



KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
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**STATE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
REMARKS OF MAJOR GENERAL LEE TAFANELLI
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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

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.

Currently, 198 Kansas National Guard (KSNG) Soldiers and Airmen are deployed around the world. One-hundred and fifty-six Soldiers and Airmen have recently returned from various theaters of operations and the KSNG is preparing to deploy an additional 94 personnel within the next 180 days to various locations throughout the world.

Several significant events that occurred throughout this past year began with Soldiers and Airmen of the KSNG providing support for the inaugural activities held in honor of Governor Brownback.

Also in January, the 235th Regiment celebrated the completion of a long-term goal with a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Kansas Army National Guard's (KSARNG) Culinary Center of Excellence at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina. This new facility trains food service specialists for the U.S. Army, National Guard and Army Reserve. Soldiers from all across the nation attend the school to gain skills in food preparation, food sanitation and safe use of military equipment. The facility features 24 student cooking stations and a commercial-grade kitchen for garrison food preparation. Students also train on a mobile kitchen trailer and a containerized kitchen for operational training environments.

The Lieutenant Governor, along with myself and a small contingent from the KSNG travelled to Yerevan, Armenia, in April to attend a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. The visit was arranged as part of the State Partnership Program, a National Guard Bureau program that partners nations with state National Guards to foster military and civilian partnership building capabilities. During our visit, we met with members of the Armenian Office of Defense Cooperation, the U.S. ambassador to Armenia, leadership of the U.S. Embassy, the commander and the Minister of Defense of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade.

This past May, Governor Brownback signed a disaster proclamation for 44 Kansas counties due to damages to public infrastructure caused by storms and flooding. The proclamation cited thunderstorms accompanied by isolated tornadoes, high winds, large hail, lightning, and torrential rains that moved across the state resulting in wind damage, flooding and flash flooding to public infrastructure and critical services, which occurred during a period from May 4 through June 21. As a result, President Barack Obama signed a federal disaster declaration in July ordering federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

A small contingent of soldiers from the KSARNG's Detachment 6, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment were honored in a deployment ceremony held on May 28 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka. The soldiers deployed to Kuwait with a unit out of Colorado, tasked with providing aircraft maintenance in support of an aviation task force for Spartan Shield, which is part of Operation Enduring Freedom. They recently completed their mission and returned safely to Kansas in December.

For the third straight year Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range hosted Special Operations Command's joint fires exercise Jaded Thunder. The 134th Air Control Squadron participated by providing an air picture and communications to multiple airborne and ground units in support of critical training for front-line joint terminal attack controllers. The exercise has continued to improve Kansas Air National Guard's relationship with Special Operations Command, Joint Forces, and federal and state agencies.

Smoky Hill received the National Guard Bureau's inaugural "Range Complex of the Year" award. This commendation was created to recognize the Air National Guard (ANG) range complex that best exemplifies a commitment to military training. In addition to being the most utilized ANG range, Smoky Hill was selected for its innovative target designs, robust threat infrastructure and advanced radio technology allowing American and coalition war fighters to truly train like they fight.

Two Stranded Motorists Assistance Response Teams from the KSNG patrolled roads in northwest Kansas, searching for stranded motorists, as a result of a severe snow and ice storm that struck the western half of the state in mid-November. The teams consisted of four vehicles and 10 personnel. The teams assisted local law enforcement and emergency personnel in providing assistance to motorists whose vehicles were stuck or slid off roadways. Emergency response efforts to the storm were coordinated among state and local agencies, including Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM), Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), KHP, county emergency managers and local law enforcement.

Soldiers of Detachment 37, Operational Support Airlift Command, were recognized in a departure ceremony held in November as they deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The soldiers' mission is to provide C-12 fixed wing airlift support and flight operations support to U.S. and allied forces in the Horn of Africa.

The 177th Information Aggressor Squadron supported the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation Combatant Command Assessment Program in five major exercises and provided training to U.S. and Allied network defenders during five additional major exercises or events. Red team members provide training through network penetration, information collection and intelligence analysis targeting Blue Force vulnerabilities during multiple network and physical security assessments.

The 284th Air Support Operations Squadron Participated in 38th Infantry Division division-level warfighter exercise at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. During this exercise, they integrated with Canadian forces and supported the 37th IBCT, validating the use of Joint Air-Ground Integration Complex operations in a complex division fight over a range of terrain and dynamic enemy environment.

The Adjutant General's Department has enjoyed these and many other successes over the course of the past year, despite the fact the Department continues to operate in a fiscally constrained environment, requiring constant adjustments to significant federal and state resourcing reductions.

The 190th Air Refueling Wing transported 1,441 passengers while flying 6,520 hours, the most hours flown in the history of the wing, eclipsing the previous mark of 6,117 hours flown in fiscal year 2011. During those flights the wing transferred more than 4.3 million gallons of fuel. The Wing led the coordination and deployment of five Air National Guard tanker wings to Central Command, supporting the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, while also maintaining a continuous presence in European Command Theater and providing support in the Pacific Command Theater.

The 190th Air Refueling Wing earned several prestigious awards this past year: the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety; the Air National Guard Medium Unit Command Post of the year; and, the Security Forces Top Squad at Desert Defender. The 190th also executed a training affiliation agreement with the University of Kansas Medical center that provided a high-fidelity training platform for more than 17 medics encompassing five different Air Force specialty codes.

The Kansas National Guard continues to grow its over 160 year old partnership with the First Infantry Division located at Fort Riley, Kansas. Several joint training initiatives are underway in an effort to create unique training opportunities, capitalize on shared facilities and synchronize staff planning and resource utilization. Our partnership benefits the state and nation by meeting assigned missions for all Army Components residing in Kansas, reducing the likelihood of delayed or cancelled training through leveraging the use of the Great Plains Joint Training Center, fostering predictability in training and responsible use of limited resources.

Additional partnerships were developed with the University of Kansas School of Business and Garden City Community College (GCCC). Students at the University of Kansas are applying their marketing and business knowledge as part of an on-going project to evaluate the effectiveness of the KSNG's marketing amongst millennials. The KSNG and GCCC have partnered in order to provide unique training and education opportunities for local Soldiers and students in the Garden City regional area. This mutually beneficial partnership allows GCCC to attract additional students to participate in their program while simultaneously enabling the KSNG to grow in the Garden City regional area.

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 next year and over the following three 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 Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC) and KDEM to Forbes Field. Repositioning JFHQ, KIFC and 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 has implemented a uniform work order system across Air, Army, and KDEM facilities, which improves operations and maintenance supply chain efficiencies while simultaneously meeting audit readiness.

The realignment of forces in the Wichita area and construction of the new Wichita North Armory that allows the Department to take advantage of a newer, lower maintenance and more energy efficient facility with no impact to recruiting or retention of Soldiers assigned today and in the future. Consolidation of armories located in Wichita, to include the sale of the Wichita East Armory and retention of the proceeds by the Department, provides a means to support necessary maintenance and presents the potential to support necessary future projects as well. The Department consistently requests maintenance and repair to be a part of the base budget. Retaining the proceeds will help fill part of that gap in FY 2017. The Wichita South Armory will also be divested; however, a reversionary clause does not allow the Adjutant General's Department to sell this facility.

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 (SGF) 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.

Protecting our forces by enhancing security measures in our facilities is a priority of the Governor and the Department. The Adjutant General's Department has assessed overall facility needs for enhanced security and determined that recruiting offices and armories are where resources are needed. To varying degrees and based on the environmental conditions, facility needs, and known threats, the following security measures are being implemented: access control, ballistic protection, armed response, and incident mitigation equipment. The Department has received and distributed some of the items and is in the process of ordering the remaining items.

The operational tempo of the KIFC continues to increase rapidly with growing threats from international terrorist groups, nation state actors conducting cyberattacks against critical infrastructure and government networks, and the ever-changing biological threats posed by the introductions of human, animal, and plant pathogens into the state (intentionally or naturally). The unique design of the KIFC includes a clear focus on predictive intelligence analysis, the best available access to classified threat information, and the true integration of multi-discipline/multi-agency partners. This design has provided earlier threat warnings, more robust risk assessment and more effective defensive efforts for Kansas.

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.

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.

Thank you for your continued support. I stand ready for your questions.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maj Gen Lee E. Tafanelli
Kansas Adjutant General
18 February 2016