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BY THE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF

MAJOR GENERAL ERROL R. SCHWARTZ

COMMANDING GENERAL

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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Introduction

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and members of the subcommittee, for the opportunity to testify today on the Disaster Capacity in the National Capital Region and the capabilities that the District of Columbia National Guard can put into action in the event of a disaster.

The District of Columbia National Guard comprises both Army and Air National Guard components. Federal law charges the National Guard with dual state and federal missions. Those functions range from limited actions during non-emergency situations to full-scale law enforcement of martial law when local law enforcement officials can no longer maintain civil control. I would like to emphasize that our primary role is to support civilian authorities.

In the 53 states and territories, the governor is the commander in chief of the National Guard. Since we do not have a governor in the District, the President of the United States serves as our commander-in-chief. The authority to call-up the D.C. National Guard is delegated by the President and Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of the Army.

The District of Columbia can and does request support from the D.C. National Guard through the Commanding General. This in turn starts the process I just mentioned. Federal agencies send a request directly to the Office of the Secretary of Defense or the Commanding General.

Like all other National Guard units, the D.C. National Guard continues to support the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force in defending the nation's national security objectives.

While deploying our forces to Iraq and Afghanistan during the past several years, we have simultaneously supported local civil authorities in the District.

As part of our mission to protect the homeland, we support the District of Columbia Emergency Response Plan. I would like to focus on the goals established in our District of Columbia Strategic Plan.

One of our primary missions in support of the District is to rapidly respond to requests for support from the Office of the Mayor by providing military, emergency and community support as outlined in the District's Emergency Response Plan. We have developed an all-hazards plan to respond to requests from federal and District authorities. In accordance with the Homeland Security *National Response Framework* dated January 2008, there are 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) that are nationally recognized. The District has added one of their own for a total of 16 ESFs. The District has requested that our units and personnel support eight of the 16 ESFs including:

- **ESF 1 – Transportation** (DCNG will provide intersection control support and transportation infrastructure security, facilitate the transport of disaster-relief supplies, and assist in the evacuation or relocation of persons during emergencies at the request of HSEMA.)
- **ESF 2 – Communications** (DCNG will operate on its frequency, which has an interface with the DC Emergency Operations Center, and will provide a liaison to the EOC at the request of HSEMA)
- **ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services** (As requested by HSEMA, the DCNG will assist with security, both on the streets and in the designated shelters. DCNG will facilitate the transport of disaster relief supplies and equipment. DCNG will provide assistance with mobile kitchens and shower facilities if required for sheltering. DCNG will assist in the evacuation or relocation of victims, as necessary)
- **ESF 9 – Search and Rescue** (As requested through HSEMA, DCNG provides search-and-rescue capability as well as temporary emergency shelters. DCNG also can support traffic control, emergency transportation, evacuation of civilian population, communications assistance, area security, protection from theft and looting, medical services, aircraft for monitoring, surface radiation monitoring, radiation hazard plotting, wind and weather data, and control of reentry, as needed, during search and rescue)

- **ESF 10 – Oil and Hazardous Material Response** (At the request of HSEMA, DCNG will loan specific equipment and mobilize units to provide the following:
  • Traffic control;
  • Emergency transportation;
  • Evacuation of civilian population;
  • Search and rescue;
  • Communications assistance;
  • Area security;
  • Protection from theft and looting;
  • Medical services;
  • Aircraft for monitoring;
  • Surface radiation monitoring;
  • Radiation hazard plotting;
  • Wind and weather data; and
  • Control of reentry.)
- **ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources** – (DCNG will, at the request of HSEMA, coordinate and provide mobile feeding facilities and personnel, and will assist with the delivery of bulk food and cooking supplies. The DCNG has weather forecast capabilities)
- **ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security** (DCNG will provide manpower to MPD to assist in management of the designated 142 critical intersections in the city, and in other capacities, at the request of HSEMA)
- **ESF 16 – Donations and Volunteer Management** (The District of Columbia National Guard will support the safe collection and distribution of donated goods and services, at the request of HSEMA)

In support of the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, the Armory serves as a continuity of operations site) for the city in case of an emergency. We are postured to provide regional resources to provide support to the city and to partner with the National Capital Region Joint Force Headquarters to coordinate for DoD support, the Department of Homeland Security and its agencies such as FEMA, and the American Red Cross. In times of emergency, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each of the states in FEMA Region III ensures mutual aid, support and cooperation with Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The DCNG provides support to DCHSEMA by staging two Red Cross and two FEMA Pre-Positioned Disaster Relief Supplies trailers through additional MOUs with DCHSEMA. We focus

on involving the logistical support required to bring units from these states into the local area.

The 56th Presidential Inauguration provides an excellent illustration of the support the National Guard brings to the table. During the inaugural period, 7,000 National Guard personnel from more than 30 states were deployed inside the boundaries of the nation's capital, and another 3,000 were stationed just outside our borders. I was in command of this Joint Task Force, and I never felt more proud of the Guard than I did during this entire event, before, during and after. With nearly two million people in and around the National Mall, there was not one arrest related to the largest inauguration in our nation's history. We accomplished the arduous task of coordinating our support to HSEMA and the myriad of law enforcement and civilian agencies involved in the event. We provided traffic and crowd control, logistical support, medical support, communications, and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive detection capability.

Our D.C. National Guard Aviation units are located at Davidson Army Airfield near Fort Belvoir, Virginia. We recently received new UH-72 MEDEVAC helicopters for the 121st Medical Co. (Air Ambulance), which will eventually replace our aging UH-60 Huey fleet.

Our Air Guard units are on Andrews Air Force Base, the home of our 113th Wing. One of our more critical, ongoing duties is the Air Sovereignty Alert mission, protecting the skies over the nation's capital. Since Sept. 11, 2001, our F-16 Fighter pilots and crews at Andrews have been on 24/7 alert, ready to respond at a moment's notice to any threat or violation of the airspace over the city. Last year alone, the 113th Wing

responded to 146 such incidents which required our pilots to scramble to their aircraft and launch from the runway. We have adequate facilities for this mission. Several buildings including three aircraft hangars could be utilized in an emergency as well as the active-duty and Reserve facilities on the base.

We continue to train our full-time staff to quickly respond in the event of an emergency within the District of Columbia, primarily with our National Guard Response Force. We have trained more than 100 soldiers and airmen from our full-time staff to respond to emergencies within four hours of notification and maintain control until released or until follow-on forces arrive. The response force can support civil authorities with critical infrastructure protection and crowd control.

Another critical asset in the event of an emergency is our 33rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST). The CST is trained to respond quickly in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and or explosive attack. Their job is to assess the situation and advise the civilian incident commander or military leadership of potential courses of action to minimize loss of life and property. The CST is also trained to respond to natural or manmade disasters. Their extensive training includes exercising with HSEMA and the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

In 2005, in response to a request from the mayor, the D.C. National Guard Armory housed more than 350 people who found themselves without a home following Hurricane Katrina. We were able to use the Armory as a shelter because the event happened during a temperate time of the year. However, if something should happen in the month of July, the Armory would not be fit for use because of the lack of air

conditioning. This and other improvements to the Armory are needed. The structure of the building, located about two miles from where we are currently seated, is essentially sound. But various building systems have not been modernized and many systems of the building components in all of its sections have reached the end of their expected service life and require replacement. I am entering into the record our Capital Plan Policy Statement which details the Armory's extensive renovation requirements.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the D.C. National Guard remains committed now more than ever to providing emergency support to the District of Columbia and to improve our community. We would appreciate any support from this subcommittee to improve our ability to respond to an emergency and save lives. Thank you for asking me to come here today and for the chance to communicate our capabilities and requirements. Mrs. Chair, I would be happy to answer any questions that you or the subcommittee members might have.