVISTS AS THE PRIMARY FACTOR IN THEIR DECISION TO STAY WITH THE PROGRAM. THE PERSONNEL SAVINGS AND AVOIDED TRAINING REPLACEMENT COSTS CLEARLY MARK THIS KIND OF TRAINING AS A PRUDENT INVESTMENT BY THE TOTAL ARMY.

FTS

HISTORICALLY, THE ARMY RESERVE, HAS HAD THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF FULL TIME SUPPORT OF ANY OF THE SERVICES. WHILE THAT PERCENTAGE IS GRADUALLY INCREASING (THE FY 1988 BUDGET WILL BRING ARMY RESERVE FULL TIME SUPPORT TO 6.4 PERCENT OF PAID DRILL STRENGTH), IT IS STILL FAR FROM THE CONGRESSIONALLY SUPPORTED GOAL OF 10 TO 14 PERCENT OF OUR PAID DRILL STRENGTH.

THE FY 88 BUDGET REQUEST INCREASES RESERVISTS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE AGR PROGRAM BY 1,843 PERSONNEL TO APPROXIMATELY 14.3 THOUSAND. ARMY RESERVE AGR PERSONNEL ARE ON DUTY TO ASSIST DRILLING RESERVISTS MEET THEIR READINESS GOALS BY CARRYING OUT REQUIRED DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS, THUS ENABLING UNIT MEMBERS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR LIMITED AVAILABLE TIME ON TRAINING.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE AGR GROWTH WILL SERVE IN ARMY RESERVE UNITS WITH WHICH THEY WOULD MOBILIZE AND DEPLOY. ALONG WITH MILITARY TECHNICIANS, AGR'S ASSIST IN TRAINING, MOBILIZATION, PLANNING, OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VITAL TO READINESS IMPROVEMENTS, SINCE THEY MULTIPLY THE EFFORTS OF TROOP PROGRAM UNIT MEMBERS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AGR RESERVISTS IN FULL-TIME UNIT SUPPORT POSITIONS MADE POSSIBLE RESERVE UNIT PARTICIPATION IN BRIGHT STAR, EGYPT, AND

BLAZING TRAILS IN PANAMA BY PROVIDING DURATION SUPPORT AT HOME STATION AND AT THE EXERCISE SITE.

INCREASED LEVELS OF MATURING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND PERFORMANCE, LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO IMPROVED FULL TIME SUPPORT, HAVE ENABLED THE ARMY LEADERSHIP TO CONFIDENTLY ASSIGN NEW MISSIONS TO THE RESERVE COMPONENTS. THE LEVEL OF AVAILABLE FULL TIME SUPPORT IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE ABILITY OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS TO ACCEPT AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL ARMY MISSION.

EQUIPMENT

SINCE FY 1981 THE ARMY RESERVE HAS RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 795 MILLION DOLLARS IN DEDICATED PROCUREMENT FUNDING AND ALMOST 700 MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF EQUIPMENT FROM THE ARMY PROCUREMENT SYSTEM. THIS NEW EQUIPMENT HAS IMPROVED ARMY RESERVE TRAINING AND CAPABILITIES. PROGRESS IS BEING MADE; HOWEVER, BASED ON DOLLAR VALUE OF EQUIPMENT ON-HAND WE ARE MORE THAN 2 BILLION DOLLARS SHORT OF WARTIME REQUIREMENTS.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 1988 OF 879 MILLION DOLLARS WILL FUND INCREASES IN FORCE MODERNIZATION AND FORCE STRUCTURE ACTIVATIONS AND WILL INCREASE FULL TIME UNIT SUPPORT. HOWEVER, DECISIONS MADE DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARMY BUDGET HAVE LEFT FY 1988 OMAR WITH AN INCREASE OF ONLY 28.1 MILLION DOLLARS AFTER PRICE GROWTH AND TRANSFERS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN ADDITION, IN COMPLIANCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL

DIRECTION IN THE FY 1987 APPROPRIATION, THE ARMY HAS FUNDED THE RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYSTEM (RCAS). THE USAR SHARE OF THAT EFFORT IS 18.3 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 1988. WE WILL NEED TO WORK DILIGENTLY TO ACCOMPLISH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM GOALS WITHIN THIS FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 1988.

INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE

THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR), THE ARMY'S PRIMARY SOURCE OF PRETRAINED MILITARY PERSONNEL HAS GROWN FROM 213 THOUSAND IN 1981 TO AN FY 86 END STRENGTH OF NEARLY 301 THOUSAND. IRR PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED UPON MOBILIZATION TO BRING ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENT UNITS UP TO WARTIME STRENGTHS, TO SERVE AS REPLACEMENTS UNTIL INDUCTEES CAN BE TRAINED, AND AS CADRE FOR UNITS FORMED AFTER MOBILIZATION. THE ENLISTED MEMBERS OF THE IRR CONSIST PRINCIPALLY OF PERSONNEL WITH A MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATION WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ACTIVE COMPONENT, THE ARMY RESERVE, AND THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

THE IRR IS MANAGED BY THE ARMY RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER (ARPERCEN), A FIELD OPERATING AGENCY OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE. IRR MEMBERS TRAIN BY TAKING CORRESPONDENCE COURSES, ATTENDING ARMY RESERVE SCHOOLS, AND SERVING ON TOURS OF ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING AT SERVICE SCHOOLS OR WITH ACTIVE ARMY UNITS. THEIR TRAINING IS LIMITED BY THEIR OWN AVAILABILITY AND THE AVAILABILITY OF TRAINING FUNDS. A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ENLISTED IRR PERSONNEL IS BEING DEVELOPED AND THE ENTIRE IRR IS RECEIVING RENEWED EMPHASIS BY THE ARMY.

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS DIRECTED A

MANDATORY ANNUAL SCREENING OF THE IRR OF ALL SERVICES BEGINNING IN FY 87. THE PURPOSE OF THE IRR SCREEN IS TO DETERMINE MOBILIZATION AVAILABILITY OF THE IRR. NEARLY 240 THOUSAND IRR SOLDIERS WILL REPORT TO ONE OF 2,200 RECRUITING STATIONS DURING THEIR BIRTH MONTH. THE ARMY IS REVIEWING IRR MEMBERS' PHYSICAL CONDITION, DEPENDENCY STATUS, MILITARY QUALIFICATIONS, CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS, AND AVAILABILITY FOR SERVICE. THE SCREEN WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN MANAGING OUR VALUABLE IRR SOLDIERS AS WE IMPLEMENT TRAINING STRATEGIES TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THEIR MILITARY SKILLS.

CONCLUSION

STEADY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREAS OF PERSONNEL, TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, AND MOBILIZATION CAPABILITY HAVE RESULTED FROM OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE READINESS GOALS. ALTHOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, TODAY'S ARMY RESERVE IS THE FINEST IN HISTORY. THESE IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN DUE IN LARGE MEASURE TO THE LONG-STANDING INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS AND THIS COMMITTEE. WITH THAT CONTINUED SUPPORT AND COOPERATION, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMY RESERVE WILL REMAIN READY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF TODAY AND THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW.

THANK YOU.