

**Chairman Thad Cochran Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense**

**Hearing to Review National Guard and Reserve Programs and Readiness
April 26, 2017**

(As prepared for delivery)

We want to welcome everybody to the hearing this morning of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. The National Guard and Reserve is the subject of the hearing, and we welcome our witnesses and those who serve in these important programs.

Today we are receiving testimony on the programs and readiness of the National Guard and Reserve Components. We are very pleased to welcome:

- Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Joseph L. Lengyel
- Chief of the Army Reserve, Lieutenant General Charles D. Luckey
- Chief of the Navy Reserve, Vice Admiral Luke M. McCollum
- Commander of Marine Corps Forces Reserve, Lieutenant General Rex C. McMillian, and
- Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Lieutenant General Maryanne Miller

Our Guardsmen and Reservists have been regularly called upon since 2001 to deploy in support of our nation's wars abroad and to protect our citizens at home. As a result, active duty and reserve component forces are more fully integrated today than at any time in the modern era. This level of integration requires Guard and Reserve units to be sufficiently manned, trained and equipped.

We are very proud of our part-time Soldiers, Seamen, Airmen and Marines, and hope our witnesses will carry this message of support back to your units.

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