



Transcript

National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

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NATIONAL GUARD OPENING STATEMENT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

JUNE 7, 2022

Prepared Statement from Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau:

Chairman Tester, Vice Chairman Shelby, and esteemed members of the subcommittee, our Senior Enlisted Leader, Tony Whitehead, and I thank you for the opportunity to represent your National Guard.

Today's National Guard would not be possible without your continued investments. It provides the manning, training and equipment for our primary mission – to fight and win our nation's wars – which also makes possible our ability to serve our communities in times of need.

We are more than 440,000 strong, 20% of the joint force, and second in size behind the U.S. Army. Today, over 43,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are on duty around the globe and here at home.

Briefly, I would like to highlight just one of our many missions – the State Partnership Program.

Your support of this program has made it invaluable to 93 countries, 45% of those in the world today.

One of those partnerships, now 29 years old, is between the California National Guard and Ukraine.

When Russia began its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, Ukraine's military leaders reached out to people they trusted, people they had known for years, and those were members of the California National Guard.

While much of the world underestimated the Ukrainian armed forces' abilities, the National Guard was not surprised, because we have been training with them for more than 29 years.

In fact, National Guardsmen were some of the last Americans to leave Ukraine. One-hundred-sixty-five members of the Florida National Guard were deployed to the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine mission in Lviv - and today, they're continuing to train our Ukrainian partners in Germany.



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I'm extremely fortunate to represent today's National Guard, a force that is ready to fight and win our nation's wars, ready to serve our communities in their time of need, and ready to work with our partners at every level, from local to international.

Again, thank you again for your continued support, it allows us to keep our promise to America to be Always Ready, Always There.

I look forward to your questions.