

**UNCLASSIFIED
FOR THE RECORD
STATEMENT BY**

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BEFORE THE

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

FIRST SESSION, 110TH CONGRESS

ON

**“ASSURING THE NATIONAL GUARD IS AS READY
AT HOME AS IT IS ABROAD”**

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**NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION
UNTIL RELEASED BY
THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

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Madam Chairwoman Norton, ranking member Graves and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about the Missouri National Guard's ability to provide military support to civil authorities during disasters.

While 842 members of the Missouri Air and Army National Guard are deployed in various theaters in support of combat or peace enforcement missions, more than 10,000 Soldiers and Airmen remain at home to assist and support civil authorities when called.

In the previous 13 months, Missouri Soldiers and Airmen have been called upon six times for State Emergency Duty to expand the capabilities of state, local and federal agencies to respond to damages or life-threatening events resulting from severe storms or heinous criminal activity. In each case, we have successfully managed our ability to match organized, disciplined, military manpower with available military equipment or leased equipment, to provide essential support to our citizens.

Reflecting back to the Hurricane Katrina/Rita disaster along the Gulf Coast in 2005, Missouri National Guard units quickly mobilized and responded to the needs of the Governors of Louisiana and Mississippi, deploying more than 2,200 trained and equipped Soldiers and Airmen within 72 hours after receiving the call.

When Governor Matt Blunt, upon the advice of the State Emergency Management Agency, declares an emergency, he brings the full authority and resources of all state agencies to bear on the state emergency.

The priority of effort for each agency is directed towards saving lives and protecting the state and local government's ability to deliver essential services, and then to mitigating property damages. Requests by state agencies or local and county government for National Guard capabilities are transmitted to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) for validation. Once SEMA assesses the request and determines the capability cannot be supported within the resources of state civilian agencies, but that it does indeed reside within the capabilities of the National Guard, Missouri National Guard personnel and equipment are called to duty to support the request.

In the event the capability required does not reside within either state agencies or the National Guard, support – Guard or otherwise – can be requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) system as recognized by House Joint Resolution 193 of the 104th Congress of the United States. In the event the appropriate resources are not accessible through EMAC, the correct protocol is to request support through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). There is a

Defense Coordinating Officer co-located at FEMA to identify and coordinate the support of the Department of Defense assets through US Northern Command. NORTHCOM in coordination with National Guard Bureau conducts regular training exercises for Joint Task Force Commanders. In addition, regular exercises such as Vigilant Guard and Ardent Century are conducted to train and assess interoperability of federal assets in support of state emergencies. To date, Missouri has not requested military capability from other states under EMAC, nor have we requested capabilities through FEMA; however we have contributed selected military capability to other states through EMAC as we did in September and October of 2005 for Katrina/Rita. We have also provided long-range communications support to Gulf Coast States in anticipation of hurricanes in previous years.

I fully expect my fellow Adjutants General, upon the authority of the Governors of the 54 states, territories, and District of Columbia will support Missouri in times of need. The EMAC system is a proven, reliable and relatively simple process between states making available the capabilities of the National Guard and other state governmental and civilian assets such as aviation, law enforcement, urban search and rescue, and other capabilities identified in the 16 Emergency Support Functions delineated by

the National Response Plan.

Missouri, like other states, prepares and regularly reviews response plans to meet challenges presented by a potential spectrum of emergencies ranging from the most likely to the less likely, but perhaps most catastrophic.

Missouri's most catastrophic natural disaster scenario occurs with the event of a major earthquake along the New Madrid/Wabash Fault Zone which passes through Southeast Missouri. We recognize the projected devastation of a 6.5 magnitude or higher quake as measured on the Richter Scale will immediately overwhelm our ability to effectively respond to all the needs of the citizens in the impacted area, which can include St. Louis and St. Louis County. Missouri, along with seven other member states in the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), prepare to respond with state-wide assets available outside the most damaged areas. The CUSEC member and associate member states meet regularly to plan and coordinate a regional response. Upon regular assessment of resources resident within the state, our planning process identifies the types and quantities of National Guard capabilities required to ensure an adequate response. In 2005, we completed a plan to immediately submit requests for additional capability into the EMAC

process. This year, we are exercising our plans at the state level through table top and staff training exercises and will begin a new planning process to assess current capabilities and develop a refreshed list of capabilities we believe would require from other states.

I have great confidence in the Chief of the National Guard Bureau's commitment to fairly allocate the requirements of current and future national operations among the states so that each state will retain adequate capability to respond to disasters at home. At the height of Missouri's involvement in deployments supporting the missions overseas, we retained more than 59% of our personnel. We currently have 53% of the total Army National Guard equipment authorized within the kinds of units assigned to our state. In terms of equipment essential to both warfighting and disaster response, we currently have 56% of authorized items on hand. This critical, dual-use equipment includes medium and light trucks, individual weapons, communications equipment, aviation and medium-to-heavy engineer equipment. Some of these dual-use equipment items, such as communications equipment and medium and light trucks were in short supply before September 11, 2001. We are optimistic the current emphasis on procurement will enhance our war-fighting capabilities and, thus, our flexibility to respond to disasters at home. The National

Guard Bureau has worked closely with Missouri to honor its commitment to manage overseas deployments in a way so as not to unfairly or critically degrade our ability to support the citizens of the state in times of need.

In Missouri, the Guard remains ready, reliable, and always there. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before the committee today and welcome your questions.