

UNCLASSIFIED

READING VERSION

STATEMENT BY

COLONEL DAVID SMITH
CHIEF OF INSTALLATIONS
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE

READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES SENATE

FIRST SESSION 107TH CONGRESS

ON INFRASTRUCTURE READINESS

21 MARCH 2001

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
UNTIL RELEASED
BY THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES SENATE

COLONEL DAVID C. SMITH
CHIEF, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD INSTALLATIONS

Colonel David C. Smith assumed duties as the Chief of the Army National Guard Division for Installation in January 2001. As Chief, he is responsible for installation facilities management, policy and resources for military construction, real property maintenance and real property acquisition for the Army National Guard. Prior to this assignment, Colonel Smith was a Judge Advocate, Office of Chief Counsel, National Guard Bureau.

In past assignments, he has provided assistance in real estate law and cooperative agreements. He is Judge Advocate General qualified and served as a qualified engineer officer in company command. A member of the Connecticut Army National Guard, he established the first full-time Staff Judge Advocate office in that State. He has practiced commercial law privately, served as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Department of Energy, and taught law as an adjunct and full-time at the undergraduate level.

Colonel Smith's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal and the Army Service Medal.

Colonel Smith's civilian education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Ohio Northern University and a Juris Doctor from Western New England College and a certificate in graduate studies from the University of Texas at Austin. His military education included Engineering Officer and Judge Advocate Officer Basic Courses; Judge Advocate Advanced Course; Federal Litigation Course; Contract Law Course; Criminal Law Course; Military Judge's Course; Command and General Staff School; Fiscal Law Course; and the United States Army War College as a Senior Service College Fellow in Acquisitions, University of Texas at Austin.

Colonel Smith is a native of Ohio.

STATEMENT BY
COLONEL DAVID SMITH
CHIEF OF INSTALLATIONS, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
ON INFRASTRUCTURE READINESS

Mr. Chairman and members of this Subcommittee, I am Colonel David Smith, Chief of Installations, Army National Guard and I welcome the opportunity to appear before this Subcommittee to speak about Army National Guard facilities.

I am responsible for an infrastructure with a plant replacement value of over \$23 billion. The Army National Guard has over 21,000 facilities, with more than 81 million square feet, that receive Federal funds for their operations and maintenance. These facilities support over 350,000 members of the Army National Guard, over 2,000 Federally reimbursed State employees who operate and maintain the facilities, over 3 million mandays of use by other Department of Defense components, and citizens in the over 2700 communities in which Army National Guard facilities are located.

Today, the Army National Guard has taken on new responsibilities. Your Guard is now manned with higher quality soldiers, who are trained and equipped to a higher degree of readiness than ever before in its over 360

year history. Our MILCON program has a direct impact on our training and operational capabilities.

We have an obligation to provide adequate, safe, and cost efficient facilities to support our personnel and units throughout the nation, but we are struggling to do so. For example, a recent note from the Maine Construction and Facilities Management officer spoke of recent meeting of the Maine Facilities Board:

“We agreed that one of our prioritization criteria should be the impact on the drilling Guard soldier. The shame of even being seen in such a facility, let alone function, affects his or her ability to learn and maintain a military occupational skill. Lack of respect for an organization that can’t even keep its infrastructure sound affects the retention of those soldiers trying to maintain proficiency and certainly makes recruiting a greater challenge than it should be.”

Currently, Army National Guard facilities do not meet unit needs or Army standards. According to the Army’s Installations Status Report, the

Army National Guard has a facility deficit of \$19 billion and real property maintenance backlog of \$6.8 billion. Forty percent of the States are C-4, Red, for facility quantity, and 67% of the States are C-4 for facility quality. This means that they have major deficiencies that significantly impair the mission performance of the units assigned there.

We certainly realize that we are not alone in the challenge to do the best we can within the DOD budget. We are part of the Army Facility Strategy, which, for the Army National Guard, currently emphasizes readiness centers, surface maintenance facilities, and classrooms.

Furthermore, we are very thankful for your generous support. The half billion dollars extra Congress has provided in the last three years have certainly helped the revitalization of the Army National Guard. Yet as large a sum of money as this is, it is literally a drop in the bucket. Infrastructure requires constant reinvestment. Our annual recurring MILCON requirements alone are in excess of \$600 million. The annual recurring Real Property Maintenance requirements approach \$400 million. In other words, just the Army National Guard alone needs about a billion dollars annually.

We don't see ourselves as unique. Prudent facilities management is prudent facilities management no matter which component of the Defense Department we are talking about – or which agency of government at whatever level. Nonetheless, the Army National Guard is different, because the States either own our real property or operate it under a license from the Corps of Engineers or under a lease. The Army National Guard facilities program is a grant program, and the States manage it from the Military Department and are responsible for a far-flung operation, not one in a compact, concentrated area.

Because of a lack of investment funds, the infrastructure of the Army National Guard is in crisis, as the Installations Status Report numbers indicate. To show the extent of the crisis, I would like to conclude with an extract from a typical note I received recently, this one from the Mississippi Construction and Facilities Management Officer:

“I sat in the Camp Shelby Engineers weekly staff meeting last week with all my department heads, Roads and grounds, resources, Mechanical, etc. and the one issue that was directed to me more than anything was the issue of resources, "Did I see any hope of increases?" on the horizon. ... They are proud of Camp Shelby and the work they do but are tired of

hearing that "more with less" rhetoric. Tightening up is one thing, starving the dog is another and this dog is starved. At this same meeting the staff reported over 1000 outstanding work orders for this particular week. The mechanical/building supervisor had just received a boiler inspection from the state and laid (in addition to this previous 1000 work orders) an additional 130+ work orders to boilers and hot water heaters alone from one simple and narrowly confined safety inspection. The meeting began with 1000 outstanding work orders and when I left had 1130. Just another day of crisis management at a large training site.”

I thank the Committee for the your support for our facilities’ progress, and I will be happy to address any issues that the Committee might have.