



KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY
REMARKS OF MAJOR GENERAL LEE TAFANELLI
NOVEMBER 9, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

This past year has presented both opportunities and challenges for every division within the Adjutant General's Department. I'm pleased to report to you that the professionals serving in the Department remain steadfast in their devotion to providing a trained, capable and ready force to respond to the full spectrum of state emergencies, to fulfill our state and federal missions and remain a valued part of our communities.

The successful execution of the Department's mission, in spite of significant geopolitical, economic and technological changes amidst a chaotic national security environment, is a testament to their will and dedication to serving others.

We live in a very interesting time. Right now, violence and unrest boils across Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, and many other countries. Russia, China and others are watching the United States closely, challenging us in new ways. The technological advantage that our country has enjoyed over other countries is rapidly shrinking. Russian and Chinese naval, land, air, space and cyber capabilities are modern and formidable and should not be taken lightly.

Currently, 86 Kansas National Guard (KSNG) Soldiers and Airmen are deployed around the world. Two-hundred and twenty-six Soldiers and Airmen have recently returned from various theaters of operations and the KSNG is preparing to deploy an additional 834 personnel within the next 365 days to various locations throughout the world.

Here at home, the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, the Intelligence Community and others are working out how to best deal with threats from terrorist groups, nations that wish us harm and a host of emerging concerns. Our weapons, and those of our enemies, are becoming more complex, more linked, automated and more expensive.

This is having a profound effect on our people and the types of jobs they are trained to do. And we are beginning to see some very real generational and societal changes in how many younger Americans view military service, making our recruiting and retention efforts much more difficult. All of this is being tackled while dealing with significantly smaller budgets and more demand for our warfighting capabilities.

In Kansas there are 7,200 Army and Air National Guard members across the state, spending a minimum of one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer training, always ready to help out with disasters and emergencies here at home.

There are also 42 men and women that serve in the Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) and 222 men and women serving in various roles throughout the Department that contribute directly to the successful execution of the Department's mission.

As you know, the federal government has enacted sequestration, which has resulted in the imposition of military budget reductions by \$500 million beginning in 2013 and lasting through 2023. The total fiscal impact to the KSNG has and will continue to negatively impact readiness, force structure and full-time manning. Our full-time federal workforce will be reduced by 10%, beginning this year and over the following two years. In addition, KSNG military units have sustained or are currently programmed to sustain 487 losses of military personnel resources within the Army component and 123 within the Air component. We fully anticipate experiencing additional reductions in force structure, equipment and basing in the years ahead.

Deliberate efforts to stabilize the Department and demonstrate our on-going commitment to being good stewards of taxpayer resources have led us to continue to take carefully measured steps to reduce inefficiencies, while maintaining an effective balance between responsible stewardship and mission accomplishment. Efforts to lessen current budget impacts and those forecasted to occur include annual reviews of our long range facilities plan, more effective use of our existing space, and better preparing our facilities to meet the needs of the future.

One of the key pillars of this plan is the relocation of the Headquarters – Kansas National Guard (HQKSNG), the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC) and KDEM to Forbes Field. Repositioning HQKSNG, the KIFC and the KDEM to Forbes Field puts the Department in a position to better protect Forbes Field and the 190th Air Refueling Wing from a future Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) action by establishing it as a joint activity, thus protecting 944 jobs and \$90,948,413 to the state and local economy. In addition, by relocating to Forbes Field, the Department saves Kansas a significant amount of resources in the decades ahead and better positions the entire Adjutant General's Department to integrate its operations with key partners.

The Department regularly conducts a comprehensive review of our facilities, carefully evaluating the costs and benefits of consolidating missions and maintenance efforts in line with our long-term strategic goals. We have created partnerships to better control the state funding requirement, but also create relationships that complement the Department's mission sets.

The Department remains engaged in on-going negotiations with utility and other service providers to find ways to better manage our energy expenditures, including but not limited to, negotiating rate structures, consolidating billing, enhancing energy efficiencies, implementing renewable energy sources, and making adjustments to employees work schedules in ways that allow us to capitalize on utility efficiencies. Conserving our resources and enhancing operational efficiencies throughout our facilities not only makes state dollars go further, it helps to ensure the federal dollars matched to each state dollar are utilized effectively as well.

Keeping our facilities operational and in good repair has a direct effect on the readiness of our National Guard units and is calculated into the levels of personnel, equipment and missions entrusted to us and funded by the National Guard Bureau. It's important to note, not all State General Fund dollars hold the same value. In the case of our Department, many of the state dollars obligated within the Department's budget leverage one to three matching federal dollars that would not otherwise be brought into the state. The economic impact of the National Guard in Kansas is approximately \$400M annually.

While carefully managing our fiscal resources is of paramount importance as good stewards of taxpayers' dollars, we must also be mindful that the Department is required to adapt to and mitigate constantly evolving threats to our state and nation. Maintaining an effective balance between current resourcing levels, assessing risk and fulfilling our statutory responsibility to protect Kansans is a challenge that must be carefully managed. The risks to missions and the risks to the force are outpacing the resources needed to successfully mitigate these risks, which creates the potential to limit the ability of this Department to adequately prepare for and respond to threats in Kansas.

The KIFC is the core of Kansas Homeland Security efforts. Fusion center predictive analysis provides vital information for early threat warning, prevention efforts, risk assessment, and for public officials charged with making sound policy decisions. It is seen as an unparalleled "model" center among federal and state programs for both effectiveness and protection of civil liberties.

The Department is currently analyzing systems-level threats to Kansas' critical infrastructure, working with private industry to improve cyber security, and partnering with key subject matter experts on identifying bio-threats to animal, plant and human health. We continue to work with other agencies, private industry and academia to develop fiscally sustainable methods to identify new and emerging threats, and deal with them in a state-based approach; not dependent on federal strategies.

Kansas' ability to identify and fulfill its own analytical needs is, and will increasingly be, critical to the well-being of our citizens, government and critical infrastructure. The collaborative nature of its business model means that our state's security efforts are resilient in the face of funding and policy shifts affecting other programs.

Continued focus in these two critical areas will go a long way to enable the professionals in our Department to remain vigilant, with an eye on varied threats that continue to loom on the horizon. I can assure you the Adjutant General's Department will do its best to continue to innovate and find new and improved ways to provide military, homeland security and emergency management services well into the future. We will continue to examine current and future challenges, develop high value actions within our control, and carry out those actions in the most effective way possible. And finally, we will never forget that we do all of this in service to the people of Kansas and the United States of America, their freedoms and continued way of life.

The Way Ahead

We know that there are real resourcing challenges on the horizon. The challenges that I believe are going to be the most difficult for the military and country to adapt to are many. The top five concerns I have as I stand before you today are:

1. The Federal Debt - The United States is currently \$20 trillion in debt with continued and rapid growth projected. Many military leaders have called our federal debt the largest threat to our national security, because of what it will mean for our ability to maintain a strong military force. If budget projections from the Governmental Accountability Office are accurate, the future funding for military, homeland security and intelligence efforts are at significant risk. This is not sustainable long term. This is a complex problem without an easy answer, because every day, 10,000 baby boomers in the United States retire and become recipients of Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, the Federal Drug Prescription program, etc. This trend is projected to last for another decade and if we simply continue down our current path, it will have devastating economic consequences. I believe that we can get through this problem, but it will take all of us facing and understanding some uncomfortable facts and pledging our mutual commitment in resolving this problem.

2. Cyber Threats - There are daily examples of the real world consequences of what hacking and cyber threats pose to everything from politics to our critical infrastructure. Individuals and nation states are building massive cyber capabilities, directing attacks and probes of our infrastructure control systems, weapons designs, communications records and financial information. We have conducted many homeland security exercises over the years and a cyber-attack usually sucker-punches all the participants harder than just about anything else. Take a moment to consider all of the consequences of a massive internet disruption. Will the electrical grid still be able to function? Will our phones work? Will resupply and shipping systems used by almost every retailer still work? Will we be able to buy things from the store? Will our gas pumps work? In the world of 2016, you don't necessarily need an expensive military to cause significant damage anymore. You just need individuals or small teams of very smart hackers.

3. Biological Threats - New advancements in synthetic biology and DNA editing promise individualized and ultra-cheap cures to diseases and many medical conditions currently beyond our ability to fix. It is likely that within the next decade, we will see the type of technology and medical advancements that we have only seen in science fiction movies. In fact, one of the current technologies, called CRISPR, dramatically lowers the cost, time and difficulty of editing DNA. This and many other new gene editing tools will usher in a new era where scientists and others will be able to hack viruses to turn them off and replace or modify genetic sequences to cure many conditions. This is wonderful in the hands of those with good intent, yet terrifying in the hands of those with ill intent.

4. Challenges by Russia, China, Iran and others - We are seeing an increased aggression toward the United States across the globe, and that is not likely to stop any time soon. The Russian military has recently been posturing with dangerous flybys of our military aircraft and ships, amongst other things. There is an argument among some analysts as to whether this is a sign of desperation on the part of their leadership, or simply a new boldness that pushes their military leaders to challenge us. Honestly, I don't know, but it doesn't really matter if the end result means increased risk to the United States and our allies. Russia and China are rapidly closing the technology gap with the United States and are developing formidable high quality weapons. Iran is very good at intelligence and clandestine activities. If they work together to cause us problems, they will have some success.

5. Terrorism - Some tend to forget recent history rather quickly. For some, September 11, 2001 is a distant memory, a dark day that we got past, not to be thought about again. This is a viewpoint I do not share. Unfortunately for us, terrorism has a long history that is not likely to be abandoned as a method of warfare anytime soon. The same threats we unknowingly faced on September 10, 2001 are still there today, but only in a smarter and in some cases more aggressive form. ISIS has not only demonstrated a level of brutality and depravity rarely seen before, but also a sophistication that should concern us all. Whether ISIS succeeds as a group long-term doesn't really matter. There will always be others willing to pick up wherever the previous or competing group left off.

Understanding all of these challenges and their implications and guiding the Department toward steps that best protect Kansas and the Nation is my great challenge. Fortunately for both you and I, there are 7,200 other dedicated and talented men and women in the KSNG, 42 in the KDEM, another 222 in the Department and countless private and public industry partners who are dedicated to protecting our families and addressing these difficult problems.

I have seen them in the worst of conditions, facing terrible circumstances with a resilience and tenacity that would make you proud as a Kansan. They take their responsibilities seriously. I know they will continue to show this same focus and determination as we face the future together.

I am incredibly proud of the men and women that serve in the Adjutant General's Department and grateful for the support we receive from our elected officials; our local, state and federal partners and stakeholders; the citizens of our great state; and, especially from the families of our employees. We know we could not do what we do without this support.

On behalf of the men and women in the Adjutant General's Department, thank you for your continued support and thank you for the great honor of allowing us to defend our home state and country.

I stand ready for your questions.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maj Gen Lee E. Tafanelli
Kansas Adjutant General
9 November 2016