

STATEMENT BY

**GENERAL RICHARD A. CODY
VICE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES ARMY**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ON

**TROOP ROTATIONS FOR
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 3 &
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 6,
AND
THE ARMY'S MOBILIZATION OF
THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE
SECOND SESSION, 108TH CONGRESS**

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Introduction

Chairman Hunter, Congressman Skelton, distinguished members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss troop rotations for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 and Operation Enduring Freedom 6, and the Army's Mobilization of the Individual Ready Reserve.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the committee, on behalf of the magnificent men and women of our Army, for your continued support as they execute the global war on terrorism. Your concern, resolute actions and deep faith in America's sons and daughters are widely recognized throughout the rank and file of our service.

With over 304 thousand Soldiers deployed in over 120 countries worldwide, the Army remains actively engaged in support of the nation's operational requirements, including Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Southwest Asia, the Stabilization Force and Kosovo Force in the Balkans, and the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai. Concurrently, we are undertaking large scale and absolutely necessary actions to ensure our Army's readiness and relevance to efficiently meet national security challenges now and well into the 21st Century, while sustaining our magnificent volunteer force. These actions include resetting, rebalancing, modularizing, stabilizing, and training of the force.

It is in the context of all these actions that the One Army Concept is proving its worth during an unprecedented period in our Nation's history. As we accomplish these actions, our great Soldiers in the Army's Active and Reserve Components, including the Individual Ready Reserve, will remain the centerpiece of everything we do. They will ensure our success

in future operations and transformational efforts, just as they do today in tough combat and stability operations around the world. Today, I would like to first highlight some of these actions to provide a clearer context for our subsequent discussion on troop rotations and mobilization of the Individual Ready Reserve.

Resetting the Force

After conducting a strategic assessment and incorporating lessons learned in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have further defined how to set the force for success. We have designed a process of reconstituting our current equipment by undertaking a rigorous long-range plan known as “Reset” for short. This plan requires intensive resourcing, repair and overhaul of our ground equipment and aircraft, and prioritization and streamlining of our facilities and personnel to support these efforts. As sustained operations are likely to be the norm for the foreseeable future, our plans include establishing force rotation plans for on-going operations, and reestablishing and restructuring Army Pre-positioned Stocks (APS) to better support Combatant Commanders.

Rebalancing the Force

We are moving away from the force structure designed for the Cold War to provide the Nation with full-spectrum ground combat and support units that are capable of defeating a persistent, adaptive enemy. The challenge within the force structure is not that we have too few soldiers, it has been the ability to take a force designed to fight and win against a symmetric threat, and transform it to a force that matches the skill and unit sets required to execute the global war on terrorism and other operations, swiftly, and on a sustained basis.

Modularizing the Force

We are transforming into a brigade-based modular Army to enhance responsiveness, strengthen our decisive campaign qualities, and increase our joint and expeditionary capabilities. Modularization increases our war-fighting capabilities with more interchangeable active and reserve component brigade units of action; transforms Army Aviation, Combat Support, and Combat Service Support formations to increase flexibility, capability, and to decrease logistical support requirements; and de-layers headquarters structure to increase responsiveness and to meet joint and combined command and control requirements. The sum of our maneuver, support, and headquarters restructuring will be a force with improved interchangeable capabilities, the ability to simultaneously project combat power from our CONUS and OCONUS bases, and headquarters that can be rapidly configured to provide command and control for joint and coalition forces.

Stabilizing the Force

Today's volunteer Army is engaged at a pace unseen since the end of the draft, some 30 years ago. The challenges associated with current operational requirements place significant stress on existing forces, both active and reserve. We aim to remedy much of this stress through force stabilization, which will allow Soldiers to remain on their initial installation for longer periods and to arrive, train and serve together for roughly three years. We will enhance unit cohesion, improve training effectiveness and create more deployable, combat-ready units. During the unit's operational cycle, Soldiers can expect to complete an operational deployment rotation of 6 to 12 months. Besides enhancing unit readiness and cohesion, force stabilization initiatives will improve quality of life for our Soldiers and their families by increasing the predictability of deployments and other requirements.

Training the Force

The adaptability, competence and resiliency our units are demonstrating deployment after deployment have validated our investment in training and development of our Soldiers and leaders. The Army's training programs have also been, and will continue to be, the cultural drivers for the future. The Army is fully committed to adapting and strengthening Noncommissioned and Commissioned Officer development and education programs. Leaders will not learn what to think, but instead how to think—jointly, strategically and within the context of an expeditionary mindset. We will continue to invest in cutting edge facilities and technology and constantly modify our curricula to reflect current and expected threats, and incorporate the lessons of actual operations, as we already are doing with the experience gained in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Individual Ready Reserve Soldier Notifications

As a part of the Army's Ready Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve consists of over 111,000 trained Soldiers most of whom served previously on Active Duty or in the Selected Reserve--such as a member of an Army Reserve unit. These Soldiers may be called upon during a National Emergency to fill the mobilization needs of the Army. Unlike new recruits, these Soldiers are experienced, and can contribute significantly to Army readiness. Accessing the IRR to obtain the right Soldiers for specific requirements allows us to minimize cross-leveling between units, thereby protecting other units for future requirements by maintaining their cohesion, a critical force multiplier in combat.

Within the week, the Army, in support of Central Command requirements, will begin the mobilization of approximately 5,600 Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) soldiers. Although approximately 2,300 IRR Soldiers have previously been called to active duty in support of the War on Terror, this will be the first major use of the authority granted on

January 20, 2004, by the Secretary of Defense to mobilize up to 6,500 members of the IRR.

We will accomplish this with a phased mobilization over the next several months. Most Soldiers will serve 18 months, with some serving up to a total of 24 months, which accounts for training time and 12 months in theater. These Soldiers will fill vacancies in National Guard and Army Reserve units scheduled to deploy in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom late this year and in early 2005. Each individual Soldier will undergo refresher training, physical evaluation, and be equipped before they join a mobilized unit and then continue with unit training prior to theater deployment. This will facilitate Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve units that are cohesive, fully trained and ready for combat operations. As requirements become clear for operations in 2005 there may be a need to mobilize additional IRR soldiers.

The IRR call-up is not all-inclusive. The Army does not intend to recall IRR Soldiers who have returned from a combat zone or hardship tour within the past 12 months; however, these soldiers may volunteer for mobilization. Mobilization orders will advise Soldiers how to proceed in order to request deferment. All IRR Soldiers should receive their orders at least 30 days prior to their report date.

Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 3 and Enduring Freedom (OEF) 6

Finally, I would like to address the Army's next rotation of trained and ready forces in support of the U.S. Central Command requirements for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Based on the Secretary of Defense's plan to support U.S. Central Command requirements, the Army will deploy Active and Reserve Component combat, combat support, and combat service support units for OIF 3 and OEF 6. In accordance with the procedures we used to successfully

execute the last rotation, there will be a phased rotation in and out of the Central Command area of operations to provide maximum overlap for the affected units. All Reserve Component units identified for deployment will be given sufficient time to train in preparation for their employment. The total length of mobilization for each unit is dependant upon training requirements and the requirements of the Combatant Commander. The current rotation notification process allows the Army to provide trained and ready units to Central Command, while also providing maximum possible notification for Soldiers, their families, employers, and communities.

Conclusion

The contributions of each component of the Army -- Active, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve -- are indispensable to our ability to support our Combatant Commanders as they execute their full range of strategic commitments to include the global war on terrorism. We appreciate the support this Congress has provided the Armed Services, America's sons and daughters, who are serving selflessly throughout the world to keep America safe and free.

I look forward to the opportunity to participate in this session and answering your questions.