

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICER REQUIREMENTS

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Chairman Webb, Ranking Member Graham, distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of our Secretary, the Honorable John McHugh, our Chief of Staff, General Raymond Odierno, and the over 1.1 million Soldiers who serve in our Active Component, Army National Guard and United States Army Reserves, as well as our Army Civilians and Family Members, I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you to discuss the United States Army's general officer requirements.

First, I want to thank this Subcommittee for its steadfast support and demonstrated commitment to our men and women in uniform. I appreciate the genuine concern the Subcommittee and its Members demonstrate for our Soldiers, Army Civilians, Family Members and the overall personnel readiness of our Force. It is largely through your support that we have the resources and manpower required to sustain us in the current fight, while simultaneously preparing and training Soldiers for the next fight. We are deeply grateful and appreciative of your continued, strong support.

You called us here today to discuss the current flag and general officer requirements of our respective Services in the context of increasingly constrained budgets and changes to force structure. Let me assure you upfront, your Army remains committed to instilling a culture of savings and accountability; and this includes force structure and manpower authorizations specific to our General Officer Corps. The Army promotes officers to its authorized general officer end strength in accordance with

law and OSD policy. We do this in a very deliberate manner. Each year, our Army's senior leaders commit time to reviewing and validating each internal Army general officer position. While our validated requirements exceed our Title 10 general officer authorizations, we are able to provide the requisite leadership by assigning our colonels selected for brigadier general and pending promotion to these positions.

For thirteen years, from 1995 until 2008, the Active Army's authorized general officer strength remained unchanged at 302. In 2008, Secretary Geren appointed the "Special Commission on Army Acquisition and Program Management in Expeditionary Operations" to review contracting linked to the war effort. Dr. Jacques Gansler, former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, headed the six-member commission. As a result of the commission's findings, the Army's general officer authorization increased by five in 2008 to ensure needed senior leader expertise in contracting. In 2009, the advent of the "Joint Pool" established a limit of 230 internal Army billets and required the Army to fill a minimum of 85 billets, bringing the Army's general officer end strength to 315. In 2010, the Army's fair share of Joint requirements increased from 85 to 102 to provide the Services the ability to support temporary general officer requirements associated with or in support of Iraq and Afghanistan. Most recently, the Secretary of Defense conducted a general and flag officer efficiencies study group which, by policy, will require the Army to reduce its internal general officer authorizations by eleven and its Joint contribution will change from a fair share of 102 to a minimum of 82, by 2014.

Once all planned general officer reductions are implemented, we believe we will have sufficient general officer authorizations to meet our projected need for senior leadership both internal to the Army and across the Department of Defense. At the same time, any further reductions or acceleration of planned reductions would reduce the Army's flexibility in meeting general officer requirements across the Department of Defense.

As you well know, America's Army has been operating at a tremendous pace for over ten years. As a result of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army's general officer authorizations increased to provide the most capable and decisive land force in the world. With the recent end of combat operations in Iraq, and as a result of the Secretary of Defense's efficiency review, the Army will see a noticeable reduction in the number of general officers between now and 2014.

## **PRIMARY CHALLENGES**

As we look at making reductions to our force structure in coming days, to include reductions in the number of general officer authorizations, we must ensure that we remain a flexible force, with a general officer population capable of leading institutional change while concurrently providing needed skills to our Combatant Commands.

Our primary challenge is managing the elimination of eleven Army general officer authorizations set forth in the Secretary of Defense Efficiency review, bringing the Army's internal general officer authorizations from 230 to 219. This is coupled with the

concurrent requirement to draw down the number of general officers currently serving in Joint requirements, largely in temporary positions supporting contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For the past four years, the Army has incrementally increased the General Officer Corps to meet the requirements for senior leadership in Iraq and Afghanistan and assure our ability to meet internal Army and joint requirements. Between now and FY14 the Army will incrementally decrease the general officer end strength. In an environment where we must meet the directives established by the Secretary of Defense's efficiencies study and simultaneously reduce the number of general officers serving in Iraq, the Army will need to increase the number of general officer retirements per year in order to prevent delays in promoting officers on promotion lists. The increased retirements must be managed in such a fashion so as to assure continued development of a diverse and talented group of general officers to serve in the most senior leadership positions across the Department of Defense.

### **DOING OUR PART**

In order to maintain the appropriate force structure, and achieve our goal to provide a tailorable and scalable force capable of meeting our national security requirements, the Army's senior Leaders recognize we must do our part. To date, the Army has eliminated three internal Army general officer requirements and has downgraded the Commanding General, United States Army Europe from O-10 to O-9. The Army will eliminate eight additional internal Army general officer requirements as

directed by the Secretary of Defense. In addition, the Army leadership continues to identify cost saving measures and efficiencies throughout the force.

## **CLOSING**

These continue to be challenging times for our Nation and for our military. That said, I assure the members of this subcommittee – your Army's senior leaders remain focused and committed to effectively addressing current challenges, while also determining the needs of the Force for the future.

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, I thank you again for your steadfast and generous support of the outstanding men and women of the United States Army, Army Civilians and their Families. I look forward to your questions.